

NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Bob Morris at (620) 532-3151 or email bmmorris@kcnonline.com

Thimesch Talks More With City About Armory

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

Kingman County Commissioner Jack Thimesch updated the Kingman city commission Thursday night about what may be involved with work at the armory to allow it to be a temporary site for county courthouse officers.

Thimesch has previously visited with the city commission about utilizing the armory as a temporary location for county offices during planned renovations of the courthouse. In exchange for doing so, the county would cover the cost of adding a central HVAC system and other renovations to the armory's interior.

Thimesch told the commissioners that the engineering firm and architects are set to present a proposal for putting in a ceiling and central heat and air.

He added that he has visited with Christy Crews of Hometown Grants, who the county contracted with to provide grant-writing services, and asked if Kingman Economic Development Director Leslie Schrag could collaborate with Crews to work on a grant.

"Doing the ceiling and insulating it and putting that vinyl in there, (the engineers) said, I think it would be over \$150,000, \$175,000," Thimesch said. "And then we still got to do a little black broken cubicles on the inside and divide that up."

He said he knew that there are people renting the facility but, if things work out, central heat and air could be put in before the county would need to use the armory.

"We're not opposed to that," Thimesch said. "We'd like for some of this to be done but to try to shove both through at the same time, I don't think

that's going to work. We've got to have one ready to go to move out the other."

Thimesch added that, if the armory gets updated, "it makes it a venue that somebody wants to rent. It brings people to town, it's economic. I'm stuck on that building."

"As one commissioner, I'm not opposed to spending the money we spend to bring it up to date and make it more user friendly."

Vice Mayor Travis Kaufman noted that the building is an historical site and wanted to be sure any work done on the armory doesn't interfere with that. Thimesch said that the engineering and architect both have experience in working with historical sites. He noted they did renovations at the Barton County Courthouse.

"Everything that we're doing does not affect the historical structure of that building," Thimesch said.

Bid Approved for 54/400 Signs

STAFF REPORT

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced an approved bid for new highway route signs along multiple highways.

The approved bid was from Jon Fulsom Construction LLC in Wellington for \$1,195,305. The company will put new highway route signs on U.S. Highway 54/400, Kansas Highway 11, Kansas Highway 14 and Kansas Highway 42 in Kingman, Harper, Pratt, Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties.

The letting for the state highway bids for March took place on March 18.

NEWS BRIEF

LEADER-COURIER CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY

The Kingman Leader-Courier office will be closed Friday, April 3 for Good Friday. The office will resume its normal hours of operation on Monday, April 6.

Thank you for supporting YOUR
KINGMAN HISTORIC THEATRE
Super Mario Galaxy - Rated PG
April 3 - 4 - Admission is \$3 per person
Friday showtimes are at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Saturday showtime is 7:30 p.m.
No movie Easter Sunday.
NOW SHOWING

City OKs KDOT Agreements for Traffic Lights, Road Work

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman city commission Thursday approved two agreements with the Kansas Department of Transportation for different projects along U.S. Highway 54/400.

The first agreement approved was for a new traffic light system at the intersection of the highway with Main Street.

The city will cover 20 percent of the costs, or about \$230,000, with KDOT covering the remaining 80 percent.

The city will cover its share of the costs with money that was set aside from the American Rescue Plan Act. The city had planned to utilize ARPA money to pay for its share of a new traffic light, but was unable to secure a grant at the time.

Back in August of 2024, the city transferred a little more than \$747,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act fund to the general fund, then used it to reimburse payroll.

From there, the city then made a transfer from the general fund to the capital outlay fund. The city did this maneuver to ensure it

would be able to use the money for planned projects. At the time, the city's auditor advised that the city could legally do this maneuver to ensure ARPA funds were encumbered by 2025.

The money has since remained in capital outlay and will now be utilized by the city to cover its share of the new traffic light.

The second agreement approved is for the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) funding that will be used to cover another portion of road work on 54/400 within the city limits. The agreement in

question covers that stretch of highway from Broadway to 100 feet east of Douglass.

The work on that portion of the highway will cover pavement restoration, curb and gutter work and storm water drainage. The city will cover 5 percent of the costs with KDOT covering the other 95 percent and the funding will come out of money the city receives for its special highway fund.

There is another stretch of the highway that is set to have work start soon, that being from Main Street west to Lincoln Avenue. That project will go out for bid in July.

City Moves Forward With Grant for Transmission Line

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The Kingman city commission Thursday approved moving forward with the process to apply for a Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) grant through the state.

James Ging, chief operating officer for the Kansas Power Pool, and city Utilities Director Tim Goldston visited with the city about the grant and potential projects that the city could pursue.

