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Hiawatha to Look for Additional Groundwater Supply

(KNZA)-Faced with the ongoing problem of high nitrate levels in it's water system, the city of Hiawatha will look for an additional ground water supply northeast of the city.

The Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening accepted a proposal from Ground Water Associates of Wichita to assist the city in the investigation for a new groundwater supply at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

The company will select sites for additional test hole drilling, run tests on the wells to determine the aquifer characteristics and obtain water samples for a complete analyses by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The area to the east of Hiawatha's present north wellfield has been identified as having the best potential to develop additional ground water supplies because of the presence of a glacial drainage system.

The work is to be completed by March 1st. City Administrator Lynne Ladner says the proposal doesn't include drilling costs.

In other business, the commission approved an ordinance setting the salaries of city employees for 2013. It includes a two percent across the board pay increase for city employees. In addition to the two percent increase, the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk will receive an additional increase to bring their salaries in line with other area cities.

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