

Work on concession stand will be in phases

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Lake renovation costs first priority

With costs looming for the rehabilitation of Lake Helen, Gothenburg City Council members are watching their dollars and cents.

As a result, the council decided that renovation and an addition to the city four-plex concession stand will be done in stages.

During a meeting Dec. 4, members decided to extend a roof line on the south side of the structure this winter for about \$5,000.

In the last couple of weeks, the city crew knocked out a wall inside the building to expand the concession stand area.

Councilman Jeff Whiting, who had asked for more storage and and serving space, said he was impressed by what had been done.

According to Miller and Associates Consulting Engineers of Kearney, who provided a drawing of proposed renovations, estimated a \$35,000 cost to renovate the building.

By using city crew labor, city administrator Bruce Clymer said the cost—only for materials—might be around \$21,000.

Although extending pergola, over one side of the building was discussed, city services director Shane Gruber said uniformity—with matching roof lines—would be better.

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Gruber pointed out a need for renovations because other towns, who host the same amount of games played at the four plex as Gothenburg, have larger and nicer facilities.

He suggested adding an extended roof line each year for four years which would also make maintenance of the building easier.

This year, \$25,000 was budgeted to renovate the concession stand but using those funds for the Lake Helen project had also been discussed as well as \$42,000 in KENO money.

Clymer said he thinks more storage is needed but realizes that money is an issue.

“Perhaps all we want to do at this time is what has already been done by the crew,” he said.

Because the school softball team uses the four plex year round, council members discussed asking school officials to pitch in but made no decision.

The school district pays a dollar a year to rent the facility.

Both city and school equipment has been stored in rest rooms during the winter months.

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