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# The Groton Independent

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## Softball given the go-ahead by Groton school board, budget reviewed during first public meeting of the 25-26 fiscal year

By Elizabeth Varin

As Groton softball players aged 10 to 14 took to the diamond at Northern State University's Koehler Hall of Fame field, the Groton Area School Board addressed the future of the sport within the district.

The board's decision? To invest in a high school team, working to lead the northeast South Dakota region in fast pitch softball at a varsity level.

The district has already made some steps, reaching out to regional schools to discuss scheduling games and setting up coaching salary rates. However, approval to start a team wasn't official until Monday night.

The board reviewed preliminary equipment costs (about \$8,850 in equipment and a similar amount in salaries for a coach and assistant coach), as well as the number of girls participating in summer softball this year.

There would also be some other expenses, including travel costs, payments for umpires and more, said board member Marty Weismantel, who recently finished his tenure as chairman of the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors. That's a big issue the activity association faced when discussing sanctioning baseball for high school play.

"Money's tight. How do we justify adding something," he said, relaying some of the conversations at the state level. "To me, (softball) is different. ...I've been fortunate to be at the three state tournaments, and it's been great.

"...Now we just need to get some teams up here involved," he added.

The district estimates at least 20 high school players would be interested, based on numbers involved in the summer league. Another 13 middle schoolers are also getting involved in fast pitch summer ball.

A high school team would need 16 players, and there seems to be more than enough ready to play. High school Principal Shelby Edwards added that more high schoolers might join as well if they knew they could continue playing fast pitch softball.

More than 80 girls have signed up for summer recreation fast ball, said Amanda Bisbee, coach of the U14 team. She asked the board to consider allowing for a high school varsity team.

"If a varsity team is not approved tonight, my concern is where do we go from here," she said.

For some of her recreation team players, this week would mark the end of their fast pitch playing, as they would age out of playing in the fast pitch league with slow pitch as the only next step.

"Give them a chance to play," Bisbee implored. "Give them the same memories I had on that softball field and continue to have coaching them."

While there would be costs associated with creating the team, money has already been temporarily earmarked for the program pending board action, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch.

Superintendent Joe Schwan added the school could work with the city and baseball/softball foundation to use their equipment as the program begins at the high school.

There could also be other funding options, Weismantel said.

"I think the benefits will be well worth it," he said. "I know one team, we talked to a guy whose wife passed away last year. They used memorial funds to buy new uniforms. There's always something out there."

In addition to this milestone, the board conducted a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Business Manager Becky Hubsch told the board some of the initial estimates for capital outlay funds have changed, including an increased quote for curriculum updates and donations coming in for the new crow's nest.

However, the board approved requesting the same tax levy that was proposed in May.

Superintendent Joe Schwan updated the board on some financial issues that could be coming down the line, including uncertainty about Title I funding. While Groton doesn't receive a substantial amount, one fund allocation has already dropped, from about \$45,000 last year to about \$13,000 for the upcoming year.

With budgets tightening all around, "any amount of money is a significant amount of money," he said.

Schwan added he doesn't think there are any immediate impacts to special education or school lunch program funding, but it's something to keep an eye on as budget tighten.

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**The Groton Area Clay Target League placed nine in the nation with a total score of 490/500. Pictured left to right are Wesley Morehouse, Paisley Mitchell, Jaeger Kampa, Turner Thompson and Payton Mitchell.** (Courtesy photo)

## Groton Area Clay Target League places ninth in the nation

From Groton Area Facebook Page

The Groton Area Clay Target League had a very successful season and terrific showing at the National Level in Mason, Michigan at the USA High School Clay Target League National Championship this weekend!

Representing our school at the national level was: Payton Mitchell, Jaeger Kampa, Turner Thompson, Paisley Mitchell, and Wesley Morehouse.

Team Placing:

- 9th Place in the Nation with a total score of 490/500!

Individual Placing (out of 1,800 shooters):

- Turner Thompson - 12th Place
- Wesley Morehouse - 56th Place
- Payton Mitchell - 308th Place
- Jaeger Kampa - 507th Place
- Paisley Mitchell - 587th Place

All five athletes marked their own personal records at the National Tournament. We are so proud of the perseverance, hard work, and dedication you have shown to your sport. A lot of heart was shown competing the way you did and finishing your season out with amazing results! Thank you for representing your school and community with pride!

## Groton council holds off on awarding concession stand bid, proposed development project

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council held off on awarding bids for a new baseball park concession stand until the first meeting in August.

Due to the potential conflict of interest, Councilman Brian Bahr, who had submitted a bid for a portion of the project, was unable to vote on that specific part. As a result, the council lacked a quorum to proceed with a decision.

Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich read bids submitted for different parts of the project that includes a new concession stand/bathroom at the baseball park. Two bids were received for concrete and building work.

Ringneck Construction submitted a bid totaling \$90,601 for concrete work and labor to build the structure with a five-year warranty. The bid did not include material costs for the building but did include the concrete.

Blocker Construction also submitted a bid for the concrete and building labor, totaling \$75,004.

S&S Lumber submitted material costs for the building that totaled \$54,822, though some items may be removed based on the contractors awarded the bids.

Locke Electric submitted a \$12,000 bid for electrical work. Allied Climate Professionals submitted four bids for different portions of the project including the walk-in cooler, plumbing, in-floor heat and mini split HVAC system. All four bids totaled \$61,739.

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Stratford Town Board Meeting  
July 15th, 2025

6:30pm Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Engelhardt and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the June 11th meeting minutes as read.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the financials as presented.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the following claims for payment:

-General Fund-  
NWE Bills: (st lts) \$348.17, (ball pk) \$13.25, (tennis) \$22.49, (st lts2) \$185.07, (hall) \$336.81, (sign) \$15.23; James Valley (auto): \$44.54; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; Ken's: \$104.61 (4th picnic), \$18.45 (4th picnic), \$94.31 (clean up day dinner), \$92.32 (4th picnic), 73.00 (stamps); Menards: \$119.22 (supplies), 75.95 (4th supplies); Cole Paper: \$165.95 (supplies); Runnings: \$79.08 (supplies); SDPAA: \$769.73, \$835.45; Heartland H&C: \$404.20; Brittany Schley (mow M3): \$1,062.50.

-Water Sewer Fund-  
NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$153.87, (p hse) \$12.00; Web Water (auto): \$1,552.04; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71;

OLD BUSINESS:  
June lift station service call and repair by DPC to address increased electrical requirement.

NEW BUSINESS:  
Park Fundraising Committee to be updated on spending requirements.

Pub Works: Right of way policies discussed; updates will be drafted for review.

Maintenance: Assess facia on back of the hall; assess options for water issue on west side of theatre; assess men's bathroom toilet at concession stand.

2022 Water Project still waiting on final work request, no scheduled date yet.

Tree removal at 380 Nelson Ave discussed. City offered to remove during next clean-up event or property owner approved to remove at own expense.

Concerned citizen complaint about farming encroachment on city reservoir property. City will look into the issues and determine action if needed.

Citizen request for gravel on approach at reservoir; maintenance will assess.

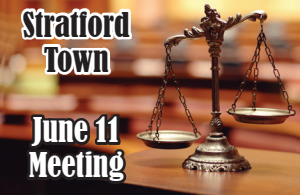
City sewer expansion project for Jark Replat of BK 10 complete with stub-ins added for lots 1, 3 and 4.

Public works to update city maps; billing for service fees will take effect beginning July, 2025.

