Roughly two and a half lots of land adjacent to Brady's existing fire hall provide a prime location for a new building.

The Brady Rural Fire District board has reached an agreement with Patty Egenberger, who owns the land just east of the fire hall on Commercial Street.

Rural fire board member Jim Lydic told the Brady village board of trustees that an offer of $20,000 for the land has been made and accepted.

"In the past, the village has owned the property and we, as the rural fire board, have done the rest," Lydic said.

Preliminary plans have already been drawn up for a new building.

During the regular monthly trustee meeting July 16, rural fire board member Ray Blede told the village board that the land is an ideal spot because it is next to the current facility.

"We originally hoped to connect the new and the old but we're not going to be able to do that because of a gas line running through there," Blede said.

Still, he said, a plan to build the new fire hall into the side of the hill could provide a public tornado shelter for the village.

"We've been working at this for three years or more," Blede said. "We really want to get something going."

The village board agreed to purchase the land and move forward with the project.

“What they’re planning will benefit the community tenfold,” said trustee Todd Roe. “It’s time. The fire department is crammed into that building now and if we ever wanted to expand or even just upgrade equipment, it’s not really an option in the current building.”

Trustees agreed to make an escrow payment to Egenberger and begin the purchase process through village attorney Steve Vinton.

In other real estate business, the board also agreed to sell the old city hall building at the corner of Main and Commercial streets to Ross Widick for $1,000.

Widick appeared before the board to share his intent for the building.

“We plan to gut the building, pour cement inside and refurbish it,” Widick said.

Widick’s wife, Terri, plans to run a bakery in the building.

The village voted to sell the building and the land with an agreement for a permanent easement that allows the village access to the well house.

In other village business, trustees:

agreed to forward a complaint letter from the Department of Environmental Quality to village engineer Miller & Associates of Kearney. The letter essentially imposes deadlines on the village for the repair process of the sewer lagoon.

“I think DEQ just wants to make sure we’re acting on the original complaint,” said village chairman Jeff Miller. “Reed Miller has been in constant contact with them about this.”

A special meeting including a public hearing and information session was scheduled Tuesday night. Full coverage of that meeting will be published in next week’s issue of The Times.

discussed water usage and billing complaints during the public comment period with lot owner Tommy Palmer and resident/businessman Jack Mann.

Palmer questioned his monthly water billing of $130 for a lot at the east end of River Street where he grows alfalfa. Mann disputed the difference between his residential bill and the water cost for the Get-N-Go.

“I know I use way more water at my residence than I ever do at the store,” Mann said.

Roe told both he sympathized with their concerns and explained the only fair way to bill water usage will come when meters are installed on every property.

granted extended alcohol sale hours until 2 a.m. for the Hitchin’ Post during Brady Days on Aug. 4 and 5.

approved a special designated liquor license for the Brady Volunteer Fire Department for their street dance during Brady Days on Aug. 4.

reviewed a new contract for law enforcement services with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department. The current contract, which expires Oct. 1, provides for 50 hours of patrol time per month for an annual cost of $13,000.

Chairman Miller suggested the board consider reducing the hours to 25 monthly.

The board plans to discuss the contract again in August, giving residents time to voice their opinions.

voted to vacate a portion of Short Street and the alley that connects Short to River Street with a permanent easement to the village for utilities. The action allows Jason Hamilton, new home owner at 208 S. Vine, to maintain a fence that extends past the property line.

authorized installation of a stop sign on the south side of the intersection of Poplar and Market streets, as requested by trustee Lynn Herrick. The intersection was previously a three-way stop.

learned the village's new website is open and available at www.villageofbrady.org.