

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

online edition

[Community Page](#)
[Lottery Numbers](#)
[Newspaper in Education](#)
[Search](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Featured Ads](#)

FRONT PAGE

LOCAL

Briefs

Transcript

REGIONAL

OPINION

OBITUARIES

SPORTS

TASTE

CLASSIFIED

PAST ISSUES

CONTACT US

Reno, golf course seek agreement on Buhler Rd.

By [Mary Clarkin](#)

Reno County Commissioners could opt for the more attractive - and more costly - design for the Buhler Road intersection at Cottonwood Hills, over objections from Public Works Director Dean Chesnut.

Commissioner Larry Sharp said Tuesday he wanted "to do everything within reason" to make sure the planned golf course community succeeds.

The developer will have \$7 million or \$8 million invested in the project before it even opens, noted Commissioner Francis "Shep" Schoepf, who liked an intersection design favored by the developer.

"I think it's the wrong direction to head," Chesnut said.

Cottonwood Hills' representatives are pressing for a commission decision Wednesday. About nine months have lapsed since the project's Arizona-based Lane Neville requested that the county agree to pave West 4th Avenue, on the south side of the development, and widen and beautify Buhler Road, which will run by the main entrance.

The overall road improvement cost could top \$1 million, according to Dan Garber, of Garber Surveying Service, Hutchinson.


There is no dispute over paving a two-lane, mile-long stretch of West 4th, from Buhler to Victory, with the county footing the bill. But Buhler Road's makeover north of 4th has caused a split.

Cottonwood Hills wants Buhler Road to widen to four lanes at the intersection with Cottonwood Hills Parkway. That would accommodate left-turning vehicles and provide acceleration and deceleration lanes.

Also, the developer has requested raised medians with layback curbs on Buhler,

[Available carrier routes](#)

 [Printer friendly page](#)

 [Send this page to a friend](#)

north and south of the intersection. Grass and low-growing shrubs would be planted in the islands.

"We want them to know they've arrived at a special place," said Garber, representing Cottonwood Hills.

An 18-hole golf course is under construction on the rolling sand hills and more than 700 residences, including some exclusive homes behind a gated area, are envisioned.

"What's the down side of at least trying this?" Sharp asked, intrigued by Cottonwood Hills' requested intersection.

It might work in Arizona, Chesnut said, "but this is Kansas."

"Our snowplows aren't going to be too friendly to medians," he said, also pointing out that drivers on the 55-mile-per-hour road might be surprised to come upon the medians - particularly during a snowstorm or at night.

Sharp discounted snowfalls as an insurmountable problem.

Cottonwood Hills has offered to maintain the landscaping and to furnish right-of-way for the widening. If the shrubs don't work, Sharp said, they could be ripped out.

"Does the cost matter to you at this point?" Chesnut asked commissioners, citing a \$100,000 difference between the design favored by Cottonwood Hills and a plan he backed with no raised medians.

If commissioners approve Cottonwood Hills' plan, Chesnut suggested, perhaps an outside engineer acceptable to the developer and the county should be hired for the project.

Schoepf liked that idea.

Copyright 2004 The Hutchinson News