CLOSING:  
Next meeting is scheduled for Aug 10th, 2025 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer  
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Stratford Town Board Meeting  
June 11th, 2025

6:30pm Prickett called meeting to order with Schley, Engelhardt and Kwak in attendance.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to approve the May 13th meeting minutes as read.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the financials as presented.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Engelhardt, carried; to approve the following claims for payment:

-General Fund-  
NWE Bills: (st lts) \$358.92, (ball pk) \$13.07, (tennis) \$21.32, (st lts2) \$190.82, (hall) \$277.48, (sign) \$15.04; James Valley (auto): \$44.58; United Fire (auto): \$673.00; Quickbooks (auto): \$37.17; Groton Ind:

\$12.42, 9.66, 20.42, 16.00, 45.68, 28.15; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; DANR: \$30.75; JK Reif Const: \$808.47; Brittany Schley (mow M2): \$1,062.50.

-Water Sewer Fund-NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$98.58, (p hse) \$12.90; Web Water (auto): \$1,581.14; USDA RD Loan Payment (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan Payment (auto): \$383.71; Public Health Labs: \$30.00.

OLD BUSINESS:  
Reservoir burn and clean up completed.

NEW BUSINESS:  
Web Water usage fees increasing by \$0.16 in October. Public notice will go out prior to notify customers of increase.

City Clean-up Day scheduled for June 22nd at 4:00pm.

4th of July Potluck, city will sponsor bbq pork loin for picnic. City Clean Up Day city will sponsor brats then potluck picnic.

Request from The Stratford Bar to close mainstreet on July 19th for Car Show Event, request approved.

CLOSING: Next meeting is scheduled for July 15th, 2025 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Prickett, seconded by Schley, carried; to adjourn the meeting.

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer  
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JULY 8, 2025 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sutton at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Dennert, Dinger, Gage, Sutton and Wiese. Auditor Heupel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING – TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR SPECIAL EVENT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit in conjunction with a Special Event for Malt Beverage License to Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen, SD – Brown County Fair Grandstand – SW ¼ of Sec 1-T123N-R64W Brown County, SD; effective August 11-17, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BID OPENING – PADDED CELL FOR JAIL: Time and place, as advertised to open, read and consider sealed bids for Padded Cell at the Brown County Jail. No bids were received. Moved by Commission Wiese, seconded by Dinger to authorize Sheriff Lunzman to get quotes. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the General Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: Aberdeen Advanced Care Ambulance \$494.17; Aberdeen ED \$66.74; Aberdeen Imaging \$51.72; Acute Care Aberdeen \$107.10; Carrels & Bain Family Dental Care, LLC \$515.96; CenturyLink-Lumen \$257.40; Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$540.00; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$1,200.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$2,136.00; Jerald M. McNeary \$1,932.00; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$8,004.00; Kuck Law Office \$1,500.00; Marco Technologies, LLC \$555.00; Modern Day Health Care PLLC \$861.65; Northern Plains OMS \$378.81; Northwest Iowa Hospital Corporation \$113.54; Pathology Medical Services \$16.23; Sanford Clinic Aberdeen \$169.21; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$776.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$1,356.00; TJ Counseling \$2,500.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$50.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$450.40; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$213.70. Repairs & Maintenance: Axon Enterprise, Inc \$2,333.96; Building Restoration Corp \$123,529.85; Crawford Trucks & Equipment

\$120.00; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$9.63; Dakota Pump & Control \$1,290.82; Diamond Mowers LLC \$181.78; Graham Tire Inc \$1,198.00; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$5,947.23; House of Glass \$376.79; Lang's Audio, TV & Appliance \$80.00; Lawson Products, Inc \$11.99; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$747.31; Olson's Pest Technicians \$260.00; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$63.68; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$308.00; PDO Equipment Co \$480.00; Richard Marberg \$395.00; Sewer Duck, Inc \$1,150.00; Transsource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$25,604.17. Supplies: Active Data Systems \$195.02; Ag-tegra Cooperative \$18,542.15; Amazon Capital Services, Inc. \$826.61; Auto Value Aberdeen \$22.04; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$528.27; Century Business Products \$285.15; Christina M. Flack \$800.00; Cole Paper Inc \$886.88; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$249.14; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$21.64; Diamond Mowers LLC \$1,279.68; Fastenal Company \$12.59; Geff-dog Designs \$2,029.28; Interstate Battery System of South Dakota \$508.85; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$13,052.70; John Noyes – Bantz, Gosch & Cremer \$219.59; Kuck Law Office \$46.31; Lawson Products, Inc \$97.45; Menards \$83.96; Mid-states Group \$740.05; Nelson Sales & Service, LLC \$55.42; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Performance Oil \$26.12; Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$36.00; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$455.29; RDO Equipment Co \$1,540.83; Runnings \$1,782.87; Schwan Welding \$1,845.31; Sound Decisions \$186.79; Sprocket Ventures, LLC \$145.22; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$1,270.78. Travel & Conference: Drew Dennert \$396.20; Duane Sutton \$394.10; Michael W. Varilek \$149.99; Neil Bittner \$14.00; SDSU Extension \$40.92; Steve Westby \$14.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$43.23; CenturyLink \$421.10; North-western Energy \$12,172.70; T-Mobile USA Inc \$2,184.00; Town of Frederick \$77.00; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$118.05. Machinery & Equipment: Pierson Ford Lincoln, Inc \$68,671.00. Other: Auto Value Aberdeen \$53.99. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim:

o Resignation of Boyd Willems as Brown County Fairgrounds seasonal worker; PT as needed; July 2, 2025. Request to fill.

o Hiring of Walter Wagemann Jr. as Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker, PT; starting wage \$18.91/hr. – effective July 11, 2025.

o Hiring of Caden Galbraith as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, FT; starting wage \$21.93/hr. – effective July 7, 2025.

All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following travel requests: Gene Loeschke, Russell Metz and Sarah Swenson from DOE to attend SDAAO District Meeting in Milbank on July 9, 2025; Russell Metz from DOE to attend SDAAO Executive Board & Education Committee Meetings in Pierre on July 23, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Welfare Director to attend Regional Welfare Workshop in Pierre on July 15-16, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Auditor to attend Lake Region Meeting in Britton on July 17, 2025; Lynn Heupel, Auditor/Welfare Director to attend Fall Convention in Pierre on Sept. 7-10, 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for June 2025. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: None  
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Move by Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The Chair declared the Executive Session closed with No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:11 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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July 8, 2025

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Babcock, Shilhanek, Wambach via phone, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Marla Kiesz, Dwight Zerr, Terry Herron, Elizabeth Varin, Paul Kosel, Suzie Easthouse, Brenda McCarthy, Todd Gay, and Mike Olson.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item no. 10 regarding soccer gates. All members present voted aye.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

Marla Kiesz addressed the council regarding the Area IV Senior Nutrition program and requested \$1,500 in assistance for fiscal year 2026.

Kiesz exited the meeting. Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Herron, Zerr, and Olson exited the meeting.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to approve the Special Event Liquor License for the Celebration in the Park on August 2, 2025, contingent upon Chief Mayou's requirements for event security. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to begin accepting bids for the electric metering system. Sealed bids are due by August 19, 2025, at 5pm and will be opened and read aloud that evening at 7pm. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Shilhanek to authorize the surplus of the 1982 International S1900 truck and begin accepting bids. Sealed bids are due by August 5, 2025, at 5pm and will be opened and read aloud that evening at 7pm. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to establish a sealed bid opening date for the 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV of August 5, 2025, at 7pm. Sealed bids are due by 5pm that same day. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Bahr to approve the Special Event Liquor Licenses for Groton Amateur Baseball games on July 15 and July 20, 2025. All members present voted aye.

