

Action means no variance board hearing at this time

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

It appears there will be no attempt at this time to seek a city variance for a higher northeast football field light pole by the CCS school board.

However, some members on the board didn't rule out the possibility of seeking a variance for the higher pole at a later time.

Following another lengthy discussion at Tuesday night's meeting, the school board voted 5-4 in a straw poll to file the paperwork for a height of 41 feet on the northeast light pole location.

That's 11 feet lower than the 52 feet height submitted on the most recent application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) filed by Supt. Matt Fisher.

The other three pole heights have all received approval from the FAA, state and local airport zoning board—the southwest pole at 70 feet, the northwest at 62 feet and the southeast at 52 feet.

Only the northeast pole has not been given local approval because of its infringement of the 50/1 airport zoning.

With the time delays a variance hearing would add, and with no guarantee a variance would be granted by the five-member city board, some on the school board questioned whether to proceed if the desire is to have games there this fall.

Chase County's first home football game is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 4. The earliest a variance board quorum would be available for a hearing was Aug 4.

Here is how the straw vote on the issue went Tuesday:

To seek a variance board hearing on a higher pole (52 feet)—Karl Meeske, Tom Gaschler, Charley Colton, Bob Milner.

To refile paperwork for lower pole (41 feet)—Penny Strand, Sheila Stromberger, Gregg Smith, Dirk Haarberg, Todd Burpo.

At a special meeting July 2, board members split 4-4 on the same straw poll. Board member Burpo was absent July 2, but all nine board members were present Tuesday.

More on the two and a half hour light pole discussion, and other school board action, will be in next week's issue.

Several school positions filled

Board members approved several hirings at Tuesday's meeting, as follows.

Agnes Strand of Imperial was hired as a special education teacher for the 2009-2010 year. She will replace Becky Mousel, who resigned earlier this year. Strand will be teaching on a provisional certificate, since her degree is in another area, and will be taking course work during the year, said Supt. Fisher.

David Bopp was hired as bus mechanic, replacing Ken Robinson, who retired. He will also be a substitute bus driver. Bopp, who has been employed at The Auto Shop, was one of four applying for the job. He starts on Aug. 3.

Janiel Kimble was hired as assistant seventh grade volleyball coach, replacing Kim Bubak.

Nicole Tjaden will be hired for a second year as ninth grade volleyball coach.

Kara Engbrecht will serve another year as assistant eighth grade volleyball coach.

Matt Hanna was hired as assistant 9-12 boys' basketball coach. He was a volunteer coach last season.

Jared Rentschler was hired head junior high football coach, replacing long-time head coach Gary Patch, who resigned from coaching after last season. Rentschler is youth minister at Crossroads Wesleyan Church, and has previous junior high football coaching experience at Atkinson, Neb.