

XTO

Cont. from p1-a

Fairfield schools and hospitals. XTO's new plans are to move the surface location to an existing pad, A-1, and drill from there. Wells No. 4 and No. 3 will also be drilled from A-1 as directional wells.

Regarding the City of Fairfield lease, the existing pad is outside the city limits, but so close that XTO says they will follow city ordinances, move the pad farther north, and will drill six directional wells from that pad. Drilling officials also point out that they will maintain Cotton Street.

The commercial real estate value of L.V. Jones 5 was discussed in January, and in response, XTO will drill No. 2, No. 7 and No. 5 off No. 1.

"This gives us 14 directional wells off four pads as far away from the center of town as we can be," Gibson notes.

Mark Stidola, with XTO production and operations division, discussed several other potential problems and their solutions, including traffic, which the energy company will alleviate by moving the pads, the actual locations, which will be fenced and have fewer tanks, more agreeable options are being considered for salt water disposal, the need for pipelines will be minimized with multi-well pads on existing locations, and compression noise.

"We will utilize existing compression facilities north

of Fairfield," Stidola says. "We do not anticipate well-head compressors."

Concerning H2S, hydrogen sulfide, or "sour gas", XTO representatives assured those attending the meeting that the energy company has operated safely in numerous environments all over east Texas, but that in the event of a problem, personnel have been properly trained and they have the equipment to alleviate any problems.

In a "worst-case scenario," the oil and gas supplier notes that OSHA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration who governs drilling operations, says the field of danger is 200 feet, which means it remains inside the XTO fenced area.

With more details about noise problems, Gene Young addressed city requirements, which state that noise inside the city limits cannot exceed 78 decibels at 300 feet from the noisemaker.

"We hired an outside company to test some of our rigs, and we almost never exceeded those limits," Young says. "There were a couple of short spikes but they were not sustained. The average decibel level was 67-68."

The company promises to add sound blankets around their drilling pads, and put hospital mufflers on generators, as well as work with location layout to keep the sound at an acceptable level.

Questions put to the

drilling experts began with, "Will you drill at night?" to which the answer was that drilling is a 24 hour a day operation, but that drilling should be completed in seven to 10 months.

Other assurances heard were that directional drilling will be done at a significantly lower depth and would not affect property values, and that the company would drill their own water well above the water table currently used in Fairfield so as not to affect water availability in the future.

Excess salt water will be trucked to other disposal sites or injected deeply into the ground, again so as not to interfere with water tables.

Charles Morgan, with Citizens for Environmental Clean-Up, asked about the use of hazardous chemicals and additives. The mud used for drilling is derived from all naturally occurring sources, and additives would only be diesel at a low concentration or a polymer based fluid. The company did agree to more closely examine the closed-loop process, although they feel it is less cost-effective.

Morgan also requested a noise assessment test be made at a compressor facility, and XTO officials agreed. Morgan also pointed out the concerns about low-frequency noise and street damage.

When asked about an evacuation plan in the event of a problem, Fairfield Police Chief Kenny Bulger pointed out that the city does have an evacuation plan available at city offices, but that work continues on a more effective plan.

Fairfield Mayor Roy Hill added that the city does have safety concerns on its agenda and will host a town hall meeting soon to cover some of these issues.

Bobby says that XTO takes safety very seriously and will work with the city to have a plan in place.

In closing, Bobby thanked those who attended the meeting for allowing XTO the opportunity to address the concerns presented by the city residents. "We are ready to work with ya'll," he said.

Approval to issue drilling permits will be addressed again at the next city council meeting.

Police Report by Kenny Bulger



(A summary of recent activity of Fairfield Police Department.)

June 22

12:46 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of stolen fuel.

2:53 p.m.—Officer Kinson on reported forged checks.

4:48 p.m.—Officer Kinson to assist Fairfield EMS.

9:13 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on found property.

June 23

2:43 a.m.—Cpl. Bass on report of suspicious subjects.