The transfer of the property at 105 N 3rd Street to Groton Development Corporation was tabled to the next meeting. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Bahr to appoint Dacotah Bank and SD FIT as the official banks for the City of Groton. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Shilhanek to appoint The Groton Independent as the official newspaper of the City of Groton. All members present voted aye.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Shilhanek. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Payroll, \$88,698.39, Employee salaries; Executive, \$753.19; Administrative, \$10,107.02; Public Safety, \$10,827.25; Public Works, \$35,752.93; Culture & Recreation, \$31,258.00; Dacotah Bank, \$10,508.80, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotaland FCU, \$450.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$3,810.41, HSA contributions; City of Groton, \$250.00, Utility deposit applied to bill; MBDA, \$300.00, Heritage Legion baseball tournament entry fee; NW Energy, \$13.22, Natural gas service - water tower; Dacotah Bank, \$4,567.39, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$850.00, HSA contributions; Aflac, \$435.76, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Allied Benefit Systems, \$14,403.02, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$88.10, Employee insurance; City of Groton, \$40.00, Building permit overpayment applied to utility bill; Payment Service Network, Inc., \$205.75, PSN gateway and eBill fees; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$390.00, Supplemental retirement; NW Energy,

\$1,607.20, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool & PD generator; VESTIS, \$67.26, Rug rent - City Hall; Mac's Hardware, \$11.99, Threaded rod - Street Dept.; Galls, LLC, \$276.87, Uniform purchases - Police Dept.; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; JGE, Inc., \$48.66, Various bolts, washers, springs, nuts - Street Dept.; S&S Lumber Co., \$977.26, Female cord end, alligator clips, rope, watering can, pump sprayers, fuses, marking paint, tarp straps, bungee cords, garden hose coupler, lumber for truck sides, trimmer line, light bulbs, bolts, engine oil, gloves, galvanized nipple, saw blades, concrete bit and screws, screws, duct tape, bags of field markers, spray foam, grease gun coupler, grease zerk, red wire nuts, key cut, hose clamps, Blackjack tar, vinyl tubing, and anchors - Multiple Depts.; Full Circle Ag, \$143.76, Weed control chemicals; Dacotah Bank, \$10,605.33, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$810.41, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$450.00, Employee savings; City of Groton, \$521.73, Family crisis utility bill assistance; Associated Supply Co, Inc., \$1,740.07, Parts to repair chlorinator - Swimming Pool; Angerhofer Concrete Products, \$17.50, x1 pool brick w/ name - Swimming Pool; Dakota Doors, Inc., \$175.51, Repairs to press box doors - Baseball; April Abeln, \$90.80, Mileage reimbursement - retrieve pool brick from Aberdeen; Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Douglas Heinrich, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Kellie Locke, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Paul Kosel, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Landon Johnson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Branden Abeln, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Jesse Anderson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2025; Fliehs Sales & Service, \$110.80, Parts for cemetery mower; Lien Transportation Co, Inc., \$2,028.60, Hot mix - Street Dept.; SD Department of Health, \$429.00, Water/sewer/pool testing; Harve's Sport Shop, \$2,502.49, Baseballs, umpire indicators, catcher's sets, scorebooks - Baseball; Advance Auto Parts, \$221.85, CV axle and a/c recharge kit - Shop; Bruce Kleinsasser, \$2,020.00, 2025 in-service training and recertification - Swimming Pool; Eide Bailly, LLP, \$17,850.00, Final billing for 2023/24 biannual audit - City Hall; The Groton Independent, \$141.09, Publishing costs; IT Outlet, \$480.00, Annual Microsoft Subscription - City Hall; Fire Safety First, \$1,146.86, Annual maintenance and certification; USPS, \$154.00, Annual PO Box renewal fee; Banyon Data Systems, Inc., \$990.00, Annual UB meter device and payroll timecard entry support; Vesperis, \$2,475.00, Mosquito control chemicals; Dakota Pump & Control, \$2,247.97, Repairs to Main Lift Pump and pressure transducer at water tower - Sewer/Water Depts.; Dollar General, \$271.40, Cleaning supplies, bottled water, paper towels, markers, toilet paper, garbage bags, charging cables, storage box, swimming lesson snacks, soap, disposable gloves - Multiple Depts.; A&B Business Solutions, \$244.68, Printer lease - City Hall; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, \$254.00, A/C compressor for dump truck - Street Dept.; Core & Main, \$315.14, Hose clamps for flags; J's Superior Cleaning, \$200.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall; WEB Water, \$28,326.89, Water services - June 2025; Greg's Repair, \$603.16, x2 new tires for 2023 Tahoe - Police Dept.; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$841.62, Code enforcement services; Glenn Blitz, \$150.00, Window cleaning - City Hall; Darrels LLC, \$27.98, Lawn mower tire repair - Cemetery; Farm Tire Service LLC, \$85.00, Repair to dump truck tire - Street Dept.; Cole Papers, Inc., \$324.19, Garbage bags and toilet paper - Baseball/City Hall; Coca-Cola High Country, \$2,726.70, Drinks for resale - Baseball/Swimming Pool Concessions; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$1,902.57, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts.; Irby, \$3,626.40, Utility auger, wire cutting jaw, lineman's nut runner, stirrups, line clamps, cutout barrels, spool insulators, connectors - Electric Dept.; SD Property Management, \$25,000.00, Purchase of 2007 Sterling LT9500 truck; AutoZone, \$350.27, Fuel pump assembly, manual mirror, windshield wipers

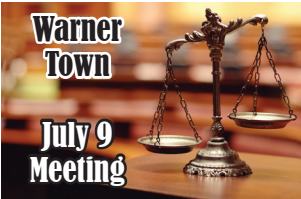
- Multiple Depts.; Colonial Research Chemical Corp., \$159.80, Cleaning supplies - City Shop; Ken's Food Fair, \$5,554.29, Food for resale - Baseball/Pool Concessions; fuel purchases, coffee, foam cups - Multiple Depts.;

Moved by Wambach and seconded by Bahr to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 9:02pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 10:00pm.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 10:01pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor  
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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TOWN OF WARNER  
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY,  
JULY 9TH, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gaylon Townsend, Terry Evans, Stewart Nelson and Nichol Townsend. Dave Fair was absent.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Townsend and seconded by Evans to approve the minutes from June 11th, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$412,255.46; Water \$98,192.85; Sewer \$186,877.21. CDs: Town \$32,978.33; Water \$50,140.44; Sewer \$28,375.31.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans.

AGTEGRA (fuel) \$281.20, Warner Post Office (lab test postage) \$73, US Bank (sewer loan) \$9631.84, USDA (water & sewer loans) \$2083, WEB Water (city water) \$6282.5, Office Max (supplies) \$253.88, Badger Meter (July reads) \$12.88, Core & Main (fire hydrants) \$9013.08, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$2715, Fire Safety First (maintenance) \$154, Groton Independent (advertising) \$22.63, Hanlon Brothers (gravel) \$1065.83, Lynn Aman (CC cleaning) \$75, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$300.39, Northwestern Energy (electricity) \$2290.03, Runnings (supplies) \$132.98, Schwan Welding (repairs) \$599.60, SD Dept of Rev (Sales Tax) \$205.79, SD Public Health Lab (water & sewer tests) \$15, SD One Call (locates) \$24.15, Town of Warner (Water/Sewer) \$285.08, SD Retirement Fund \$539.76, Payroll Taxes \$1165.06, PAYROLL: Stewart Nelson \$3587.28, Terry Evans \$321.37, Gaylon Townsend \$55.41, Nichol Townsend \$686.82.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WEB Water Rate Increase for residents of Warner was discussed due to WEB increase. A resolution will be presented at the August council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:  
Street repairs were discussed. Patching will begin next week as weather permits.

Fireworks Ordinance was discussed and it was decided to prohibit fireworks in the Town of Warner. A revised fireworks ordinance will be presented at the August council meeting.

