By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

As of the first of June, the Chase County Extension Office will be in new headquarters in Imperial.

At their April 14 meeting, the Chase County Commissioners signed a contract that will lease the former NRD building at 135 West 5th Street, now owned by Cal German.

German purchased the building at an auction, after the NRD built new offices on East 5th St., in Imperial.

Commissioner Jodi Thompson said the move will double the space for the Extension Service, and will also provide private offices for the Extension Educators.

Newly hired Extension Educator Robert Tigner, who started the first of March, is officed in Imperial, and there are two other Extension Educators who come to work at the Imperial office occasionally.

In addition to her other duties, Extension Educator Nancy Frecks also works with area senior citizens on Medicare Part D, and “that becomes a real rush” when those deadlines are near, Thompson said.

Tigner is also providing financial counseling as part of his duties, which, like Frecks, requires the privacy provided by an individual office.

Extension Educator Kimberly Cook, who works with most of the 4-H/youth programs in the four counties, is also at the Chase County office often.

That’s when the space gets tight, Thompson said.

In addition to the private office space, there is also a meeting room in the former NRD building.

Plans are to start moving the end of May, said office secretary Connie Griess.

She’s excited about the move, but a little sad about leaving the building they are in, too.

“I just loved this little building,” Griess said, “but, we’ve just outgrown it.”

The county will pay $500 per month for the office space, up from the current $400 per month, Thompson said. German will continue to use the shop in the back of his building.

The county is also responsible for utilities, taxes, minor repairs, mowing and snow removal, according to the contract.

The lease is for five years, running until June 30, 2014.

Both Thompson and Griess said Brennan Vaverek, who owns the building the county has been leasing at 816 Douglas St., has been a great landlord over the years.

The Extension office has been at its current site on Douglas Street since summer, 1996.