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Court okays doctor's plan for building

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Fiscal Court met in a called meeting last Tuesday night to discuss the construction of a doctor's office on county property.

The discussion centered on the office Dr. Orlan M. Villarflor plans to build in front of the hospital on Highway 36.

The original agreement, according to Nicholas County Hospital administrator Dan Miller, would allow the county to buy the doctor's office back after 20 years. The county wanted this agreement in order to make sure the building remains a medical facility.

Dr. Villarflor approached the hospital and asked the hospital board if they would buy it at some time in the future, Miller said.

The "time in the future" is when Dr. Villarflor is no longer able or no longer willing to continue the practice, according to Miller.

The land belongs to the county and the hospital had to ask the permission of the county fiscal court before they do lease the land or build on the land.

The court quickly gave their approval for the building to be built on the hospital property when necessary.

In addition, the court retains the right to buy the building if the hospital cannot.

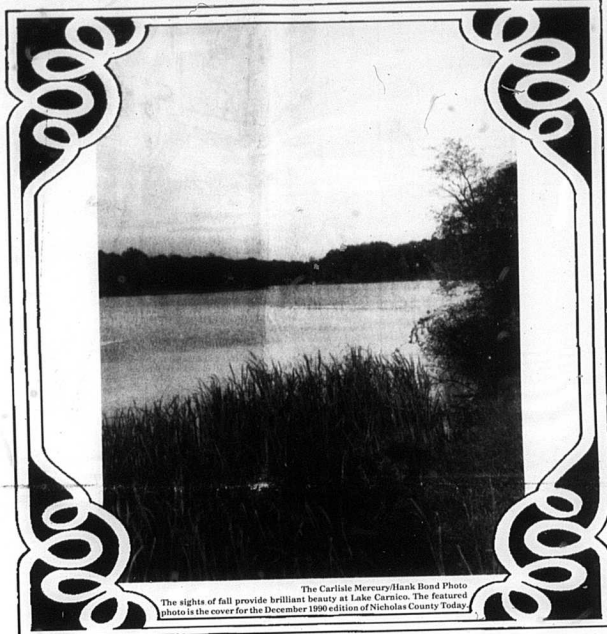
The court passed a motion, written by county attorney Jack Conley, to buy the doctor's residence if the hospital does not. If necessary, the court will buy the offices from Dr. Villarflor and pay the fair market price for them.

The court also retains the right to buy the offices from Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc., should it decide to sell the building.

Magistrate Floyd Bassell made the motion for approval. Bassell said he saw nothing wrong with the motion, since it insured the county the opportunity to buy the building if the hospital could not. The court passed the motion unanimously.

Miller said the hospital would lease half of the office space from Villarflor. The hospital will use these offices to attract new doctors into Carlisle, Miller said.

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The Carlisle Mercury/Bank Bond Photo
The sights of fall provide brilliant beauty at Lake Carnation. The featured photo is the cover for the December 1990 edition of Nicholas County Today.

Manager Phillip Howard says . . .

Landfill to close due to regulations

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Fiscal Court gave notice of its intent to close the landfill in its October meeting.

The fiscal court acted under the latest Kentucky solid waste requirements. The requirements, among the strictest in the United States according to several engineers, basically said landfills must either close down by the middle of 1992 or be responsible for all problems at the site for 30 years after the landfill is closed.

"It won't take the dozer several passes to get all the garbage," Phillip Howard, manager of the Nicholas County landfill, said. "It generally takes a bulldozer a half-hour to bury a truck of trash," Howard said.

Howard manages the small landfill off Highway 36 for the county. It is a county landfill and its days are apparently numbered.

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By announcing the closing of the landfill by June of 1992, the county will only have to pay for monitoring the site for two years after that date, according to state regulations.

Keeping the landfill open would not be easy, either, Howard noted.

The landfill has approximately 10 acres of land, he said. It would only be a matter of years, even if it stayed open beyond 1992, before it would be forced to close.

We fill up land at the rate of one acre every two years," Howard said, "and we might be able to get three years out of it if we recycled."

Howard said the most time the site would possibly have left would be 12 years.

"We take in 20-25 tons on an average day," Howard noted.

"It wouldn't take but about 10-12 years and we would be full anyway," he added.

Howard noted that the landfill is a residential landfill. The advantage of a contained landfill is it can also take industrial waste, Howard noted.

If Nicholas County wanted to become a contained landfill, the cost would be huge.

State rules require synthetic liners be placed in the ground to prevent the contamination of groundwater. These synthetic liners will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per acre.

"I was talking to Judge Smoot and he said the liner cost 65 cents per square foot. It will cost \$5 a square foot to lay the liner and that doesn't include the sand and other materials," Howard said.

Howard figures the cost of laying the liners would be about \$750,000 an acre.

While the cost of liners will probably make the Nicholas County landfill close, Howard's job is to see the landfill meets all the present requirements until it does close.

The most important requirement, Howard believes, is the compaction of the trash.

Proper compaction prevents air pockets forming in the ground and keeps the garbage from contaminating groundwater.

Howard explained that the process works. A garbage truck backs up against a bank the bulldozer has made earlier. The truck dumps its load on the bank and the garbage is spread from the top of bank to the bottom.

The bulldozer then begins the 30 minute task of grinding the garbage into the ground. The more compact the garbage is packed, the better, Howard said.

This is the reason for the use of the slope, Howard noted. The bulldozer compacts garbage better when on an angle. The weight, Howard said, is in the rear of the dozer and makes for more weight.

The tracks of the dozer are narrow, however. In order to make up for the narrow tracks, the dozer moves back and forth over the garbage several times. The result is a compact, hard substance that is then covered with dirt, Howard said.

The compaction process stops what is called "leachate" in the landfill business. Leachate is simply "red looking stuff," Howard

said. Leachate is an indicator of contaminated ground water.

To monitor groundwater, there are several wells on the landfill. These are monitored by the county and state. Samples are taken every three months, tested by an independent laboratory and the results are sent to the Environmental Protection Agency, Howard said.

If the county were to keep the landfill open after the 1992 date, costs for testing would go up dramatically. Howard said the county would be responsible for monitoring the landfill for 30 years and this would include such things as water monitoring and keeping men on the site to perform these tasks.

There are other, everyday problems which are costly at landfills as well. One problem Howard pointed out was the dumping of wire on the landfill.

Wire cannot be dumped at the landfill, Howard said, and for good reason. It gets through the tracks of the dozers and tears seals out.

"I probably catch more flak about not letting people dump wire than anything else," Howard said.

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