2026 Budget was discussed. The proposed budget will be presented at the August council meeting.

Delinquencies: 8 were noted and notices will be posted on doors. Two are already shut off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: August 13th, 2024 at 7 PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

Published July 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$26.03 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25781

**Senior Citizens can get a gym membership at GDI Living Heart Fitness Center for just \$20 a month. Contact Paul 605-397-7460 or Tina at 605-397-7285.**



Westport  
Town  
July 7  
Meeting

Town of Westport General Meeting

The Town of Westport met on July 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Troy Tschappat, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: NW Energy-utilities (\$388.12), Groton Independent-June minutes (\$16.56), Runnings-supplies (\$99.06), Elan Financial Services-smoker receptable, conference expenses, new tablet (\$774.39), Menards-supplies (\$24.98), Jeff Schroeder-mowing (\$447.98), Bobcat of Aberdeen-supplies for mower (\$455.46), US Treasury-quarterly taxes (\$752.67), SD Unemployment-insurance (\$11.68), Runnings-supplies (\$53.47), Dacotah Bank-service charge (\$5.00), Eddies-gas for mower (\$240.97)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$55.48)

Water: Public Health Laboratory-water testing (\$15.00), WEB-water (\$2,297.90), Water Maintenance District-water sampling (\$688.78)

Troy Tschappat motioned, second by Mitch Wilson to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: State of SD (\$780.05), Brown County Collections (\$3257.72), Interest (\$115.65)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2099.12)

Water: Resident Payments (\$3391.26)

Old Business: City is waiting for contractor to bring camera out to search drain at LaBay corner.

New Business: Motion by Mitch Wilson, second by Troy Tschappat to table WEB increase. Motion by Troy Tschappat to purchase additional materials for water computer use. Motion by Mitch Wilson, second by Troy Tschappat to approve Brown County Auditor's request to use the town hall for primary and general election (June2, 2026 and November 3, 2026).

Meeting dismissed at 7:33 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer Published July 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$19.31 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25782

Groton  
School  
July 9  
Meeting

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING July 9, 2025

President Rix called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the GHS Library Conference Room. Members present: Rix, Lerseth-Fliehs (joined 12:54 pm), Weismantel, Strom (left 12:00 pm), and Fliehs. Absent: Harder and Gengerke. Others present were Samantha Weber, Dr. Wade Pogany of ASBSD, and Supt. J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan, and Business Manager Hubsch.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, no potential conflict disclosure was reported.

Members of the public are allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no other members of the public present to discuss any topics, the board continued with the agenda.

The board began training and development with the school board governance workshop, led by Dr. Wade Pogany from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

President Rix called for a recess at 12:00 pm. Rix declared the board back in session and out of recess at 12:54 pm.

The board continued training and development with a goal-setting workshop led by Dr. Wade Pogany from the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

Moved by Weismantel, seconded by Fliehs, to adjourn at 2:48 pm. Motion carried.

Becky Hubsch, Business Manager

Grant Rix, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

Published July 16, 2025, at the total approximate cost of \$18.43 and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com). 25783

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and Card of Thanks

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EMPLOYMENT

MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 Teacher Openings: Middle School Social Studies Teacher. Coach Openings: Boy's Golf; Girl's Golf; Assistant Football; Assistant Track; Middle School Boy's Basketball; two Middle School Girl's Volleyball; Middle School Football and Publications. For more information contact Kim Schneider, Business Manager 605-845-9200. Send resume and Certified Application to Kim Schneider, Business Manager at 1107 1st Avenue East, Mobridge, SD 57601. EOE. Open until filled. Certified Application can be found at [mobridge-pollock.k12.sd.us](http://mobridge-pollock.k12.sd.us)

JERAULD COUNTY DEPUTY AUDITOR/ EXTENSION SECRETARY: Jerauld County is currently accepting applications for a Deputy Auditor/ Extension 4-H Secretary. Full-Time status with benefits. Hourly wage determined upon experience. Please contact the Jerauld County Auditor office for an application and job description at (605)539-9301 or [auditor@jerauldsd.com](mailto:auditor@jerauldsd.com).

SUNSHINE BIBLE ACADEMY in Miller, SD, is seeking a Maintenance Director. Competitive wage plus single-family home and insurance provided. [www.sunshinebible.org](http://www.sunshinebible.org) or 605-853-3071.

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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South Dakota State  
announces spring 2025  
graduation list

BROOKINGS, S.D. (07/15/2025)-- The following students graduated after the spring 2025 semester at South Dakota State University. Nearly 1,500 students completed all requirements for a degree and/or certificate program.

Overall, students from 34 states and 28 nations graduated following the spring 2025 semester. Nearly 70 students received two or more degrees or certificates from a college.

Trey Gengerke of Groton (57445)

Sage Mortenson of Groton (57445)

KaSandra Pappas of Groton (57445)

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As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off.

Last week we evaluated the offensive line, which wrapped up the offensive side of the ball. This week we flip to the other side, starting with the defensive line. The Vikings technically run a 3-4 defense, which means when they are in their base, there are three defensive linemen and four linebackers on the field. However, Brian Flores – whether through necessity or inventiveness – has thrown tradition out the window. The Vikings will have plays where there is only one or two defensive linemen on the field. Heck, there are even plays when a safety is lined up as a defensive lineman. This offseason, the Vikings invested heavily to beef up the d-line, so it will be interesting to see how he deploys his new toys.

The Starters

Harrison Phillips – For the past few years, Phillips has been the only defensive tackle on the Vikings’ roster that opposing teams had to game plan for. Since joining the Vikings in 2022, Phillips hasn’t missed a game. The veteran is also a leader in the locker room, making his contributions on and off the field invaluable. Still only 29 years old, Phillips is signed through the 2026 season.

Jonathan Allen – The 30-year-old former first-round pick is a two-time Pro Bowler who spent his first eight seasons in Washington. The Vikings gave Allen a three-year, \$51 million contract this offseason. Allen missed nine games in 2024 after tearing his pectoral muscle, but before that, he had only missed three games in the previous six seasons.

Javon Hargrave – Like Allen, Hargrave is an older (32 years old) defensive tackle who made two Pro Bowl appearances and was injured last season (torn triceps). Also like Allen, Hargrave had been relatively healthy before the 2024 season, only missing four games from 2016 to 2023. The Vikings gave him a two-year, \$30 million contract this offseason.

Likely Backups

Jalen Redmond – Undrafted in 2023, Redmond originally signed with the Carolina Panthers and spent the his rookie season on their practice squad. He signed with the Vikings in 2024 and bounced between the active roster and the practice squad, appearing in 13 games last season with two starts.

Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins – Had he stayed in college one more season, Ingram-Dawkins likely would have been a first or second-round pick in 2026. He chose to enter the NFL early, however, and the Vikings took him in the 5th round. He needs time to develop, but he’s likely too good to be stashed on the practice squad.

On the Bubble

Levi Drake Rodriguez – A seventh-round draft pick in 2024, LDR spent most of his rookie season on the Vikings’ practice squad. He was an undersized defensive tackle with a high motor who needed time to bulk up and refine his skills. Entering his sophomore season, LDR will be competing for the sixth defensive lineman spot on the Vikings’ 53-man roster. He appeared in two games last season.

Taki Taimani – Signed as an undrafted free agent in 2024, Taki played in seven games for the Vikings in his rookie season. He is more of a natural nose tackle, which the Vikings don’t have many of, so he has a good chance to make the Vikings’ 53-man roster.

Jonathan Harris – Entering his sixth season in the NFL, Harris has played in 40 games and has nine starts under his belt. He is a solid rotational player but doesn’t have much upside, so he’s likely the Vikings’ backup plan in case Levi Drake Rodriguez and/or Taki Taimani don’t improve as much as the team is hoping for.

Possible Practice Squad Players

Travis Bell – A seventh-round draft pick by the Chicago Bears in 2023, Bell is on his fourth team in two years.

Alexander Musch Williams – The undrafted rookie is 25 years old. He began his college career with the Ohio State Buckeyes before transferring to Vanderbilt for the 2020-22 seasons. He finished his college career at Middle Tennessee State.

