

**By Tim Linscott**

*Managing Editor*

A pre-application must be filled out by the city council to continue the process of putting meters in homes and businesses in Grant.

Dana Harris, Grant City Administrator, discussed the issue with local leaders at the Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 council meetings.

If the city pursues moving forward with the pre-application, those applications are then put into a pool with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Health and Human Services (HHS), USDA Rural Water Association to choose from and an offer of a loan or grant can be made to the city.

“You can still stop at that point if you are offered a grant or loan,” Harris told city officials.

A water main replacement project has been slated for Sherman Avenue in Grant in the next few years. Harris consulted with a representative of the Nebraska Rural Water Association and was told rolling a meter project in with the water main project could help the odds of the municipality being approved for a loan or grant.

A Nebraska Rural Water Association (NRWA) representative began a free rate study in Grant in late January. NRWA had previously done rate studies in 2000 and 2004.

Harris explained that a study can be done before and after a grant or loan offer is made.

The rate study is free and Harris noted that it was explained to her that the studies do not take much time to complete.

City officials won't address the issue again until the rate study is complete, which is slated to be done in a few weeks.