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## Buffalo Co. getting free office furniture from Minn. company

Posted: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 3:30 pm

By BETSY FRIEDRICH Hub Staff Writer |

KEARNEY — One company's trash is Buffalo County's treasure.

At a meeting Tuesday morning, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors discussed property — including cubicles, filing cabinets, conference tables and a projection screen — it hopes to receive from Minneapolis-based Nortel.



Supervisor Tim Loewenstein said his son, Timothy, worked for the company, which will be closing a department and laying off workers by Dec. 31.

The company's furniture will be abandoned and is available to whoever takes it away Monday.

The county has been planning to purchase furniture and office supplies for the new Justice Center to the south of the courthouse when the Justice Center is completed next year.

Loewenstein did not know exactly how much the items from Nortel are worth, but said taking them could save a significant amount of money.

Tom Henning, CEO of Cash-Wa Distributing in Kearney, volunteered a trailer for the county to pick up the furniture and store it for as long as necessary.

The board voted Tuesday to send Highway Department employees with a county-owned truck pulling Cash-Wa's trailer to Minneapolis Monday to pick up the items.

Loewenstein said his son does not expect any reimbursement for the property except to pay an electrician he hired to disconnect wiring and a laborer who helped dismantle some of the items.

In other business Tuesday the board:

- n Tabled until the Jan. 12 meeting a decision on whether to hire a consultant to review the current county health insurance plan.

- n Tabled a decision to hire Baird Holm LLP of Omaha as underwriter counsel for the county's recovery zone bonds.

- n Set the mileage reimbursement rate for county employees at 50 cents per mile starting Jan. 1.

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