Elijah Williams – An undrafted rookie, Williams is an undersized defensive tackle who had a knack for sacks in college at Morgan State. NFL media analyst Charles Davis said Williams was the best player on the field in the HBCU Legacy Bowl.

### The Groton Independent

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## The Life of Donald C. Kurtz



Donald ‘Don’ C. Kurtz, 85, of Groton, SD, died Friday, July 11, 2025, at Avera St. Luke’s Hospital, Aberdeen, SD.

A private family graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Aberdeen. Arrangements by Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Donald Charles Kurtz was born July 14th, 1939 to Otto and Gladys Caroline Rose (Haase) Kurtz in Webster SD. He grew up in the Stratford area working his way through high school for Bill and Penny Jark and Bob Hanson as a farm hand helping support his parents and siblings. He graduated in 1957 from Stratford High school and started working at the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association in 1957 making his way from Manager to Line Superintendent. He enjoyed hunting, spending time watching all the grandkids’ sporting events, mowing his yard on his model A tractor, and cooking for his family.

He married Dixie Lee Hitchcock at the United Church of Christ in Brentford SD on June 9th 1962. They made their home in Columbia, SD where they welcomed 3 children, Randy, Kristi and Ryan. Don continued to live in Columbia after Dixie died in 1988 until moving to Groton in 2011. Through the years Don always considered Columbia his home and loved going back to look at crops and visiting with friends.

Grateful for sharing his life are his children: Randy (Lynne) Kurtz, Kristi (Paul) Eckrich, and Ryan (Diane) Kurtz; his grandchildren: Wyatt (Megan) Kurtz, Clayton (Aimee) Kurtz, Nick (Emily) Johnson, Landon Johnson, Jeremy Johnson, Kasey (Bri) Kurtz, Courtney (Matt) Kolbeck, Kaden Kurtz and Camryn Kurtz; great-grandchildren: Wrenley Jade Kurtz, Jorie Quinn Kurtz, and Jett Kolbeck; and one brother: Gary (Marilyn) Kurtz.

Preceding Don in death are his parents, Otto and Gladys, wife, Dixie, sister Barbara Urbanski, brother, David Kurtz, his great-granddaughter, Gracie Johnson, half brothers Edward and Orville Kurtz, and half sister Margaret Ranger.



“The Implant and Surgical Approach Choices Every Cataract Patient Should Understand”

Introduction

Few decisions in life are more impactful than the choice to undergo cataract surgery—and how to have it done. Because cataract surgery is so common, many patients don’t realize it involves important decisions that can affect their vision for the rest of their lives. Modern technology has introduced new options for how the surgery is performed and what type of lens implant is used. These choices matter.

Before we explore the available options, it’s important to first understand what a cataract is and the role of the natural lens in our vision.

The Lens of the Eye

Behind the pupil sits the eye’s natural lens. When we’re young (typically under age 40), this lens is flexible and able to shift focus to help us read and see clearly at all distances. It also contributes about 20% of the eye’s focusing power.

As we age, this lens gradually becomes stiffer—often starting in our 40s—leading to difficulty seeing up close. This is why people begin to need reading glasses or bifocals. Over time, the lens also becomes cloudy, reducing the quality of vision even with glasses. When this happens, it’s called a cataract.

Cataract surgery is one of the most successful and common procedures in the world. It involves replacing the cloudy natural lens with a clear artificial lens implant.

Lens Replacement Surgery: More Than Just Cataract Removal

During cataract surgery, we remove the clouded lens and replace it with a new, clear one. Some lens implants restore clarity but still require glasses—often trifocals—to help patients see far away, up close, and at intermediate distances (like a computer screen).

Other advanced lens implants do much more. They restore both clarity and a full range of vision, often giving patients the ability to read, work, and drive without glasses—similar to the visual range they had in their 30s.

- It’s important to understand:
- Insurance typically covers the standard lens that restores clarity only.
  - Advanced lens implants, which restore clarity and reading range, involve an additional investment by the patient.
  - Both options are good—but which is best depends on the patient’s lifestyle, eye health, and visual goals. Your consultation with your eye doctor and surgeon helps with these important decisions.

Some people choose to have Lens Replacement Surgery even before their cataract fully forms, especially if they’re in their 40s to 60s and want to eliminate their need for reading glasses or bifocals. This is called Refractive Lens Exchange and the patients who do it never need to worry about developing a cataract and they are not dependent on reading glasses or bifocals anymore.

Surgical Technique: Manual vs. Laser Lens Capsule Opening

The natural lens is housed in a thin, clear membrane called the capsule—imagine a grape inside a grape skin. During surgery, the surgeon must create a round opening in the front of the capsule, about 5.0 mm in diameter, perfectly centered over the lens. This allows the lens to be removed and the new implant to be placed in the capsule.

After surgery, the capsule naturally “shrink-wraps” around the new lens implant. This process, called capsule contraction, helps hold the lens in place for the rest of the patient’s life—and does this the best if

the opening overlaps the edge of the implant for 360 degrees. Achieving this ideal overlap is a key to long-term stability of the implant.

- There are two main methods for creating the capsule opening:
1. Manual method – done with handheld forceps and typically quite accurate.
  2. Laser method – uses a femtosecond laser guided by advanced imaging (OCT) to precisely place and shape the opening.
- The laser method can:
- Provide a near-perfectly round and centered opening.
  - Improve the chances of 360° overlap, which enhances lens stability.
  - Use imaging to determine the exact center of the natural lens—something that can be more difficult to judge manually.

Both manual and laser methods are highly respected and can lead to excellent outcomes. However, the laser approach involves an additional cost and is generally considered more precise. Patients should weigh these benefits with their doctor when deciding which approach is right for them.

Conclusion

When considering cataract surgery—or elective lens replacement—patients should be informed about:

- Implant choices: standard (clarity only) vs. advanced (clarity and range of vision).
- Surgical techniques: manual vs. laser-guided lens capsule opening.

Understanding these options empowers you to have meaningful conversations with your eye surgeon and make the best decision for your vision and lifestyle.

Vance Thompson, MD is an internationally recognized specialist in refractive cornea, phakic IOL and lens replacement surgery. He is the Founder of Vance Thompson Vision Sioux Falls, SD and the Director of Refractive Surgery. Vance Thompson Vision has grown to serve the mid and mountain west with nine locations. Dr. Thompson also serves as a Professor of Ophthalmology at the Sanford USD School of Medicine. As a leading international researcher, he has played a key role in the development of the most advanced technologies and techniques for both laser and implant vision correction. He has a passion for research and development of new technologies and has served as the medical monitor or principal investigator in over 130 FDA monitored clinical trials studying laser and implant surgery. Dr. Thompson is the immediate Past President of the American Society and is also on the Executive Committee as Vice President of the International Intraocular Implant Club (IIIC) that was founded in 1966 by Sir Harold Ridley, the inventor of the Lens Implant that revolutionized cataract surgery and refractive lens exchange. In addition, Dr. Thompson has published numerous papers and book chapters and is co-author of the textbook Refractive Surgery. He has lectured and taught advanced laser and implant surgery to thousands of surgeons all around the world. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.



