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# THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

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## County

# commissioners eye making road improvements

By Sarah Hill

Reno County commissioners on Tuesday discussed a contract that will begin extensive studying of Buhler Road near the Cottonwood Hills subdivision.

The commissioners have agreed to finance improvements to 4th and Buhler roads near the subdivision's main entrance.

Once the contract is approved, Professional Engineering Consultants from Wichita will:

- \* Study and design the improvement and paving of East 4th Avenue from Buhler Road to Victory Road;
- \* Study and design the widening and improvement of the intersection of 4th Avenue and Buhler Road;
- \* Assess the need for the addition of turn lanes into the subdivision; and
- \* Study the amount of traffic at 4th and Buhler and at 30th and Buhler.

The study at 30th and Buhler is in preparation for future projects, Public Works Director Dean Chesnut said.

"We want to be thinking about what we need to do and get it planned in the future," he said.

Commissioner Francis "Shep" Schoepf called the study a "good idea."

"A lot of people go through there, especially schoolkids," he said.

The commissioners are slated to vote on the study during next Wednesday's agenda meeting. If approved, the contract with PEC would not exceed \$104,321.

In other business:

\* Chesnut advised the commissioners of additional work that needs to be completed at the new Public Works building in South Hutchinson.

Supplementary concrete and foundation work is needed in the maintenance area of the building where heavy trucks travel in and out, Chesnut said, along with work around the overhead doors in the maintenance area.

Funds in the county's road and bridge fund could be used for the projects, with the commissioners' approval, Chesnut said.

\* The commissioners discussed a contract between Reno County and Comanche County for juvenile detention and youth shelter services.

Comanche County previously contracted with Finney County for the services but canceled their contract for financial reasons, Youth Services Director Bill Hermes said.

Finney County requires contracting counties to pay a set amount each year based on an estimate of costs that could accumulate. If its services are not used, the money is not refunded.

Reno County will provide the services on an as-needed basis at a cost of \$130 per day, Hermes said.

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