3:37 a.m.—Cpl. Bass on report of kids in roadway.

12:24 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of minor wreck.

1:04 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of break-in at shop.

4:17 p.m.—Officer Kinson on reported possible drunk driver.

7:18 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on reported wreck.

10:10 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on reported suspicious vehicle.

11:35 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on report of possible domestic going to take place.

11:46 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on welfare of man at truck stop. Fairfield EMS called.

June 24

10:09 a.m.—Officers Irion and Gallegos on report of subject pulling a gun.

1:52 p.m.—Officers Gallegos and Irion on report of trespassing.

4:50 p.m.—Officers Irion and Gallegos on report of subjects trying to fight.

5:30 p.m.—Cpl. Green to police department to meet a complainant.

8 p.m.—Officer Tiner on report of suspicious vehicle.

11:52 p.m.—Cpl. Green on civil standby.

June 25

1:35 p.m.—Officer Irion assisted a subject in getting directions.

2:02 p.m.—Officers Gallegos and Irion assisted Fairfield Volunteer Fire

Department at a vehicle fire.

3:30 p.m.—Officers Gallegos and Irion on report of traffic jam at Love's Travel Center.

3:42 p.m.—Officers Gallegos and Irion on report of missing subject, later found.

9:11 p.m.—Officer Tiner on alarm call.

11:05 p.m.—Cpl. Green to police department to meet a complainant.

June 26

5:51 a.m.—Officer Kinson on report of alarm sounding.

7:35 a.m.—Officer Kinson on report of goat running at large.

9:05 a.m.—Officer Kinson on report of reckless driver.

1:50 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of tenant being noisy.

6:25 p.m.—Officer Gasaway on report of minor wreck.

8:48 p.m.—Officer Gasaway, Cpl. Bass and

Sgt. Utsey on report of subject who came to store and said police were needed.

June 27

11:20 a.m.—Officer Kinson assisted with a stalled vehicle in the roadway.

1:32 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of family member refusing to get in vehicle.

8:21 p.m.—Officer Gasaway on report of loud music.

9 p.m.—Cpl. Bass and Sgt. Utsey on report of subject screaming at his father.

9:31 p.m.—Cpl. Bass on tools in roadway where someone had lost them off a trailer.

10:09 p.m.—Cpl. Bass assisted stranded motorist.

July 28

12:06 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of vehicle parked in the roadway.

3:16 p.m.—Officer Kinson on report of vehicle all over roadway.

5 p.m.—Officer Gasaway on report of missing property.

The Fairfield Recorder

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Deputies —

Cont. from p1-a

charges of possession of a controlled substance.

While they were interviewing the three, though, a cellular telephone in the pickup rang and Mrs. Willis answered it and was asked "Do you have anything?" Billings says.

The deputy inquired as to what was needed and the voice on the other end of the line, the sheriff recounts, asked for a "bill."

A few minutes later a woman, identified as Melissa Suzanne Jones, 40, arrived by vehicle and got out with a \$100 bill, the sheriff says.

Permission to search the Jones vehicle was granted, the deputies discovered a small quantity of suspected marijuana and arrested the 40-year-old on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Wrapping up the impromptu investigation, the deputies drove to the truck stop cafe, confronted Troy Lewis Zommer, 40, whom they reportedly saw visiting with occupants of the pickup truck, and received permission to search his living quarters nearby, Billings says, where they found a small quantity of suspected narcotics and paraphernalia.

The entire incident started at 6:13 p.m. and was over by 6:40 p.m., the sheriff reports.



KELSIE BURKS

Teague coed earns degree at Tarleton

A coed from Teague, Kelsie Burks, graduated cum laude last month at Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Miss Burks earned a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports studies, with a double minor in mathematics and Spanish.

She currently is pursuing a master of education degree in physical education.

Commencement for 811 graduating TSU students was held May 9.

Miss Burks is the daughter of Joey and Becky Burks of Teague.

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