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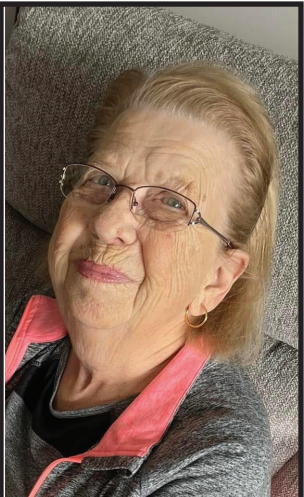
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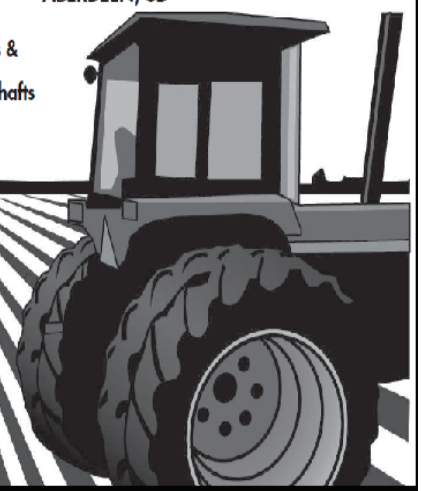
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State 12U Tournament

Groton Falls After Strong Showing By Wagner By GameChanger Media

Groton had trouble keeping up with Wagner in a 6-0 loss on Sunday at Nelson Field in the first round of the finals. Wagner got on the board in the top of the first inning after Ron K tripled, scoring two runs, and a wild pitch scored one run. Ron earned the win for Wagner. The starter allowed two hits and zero runs over six innings, striking out four and walking two. Mason Locke took the loss for Groton. The starting pitcher went six innings, allowing six runs on five hits, striking out five and walking two. Brody Zimmerman and Owen Tewksbury each collected one hit for Groton. Ryder I, Dax L, Isaiah M, Ron, and Cristian K each collected one hit for Wagner. Isaiah and Ron each drove in two runs for Wagner. Wagner turned two double plays in the game.

Groton Trounces Salem Cubs By GameChanger Media

Groton won big over Salem Cubs 11-2 on Friday at Groton Baseball Nelson Field. Salem Cubs were the first to get on the board in the first when F singled, scoring one run. Groton took the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Owen Tewksbury grounded into a fielder’s choice, and Knox Mulder singled down the right field line, each scoring one run. Groton scored five runs on two hits in the bottom of the second inning. An error scored one run, an error scored one run, Mason Locke singled, scoring two runs, and Knox singled, scoring one run. Easton Larson pitched three innings in relief for Groton. The reliever allowed one hit and one run while, striking out two and walking none. Bentley Ehresmann opened the game for Groton. The hurler surrendered three hits and one run over one inning, striking out two and walking none. K led things off on the mound for Salem Cubs. The starting pitcher allowed one hit and five runs (zero earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking two. Mason Locke, Knox Mulder, Owen Tewksbury, and Easton Larson each drove in two runs for Groton. Mulder went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton in hits. Groton turned one double play in the game. Groton didn’t commit a single error in the field. Mulder had the most chances in the field with five. H, F, K, and B each collected one hit for Salem Cubs. F and #17 each drove in one run for Salem Cubs. Salem Cubs turned one double play in the game.

Groton Storms Back To Defeat Wagner By GameChanger Media

Groton rallied to best Wagner 6-4 on Friday at Groton Baseball Falk Field. Groton trailed by as many as four runs during the game. Wagner got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Ron K doubled down the right field line, and Cartyr G singled down the right field line, each scoring two runs. Groton flipped the game on its head in the top of the third, scoring six runs on five hits to take the lead, 6-4. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Bentley Ehresmann that drove in two. Owen Tewksbury earned the win for Groton. The hurler allowed zero hits and zero runs over one-third of an inning, striking out one and walking two. Mason Locke pitched three innings in relief for Groton. The pitcher surrendered two hits and zero runs while, striking out four and walking none. Dax L took the loss for Wagner. The hurler went two and one-third innings, giving up five runs (three earned) on seven hits, striking out one and walking none. Carter Boerger stepped on the hill first for Groton. The hurler gave up three hits and four runs over one and two-thirds innings, striking out three and walking two. Ron started on the mound for Wagner. The pitcher surrendered zero hits and one run over two innings, striking out three and walking three. Hank Hill, Mason Locke, Carter Boerger, Bentley Ehresmann, Owen Tewksbury, Easton Larson, Brody Zimmerman, and Rylan Blackwood each collected one hit for Groton. Ehresmann led Groton with two runs batted in. The infielder went 1-for-3 on the day. Cartyr and Ron were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Wagner.

Tewksbury’s Clutch Hitting Propels Groton To Victory Over Parkston Leischner By GameChanger Media

Owen Tewksbury drove in five runs on three hits to lead Groton past Parkston Leischner 13-1 on Saturday at Groton Baseball Falk Field. Owen singled in the first scoring two, singled in the second scoring two, and singled in the third scoring one. A single by Owen put Groton on the board in the top of the first. Groton extended their early lead with four runs in the top of the second thanks to RBI singles by Tewksbury and Carter Boerger. Groton scored six runs on four hits in the top of the third inning. An error scored one run, Easton Larson singled, scoring two runs, Tewksbury singled, scoring one run, Mason Locke grounded out, scoring one run, and Knox Mulder singled, scoring one run. Graham Rose earned the win for Groton. The pitcher surrendered

three hits and one run over four innings, striking out five and walking one. Liam H took the loss for Parkston Leischner. The starting pitcher went three and two-thirds innings, surrendering 13 runs (six earned) on 11 hits, striking out three and walking five. Groton collected 12 hits in the game. Tewksbury and Brody Zimmerman each collected three hits for Groton. Boerger and Mulder each collected multiple hits for Groton. Layton H, Miles S, and Walker G each collected one hit for Parkston Leischner.

Groton Victorious Over Hamlin/Lake Norden By GameChanger Media

Groton outsted Hamlin/Lake Norden 10-5 on Saturday at Wahl Field in Columbia. Groton jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Easton Larson doubled, scoring one run, Owen Tewksbury doubled, scoring two runs, Rylan Blackwood grounded out, scoring one run, and Hank Hill grounded out, scoring one run. Groton added one run in the second after Brody Zimmerman singled to the right side of the infield. Groton added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Hill grounded out, and Carter Boerger singled to center field, each scoring one run. Hayden Harder led things off on the hill for Groton. The hurler gave up 10 hits and five runs over five innings, striking out two and walking two. Greyson C opened the game for Hamlin/LN. The starting pitcher allowed 13 hits and eight runs over two and one-third innings, striking out none and walking one. Groton accumulated 17 hits in the game. Groton’s Boerger, the number nine hitter, led Groton with three hits in three at bats. Hill, Boerger, and Tewksbury each drove in two runs for Groton. Knox Mulder, Bentley Ehresmann, Zimmerman, and Graham Rose each collected multiple hits for Groton. Groton turned one double play in the game. Groton didn’t commit a single error in the field. Larson had the most chances in the field with six. Hamlin/LN amassed 10 hits in the game. Broden K led Hamlin/LN with two runs batted in. The right fielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Jack V went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Hamlin/LN in hits. Hamlin/LN were sure-handed in the field and didn’t commit a single error. Jack had the most chances in the field with five.