They asked for the city to give the go-ahead on the grant application process because they had just received notice a couple of weeks ago and a concept paper is due April 6.

Ging explained that the concept paper involves putting down an idea for the improvement into writing. From

there, the Kansas Department of Energy would advise the city as to whether it should move forward with a grant application or if the proposal wasn't going to work.

He added that SPARK guidelines require a project be at least \$10 million and may cover transmission projects. Ging said the project that he and Goldston wanted to focus on was rebuilding transmission lines to increase reliability and improve efficiency.

Goldston shared samples of the material used for the current line, noting that while it's served its purpose, the issue is because it's smooth, it can ice up easily, then move too easily if it's wide.

"And when it does that, it starts breaking things — it breaks things pretty quick," Goldston said.

Therefore, Goldston said, he would

like to upgrade the lines with different material that holds up in cold weather.

He said there would be about 17 miles of line that needs to be covered. Goldston said he and Ging estimated it would cost \$500,000 to replace a mile of line.

"And that would be, more than likely, that would be changing the poles out because we would go to a vertical build instead of cross arms," Goldston said.

The new line would be built a bit differently, but Goldston and Ging said that they should be able to work with an engineer to ensure that existing right-of-ways are utilized.

The SPARK grant would be a 50-50 grant, but Ging added that there is another grant, Build Kansas, that could be available to cover up to 95 percent of the city's match.

RHID

• From Page 1

ideal to build houses because of the size and lot design.

Schrag said the lot sizes are bigger than the national average and the average in Wichita, but for a smaller community, "they're definitely small."

Arensdorf said he heard about some restrictions for the lots, to which Schrag replied that the only restriction is the home must be built on site and it cannot be a modular home brought to the site.

Arensdorf said he believed the city made a mistake a few years ago when they approved the Memory Lane development with the specials. Schrag agreed, saying that the city is trying to correct that.

She noted that there is a RHID that was established on the eastern portion of Kingman County near Cheney. The developer asked for a 12-year period and "that was probably three or four years ago" when he submitted his proposal.

Schrag pointed out that

there are 27 houses already on the development with three or four empty lots left.

Cowan noted that, while a RHID can be set for whatever time frame the city wishes, once all homes are built and infrastructure is in place, the RHID can be paid off faster.

As for the public hearing, Cowan said the hearing needs to be at least 30 days from the time the city approves the resolution to set it, and not more than 70 days from that date. He said the date he chose was the May 14 meeting.

After the public hearing,

the city could decide whether or not to move forward with an ordinance to set the RHID. If that happens, the county and USD 331 could object within 30 days after the public hearing, but if there are no objections, the city could move forward with documentation to go to the county.

"It's similar to your district downtown," Cowan said. "They start treating that as a separate taxing subdivision. They say, OK, that one, when taxes are paid, we've got to treat that differently."

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, April 2, 2026) It

KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS RESOLUTION ON CASE NO. BZA-SU-26-001 CONCERNING A SPECIAL USE

WHEREAS, STC Towers, LLC, 3311 N 100 E, Warsaw, IN 46582 requests a conditional special use as an exception to permit the establishment of a New Wireless Telecommunication Tower on property zoned as the A-1 Agricultural District.

Legal Description: Section Eleven (11) of Township Thirty (30) South, Range Nine (9) West of the NE4, S2 NE4 SE4 Less R/W Kingman County, Kansas.

WHEREAS, proper notice has been given according to the Zoning regulations and the rules of the Board of Zoning Appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Zoning Appeals did at their meeting of March 23, 2026, consider said application at a public hearing and make specific findings of fact; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Zoning Appeals has proper jurisdiction and the authority to permit such a Special Use in the district as stated which may be further subject to condi-

tions as provided in Article XXXIII (Board of Zoning Appeals) of the Kingman County Zoning Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Kingman County Board of Zoning Appeals, that this application be approved for a special use on the property as described herein, subject to the following conditions:

- Work with the County and other city entities to provide space on tower and within Vertical Bridge Dev. lease area for county and / or city emergency service communication equipment (if requested and upon reasonable mutually acceptable business terms and conditions).
- Have in place a Certificate of Liability Insurance.
- Lighting of the tower will be dual staged lighting per FCC and / or FAA regulations, and be no more restrictive than governmentally required lights on the cellular communication tower.

ADOPTED on March 24, 2026.

ATTEST:
Gary Hess, Chairperson
Kingman County Board of Zoning Appeals
Amanda Stucky, Secretary
Kingman County Planning / Zoning

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The Project Funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program

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