

Thursday, November 18, 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

HEALTH AND

FITNESS

SPORTS

CLASSIFIED

PAST ISSUES

CONTACT US

[Available carrier routes](#)

 [Printer friendly page](#)

 [Send this page to a friend](#)

Road to golf

community will have landscaped medians

By [Mary Clarkin](#)

Landscaped medians will be constructed on Buhler Road when it is widened near the entrance to the Cottonwood Hills golf community.

Reno County commissioners authorized County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan on Wednesday to draft a nonbinding resolution of intent for the project.

Public Works Director Dean Chesnut objected strongly to the medians, citing safety, maintenance and financial concerns. County Administrator Ed Williams also was cool toward the beautification request.

Subdivisions in other cities have attractive entrances, but the road itself is not landscaped, Williams said.

Commissioner Larry Sharp, supportive of Cottonwood Hills' proposal, mentioned beautified overpasses in Wichita and beautified medians in Tulsa.

"But that's public art," Williams said, not built because of a subdivision.

"The right-of-way shouldn't be used as a marketing tool," Chesnut said.

Commission Chairwoman Frances Garcia also had reservations and pointed out that such landscaped medians aren't built everywhere.

She mentioned a recent visit to Chicago and described an obscure, difficult-to-detect entrance to a subdivision similar to the planned Cottonwood Hills.

Sharp pounced. Garcia, he said, had just driven home the point.

No side-by-side written cost comparisons were available to commissioners during their discussion.

Cottonwood Hills estimated improvements to West 4th and Buhler could top \$1 million, with actual construction of the portion on Buhler costing \$275,000. Chesnut referred to a \$100,000 difference as he pushed for another design but did not provide written numbers.

Developer Lane Neville, based in Scottsdale, Ariz., and not present for the vote, had offered to maintain the grass and shrubbery, but O'Sullivan doused the idea, saying Public Works shouldn't turn over care of public right-of-way.

The county will enlist a consulting engineer for the road's actual design, to be based on the proposal presented by Cottonwood Hills. Less than a mile of Buhler Road will be widened, providing deceleration and acceleration lanes for traffic going into and coming out of Cottonwood Hills.

Also, the unpaved mile of West 4th between Buhler and Victory will become a two-lane paved road.

The Buhler Road and West 4th projects could be done during 2005 or 2006.

Sharp also wants improvements carried out on two miles of West 4th just east of Buhler Road. That work - plus potentially other road projects - all could be included in the same bond issue.

Copyright 2004 The Hutchinson News