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VFW State 12 Scores

First Round  
Wagner 6, Groton 0  
Emery 10, Webster 0  
Clark 11, Winner 0  
Corsica/Stickney 8, Baltic 6  
Championship semifinal  
Corsica/Stickney 14, Clark 1  
Emery 11, Wagner 1  
Third Place: Wagner 9, Clark 6  
Championship: Corsica/Stickney 12, Emery 2  
9th place: Salem 7, Parkson 4  
11th place: Kimball/White Lake 9, Canova 2  
In Saturday’s games  
Webster 16, Kimball/White Lake WiLdcats 5  
Clark Area 12, Winner Rattlers 0  
Salem Cubs 11, Hamlin/Lake Norden 9  
Emery 11, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 1  
Clark Area 14, Canova Gang 0  
Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 7, Britton Jr. Jacks 2  
Groton 13, Parkston Leischner 1  
Wagner 32, Salem Cubs 0  
Baltic Bulldogs 4, Kimball/White Lake WiLdcats 3  
Canova Gang 6 Britton Jr. Jacks 3  
Webster 11, Emery 4  
Parkston Leischner 10, Wagner 8  
Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 4, Winner Rattlers 1  
Baltic Bulldogs 8, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 5  
Groton 10, Hamlin/Lake Norden 5  
Friday’s First round game scores:  
Winner Rattlers 26, Britton Jr. Jacks 1  
Clark Area 11, Corsica/Stickney Jaguars 1  
Parkson Leischner 15, Hamlin/Lake Norden 14  
Emery 4, Kimball/White Lake WildKats 3  
Webster 5, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 0  
Groton 11, Salem Cubs 2  
Clark Area 15, Britton Jr. Jacks 5  
Wagner 9, Hamlin/Lake Norden 2  
Winner Rattlers 2, Canova Gang 1  
Salem Cubs 11, Parkson Leischner 4  
Baltic Bulldogs 1, Webster 0  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket Hawks 8, Kimball/White Lake 8 (games are played for 5 innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes. At the end of either one, the game ends)  
Corsicia/Stickeny 17, Canova Gang 0  
Groton 6, Wagner 4  
Emery 6, Baltic 2





**Ceremonial first pitch by Jarod Fliehs and catching is Brevan Fliehs (his son).**  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Groton's Knox Mulder reaches for the ball during Saturday's game in Columbia.**  
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton's Mason Locke protects home plate during Saturday's game in Columbia.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton's Carter Boerger gets a hit during Saturday's game against Lake Norden in Columbia. Groton won 10-5.**



**Groton's Owen Tewksbury reaches for a catch while Lake Norden's Will Stormo races to the base during Saturday's game in Columbia.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton's Haden Harder pitches against Lake Norden during Saturday's game in Columbia.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Groton's Haden Harder pitches during Saturday's game against Lake Norden in Columbia. Groton won 10-5.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Bentley Erschman pitching first game.**  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

6	9	7	4	1	3	8	5	2
8	5	3	9	6	2	1	4	7
2	4	1	8	7	5	3	6	9
4	1	5	7	3	8	9	2	6
3	8	2	6	9	4	5	7	1
9	7	6	5	2	1	4	3	8
7	3	8	2	5	9	6	1	4
1	2	4	3	8	6	7	9	5
5	6	9	1	4	7	2	8	3

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Groton Independent ♦ Wed., July 16, 2025 ♦ 7



# Groton Jr. Teeners Earn Walk-Off Win Over Britton Jr. Teeners

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners took Monday’s game in dramatic fashion, with a 4-3 walk-off victory over Britton Jr. Teeners. The game was tied at three in the bottom of the ninth when Zach Fliehs doubled, scoring one run. Jordan Schwan struck out 10 batters on the day. The pitcher also allowed zero hits and two runs over five innings while walking three. Groton Jr. Teeners got on the board in the bottom of the third inning after Noah Scepaniak grounded out, and Asher Zimmerman singled to left field, each scoring one run.

Britton Jr. Teeners captured the lead, 3-2, in the top of the sixth after Chaz Vietor walked, Max Suther singled down the right field line, and Bowen Micko singled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

Lincoln Shilhanek singled down the left field line, which helped Groton Jr. Teeners tie the game at three in the bottom of the seventh.

Wesley Borg earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners. The reliever allowed three hits and one run over four innings, striking out two and walking two. Levi Mills stepped on the bump first for Britton Jr. Teeners. The starter surrendered two hits and two runs over two and two-thirds innings, striking out three and walking none.

Groton Jr. Teeners tallied 11 hits in the game. Zimmerman, Schwan, Borg, and Shilhanek each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners. Scepaniak, Zimmerman, Fliehs, and Shilhanek each drove in one run for Groton Jr. Teeners.

Suther, Vietor, and Micko each collected one hit for Britton Jr. Teeners. Suther and Micko were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Britton Jr. Teeners. Britton Jr. Teeners turned two double plays in the game.

# Second-Inning Spurt Leads Groton Jr. Teeners Past Britton Jr. Teeners

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners scored seven runs in the second inning, which helped them defeat Britton Jr. Teeners 10-3 on Monday. Trayce Schelle grounded out, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan singled, scoring one run, Kolton Antonsen drew a walk, scoring one run, Wesley Borg drew a walk, scoring one run, Sam Crank singled, scoring one run, and Kyson Kucker singled, scoring two runs.

Britton Jr. Teeners were the first to get on the board in the first when Max Suther grounded out, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners took the lead, 3-1, in the bottom of the first thanks to three walks.

Kucker earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners. The righty gave up zero hits and three runs (zero earned) over three innings, striking out three and walking five. Bladen Downs opened the game for Britton Jr. Teeners. The righty gave up one hit and three runs over two-thirds of an inning, striking out none and walking three.

Asher Zimmerman, Schwan, Crank, Kucker, and Lincoln Shilhanek each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Teeners. Kucker led Groton Jr. Teeners with two runs batted in. The pitcher went 1-for-1 on the day. Groton Jr. Teeners had patience at the plate, tallying nine walks for the game. Tucker Leicht and Borg led the team with two free passes each.

Britton Jr. Teeners turned one double play in the game. Britton Jr. Teeners were sure-handed and didn’t commit a single error. Levi Mills made the most plays with two.

# Groton Locke Electric Fall Victim To Clark Traders Rally

By GameChanger Media

Despite leading by as many as four runs, Groton Locke Electric fell to Clark Traders 12-7 on Sunday at Clark.

Groton Locke Electric lost despite out-hitting Clark Traders 13 to 12. Brian Hansen, Ben Althoff, Austin Jones, and Jonah Schmidt each collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric.

Clark Traders got on the board in the first inning after Brent Griffith singled, scoring one run.

Carlos Camacho was struck by a pitch, which helped Groton Locke Electric tie the game at one in the top of the second.

In the top of the third, Groton Locke Electric broke up the tie when Hansen singled, scoring one run. Then a home run to right field by Schmidt followed to extend the lead to 5-1.

Clark Traders flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the third, scoring 10 runs on seven hits to take the lead, 11-5. The biggest blow in the inning was an error that drove in two.

Hudson Fuller earned the win for Clark Traders. The righty allowed 13 hits and seven runs (five earned) over nine innings, striking out five and walking one. Alex Morris took the loss for Groton Locke Electric. The starter went eight innings, giving up 12 runs (four earned) on 12 hits, striking out six and walking one.

Groton Locke Electric amassed 13 hits in the game. Hansen and Schmidt were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Locke Electric.

Clark Traders tallied 12 hits in the game. Zach Toben drove the middle of the lineup, leading Clark Traders with four runs batted in. The 3-hole hitter went 2-for-5 on the day. Brent Griffith, Grayson Florey,

Braedon Zaug, and Toben each collected two hits for Clark Traders. Clark Traders turned one double play in the game.

# Groton Legion Post 39 Defeat Rattlers 2025 Legion On Multiple Hit Performance By Alex Abeln

By GameChanger Media

Alex Abeln collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Rattlers 2025 Legion 18-4 on Saturday. Abeln singled in the third inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the third inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 won thanks in part to 14 runs in the third in-ning. Abeln singled, scoring one run, Lincoln Krause singled, scoring one run, Teylor Diegel singled, scoring one run, Korbin Kucker doubled, scoring two runs, Brevin Fliehs singled, scoring two runs, Carter Simon singled, scoring one run, Braxton Imrie doubled, scoring two runs, Abeln singled, scoring two runs, Kucker drew a walk, scoring one run, and an error scored one run.

Rattlers 2025 Legion got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Cole Nitschke singled to center field, and Colin Goettle walked, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 took the lead, 4-2, in the top of the second thanks to singles by Nick Groeblinghoff, Abeln, and Diegel.

