A full-time public defender for Dawson County has been chosen.

At the June 20 meeting of the Dawson County Commissioners, a recommendation to hire Lexington attorney Ken Harbeson was approved.

A public defender committee recommended Harbeson after considering two other applicants.

Before the vote, commissioners entered into a seven-minute closed session to discuss applicant interviews.

Harbeson will have to submit a contract proposal to the public defender committee which will then need approval.

Surveyor also hired

The commissioners also approved a surveyor committee's recommendation for Mark Streit of Denton to fill the remainder of the surveyor term.

Committee members said Streit was chosen because of his experience compared to the other two applicants.

The action took place after an eight-minute closed session.

Streit will only survey in Dawson County.

In other action, the commissioners accepted a petition for 30 Mile to form an irrigation district in parts of Dawson and Lincoln counties.

Residents can approve or disapprove of the proposed district.

Beer garden is a go

The Gothenburg Pony Express Rodeo will have a beer garden again this year.

An application for a special designated license by O&K Bottle, Inc. was approved.

Koby Rickertsen, a representative of the Rotary-After-Dark Club, cleared up commissioner concerns from a previous meeting.

“There will be a separate area fenced off for the beer garden,” Rickertsen said.

He was unsure if beer could be taken out of the beer garden but said to get a beverage, people would have to be identified and given a wristband.

Rickertsen said money raised from the beer garden will help with club scholarships.

Coating contract approved

In other business, commissioners awarded an armor coating overlay contract to Sta-Bilt Construction for $298,655.

The project is on a three-mile stretch off East Plum Lake Road and Highway 21 that will begin in August.

On another matter, zoning administrator Pam Holbrook recommended a special use application for a butcher shop and meat locker east of Darr.

Holbrook said the building would be constructed to process at least 30 cows and hogs a week and would not be for commercial use.

The planning commission approved the recommendation and a public hearing is set for July 15.

In other business:

agreed that Dawson County weed superintendent Marty Craig will serve in the same position in Gosper County.

entered into a lease agreement authorizing Communication Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska to take care of all costs for the RYDE Transit building and buses after July 1.

authorized a contract renewal for software and maintenance with CenturyLink.

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