

Shawnee County Fire District #1

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NOT APPROVED

SILVER LAKE, KS: On Monday, September 29th, 2008, the Shawnee Board of County Commissioners voted 1 to 2 to approve a conditional use permit authorizing a fire station at the corner of 46th & Landon Road. Having two votes against and only one vote for, the motion to approve the conditional use permit did not pass. Commissioner Vic Miller voted for the fire station, but Commissioners Shelly Buhler and Ted Ensley voted against it. Prior to the motion that did not pass, Commissioner Shelly Buhler motioned that the conditional use permit be denied, however Buhler's motion died for lack of a second.

Several people were present, most seemingly against the conditional use permit. Traffic concerns were among the reasons for the opposition of the area residents. The fire district board offered a compromise that alleviated the concerns, but it wasn't enough to stop the protests. Planning director Barry Beagle and public works director Tom Vlach reported the findings of a traffic study did not indicate any problems with the proposed site.

The conditional use permit originally came before the Commissioners on June 30 but they deferred action on it for 90 days to allow for a traffic study as well as to give area residents and the fire department staff time to possibly come to a compromise. The compromise ended in a stalemate.

Arlen Kirkwood acting as a spokes person for the area residents said he wasn't opposed to building a fire station but didn't like it being on N.W. 46th. Had the fire board proposed building it half a mile farther north on Landon Road, he wouldn't have objected.

Members of the fire department contested that the location of the 46th & Landon gave the best coverage and response time, moving it half a mile north on Landon Road would end up with several residences and businesses out of the 5 mile coverage range, which is used by insurance agencies to determine premiums.

For current news, visit the Shawnee County Fire District #1 website at: www.silverlakefire.com.

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