Rattlers 2025 Legion tied the game up in the bottom of the second thanks to two singles. Rattlers 2025 Legion tied the game at four on a single by Berkley Frantz.

Gavin Englund led things off on the bump for Groton Legion Post 39. The hurler gave up four hits and four runs over three innings, striking out four and walking four. Parker Salwei opened the game for Rattlers 2025 Legion. The pitcher allowed 15 hits and 18 runs (11 earned) over two and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking four.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 15 hits in the game. Krause and Abeln were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected three hits for Groton Legion Post 39 while hitting back-to-back. Diegel, Abeln, and Kucker each drove in three runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Englund collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in two at bats.

Frantz went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Rattlers 2025 Legion in hits. Justin Bosch, Frantz, and Nitschke each drove in one run for Rattlers 2025 Legion.

# Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Falls To Watertown 13U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Watertown 13U 11-7 on Thursday.

Watertown 13U were the first to get on the board in the first when Dustin Garvey scored after tagging up.

Watertown 13U extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the third thanks to RBI singles by Garvey and Case Hulscher.

Watertown 13U scored six runs on four hits in the top of the fourth inning. Kai Schaack hit into a double play, but one run scored, Garvey drew a walk, scoring one run, Clayton Muller singled, scoring two runs, and Hulscher singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored five runs on three hits in the bottom of the fifth inning. Keegan Kucker grounded out, scoring one run, a dropped third strike scored one run, Asher Zimmerman doubled, scoring one run, and Jordan Schwan singled, scoring two runs.

Hulscher earned the win for Watertown 13U. The starter gave up three hits and five runs over five innings, striking out five and walking four. Lincoln Shilhanek took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starter went three and two-thirds innings, allowing nine runs (eight earned) on seven hits, striking out none and walking seven.

Kucker led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three runs batted in from the number eight spot in the lineup. The catcher went 1-for-3 on the day. Zimmerman, Kolton Antonsen, Schwan, and Kucker each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U had a strong eye at the plate, piling up six walks for the game. Antonsen and Zach Fliehs led the team with two free passes each. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U turned one double play in the game.

Watertown 13U piled up 10 hits in the game. Hulscher provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Watertown 13U with three runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 2-for-4 on the day. Jett Engen, Hulscher, and Muller each collected two hits for Watertown 13U. Watertown 13U had a strong eye at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game. Chace Trumm, Garvey, and Carter Dale led the team with two walks each. Engen and Garvey each stole multiple bases for Watertown 13U. Watertown 13U ran wild on the base paths, collecting eight stolen bases for the game. Watertown 13U didn’t commit a single error in the field. Trumm had the most chances in the field with five.

# Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Defeated By Watertown 13U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U could not keep up with Watertown 13U 7-3 on Thursday.

Watertown 13U got on the board in the top of the third inning after Groton Jr. Teeners 14U committed an error, and Clayton Muller singled







King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Verily
- 4 Swiss artist Paul
- 8 Harvest
- 12 Outback bird
- 13 Teeny bit
- 14 Ticklish Muppet
- 15 Spelling test study guide
- 17 Old stringed instrument
- 18 Eternities
- 19 "Old MacDonald" refrain
- 20 Rescues
- 22 Ocular woe
- 24 Med. plan options
- 25 Preface
- 29 Paris pal
- 30 Surrenders
- 31 Guided
- 32 Puns and such
- 34 Verdi opera
- 35 Feedbag filler
- 36 Delegate
- 37 Treaties
- 40 Duel tool
- 41 Work on proofs
- 42 Bleeped term
- 46 New York's — Field
- 47 Regarding
- 48 Hosp. area

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46					47				48			
49					50					51		

- 49 Patella site
- 50 Consider
- 51 Science room
- DOWN
- 1 Evergreen tree
- 2 Moody rock genre
- 3 French fare-well
- 4 Pottery ovens
- 5 Clark's love
- 6 UFO crew
- 7 Have brunch
- 8 Critic's critique
- 9 "Night" author Wiesel
- 10 Mine, in Marseille
- 11 Casual shirt
- 16 Accomplishes
- 19 Peepers
- 20 "Candida" playwright
- 21 Bullets
- 22 Fizzy drinks
- 23 Deuce topper
- 25 Fedora fabric
- 26 Extra virgin product
- 27 Make over
- 28 Crucial time
- 30 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
- 33 Country star West
- 34 From the top
- 36 English race-track site
- 37 Quick kiss
- 38 Tennis score
- 39 Refer to
- 40 Town near Padua
- 42 Scoundrel
- 43 Work with
- 44 TV pioneer
- 45 Name

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School Board

Continued from front

Monday’s meeting not only wrapped up the 2024-25 school year, but also served as Samantha Weber’s first meeting as a board member. She fills outgoing board member Deb Gengerke’s seat.

- The board held its reorganization vote, with President Grant Rix and Vice President Nick Strom keeping their roles on the board. Board member Heather Lerseth-Fliehs will join the infrastructure and building ad hoc committee with TJ Harder and Tigh Fliehs, while Samantha Weber will join the policy committee with Nick Strom. Grant Rix and Marty Weismantel will continue on the negotiations ad hoc committee.
- The board approved a bid to purchase diesel/gas from MJ Sinclair. It was the only bid received by the district.
- The board opened bids and named the Groton Independent as the official newspaper for fiscal year 2025-2026. It was the only bid the district received.

City Council

Continued from front

Bahr Spray Foam submitted a bid for the insulation in four parts. For three recommended options, Bahr’s bid added up to \$13,272, though the bid specified that if all three options were chosen, Bahr would donate his labor, dropping the price by \$3,644.

A decision on the bids was tabled to August 5 as two council members were not present.

In addition to the concession stand discussion, other topics discussed included updates to the city maps and a potential state transportation project.

Ken Hier with IMEG Corp. discussed work needed to be able to update city maps and put them into Geographic Information System, a computer system that captures, stores, analyzes and manages geographic data. Initially, Hier said it might only cost between \$3,000 to \$3,500 to update the city water map. However, if the city wants to convert the maps to GIS, it will be more work than he anticipated as the previous versions of the maps would have to be reconfigured for the program.

April Buller, project manager with IMEG Corp., offered to come back and go through different aspects of the GIS program to give city officials a better idea as to what the program can offer.

Hier also brought up a couple other engineering issues facing the city. He showed the council preliminary plans that the state Department of Transportation is looking at that would require the city to replace a gravity sewer system.

“There’s nothing cast in stone,” he said. “It’s pretty preliminary.”

However, he added, it is something to keep in mind as a possible large expense coming up within the next few years.

Hier also updated the council on costs for roadwork to replace some gravel roads on the west side of town. The low-end cost could be somewhere in the \$750,000 range, but a full replacement of the roadway as well as excavating the whole street could cost close to \$1 million.

Another significant agenda item was a request to commit a piece of property to the Groton Development Corporation for an indoor

play area. The property sits south of the Community Center and northwest of the jail. After some discussion, the council chose to table the decision, awaiting further input before making a commitment.

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— King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

Y	E	A		K	L	E	E		R	E	A	P
E	M	U		I	O	T	A		E	L	M	O
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S	A	V	E	S		S	T		Y	E		
H	M	O	S			F	O	R	E	W	O	R
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K	N	E		D	E	E	M		L	A	B	

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19

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STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2026-2029 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period.

Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be conducted on the following dates to receive public comment on the tentative program.

**July 15, 2025 • 2:00 PM (CDT) | July 17, 2025 • 7:00 PM (CDT)**  
Meetings will be virtual this year covering the entire state.

For more information and how to participate virtually, please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), should contact the SDDOT ADA Coordinator (605-773-3540) two business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure accommodations are available. For any in-person meeting, notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that the meeting is being held in a physically accessible location.

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