

The Groton Independent

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Groton school board reviews budget, lunch prices, more

By Elizabeth Varin

The Groton Area School District board took several steps Monday to prepare for the upcoming school year, approving its annual budget, increasing school lunch and activity admission prices, selecting a construction manager for a major middle/high school renovation project and accepting the resignation of a recently hired English/language arts teacher.

The board received an overview of the 2026-27 budget from the district's new Business Manager Madi Neiber. The budget figures are based on an anticipated enrollment of 549 students for the 2027 fiscal year, a decrease of 14 students from the last school year.

The district is looking to bring in \$2,341,392 from the local property tax levy along with the \$1.1 million opt-out levy, Neiber said. That, along with state aid and utility taxes, make up most of the district's general fund. The main expenses from the general fund are primarily salaries and benefits, followed by operating expenses.

Board member Marty Weismantel pointed out much of that is set by the state.

"Those are set by the state for the general fund," he said. "We don't have anything to do with that. The same for capital outlay. That amount is set by the state. Teacher salaries are set by the state. We just do what we are told to do."

Following the public hearing, the board adopted the 2027 fiscal year budget and authorized Neiber to file the tax levy request with the county auditor.

In other financial actions, the board approved a modest increase to school meal prices and admission fees for athletic events.

Breakfast: • K-5 - \$2.85 (up from \$2.60) • 6-12 - \$3.35 (up from \$3.10) • Adult - \$3.75 (up from \$3.50)

Lunch: • K-5 - \$3.85 (up from \$3.60) • 6-12 - \$4.35 (up from \$4.10) • Adult - \$5.50 (up from \$5.25) • Second lunch – K-12 - \$2.00 (No change) • Second milk – \$0.50 (No change)

Activity admissions: • Adult - \$6 (up from \$5); doubleheader - \$7 (up from \$6) • Adult 10-punch ticket - \$50 (up from \$45) • Adult All-Activities Pass - \$75 (no change) • 1st-12th Grade - \$5 (up from \$4)m • 1st-5th Grade Activity Ticket - \$30 (up from \$25) • 6th-12th Grade Activity Ticket - \$35 (up from \$30)

Board members also selected the construction manager who will oversee the district's upcoming middle/high school improvement project, a significant step forward as planning continues for the facility upgrades.

The board will vote on a contract in August, but board members indicated wanting to move forward with Hausmann Construction for construction management services. Hausmann will also be able to provide more accurate pricing and a time frame for work proposed in the district's facilities master plan.

The board also accepted the resignation of Kiya Stillman, the recently hired 7-9 grade English/language arts teacher set to replace recently retired teacher Diane Kurtz.

The district now has three open teaching positions, Superintendent Joe Schwan told the board, including a 7th-9th grade ELA teacher, agriculture teacher/FFA advisor and a high school special education teacher position.

Finally, Superintendent Schwan shared more information about a recent change to require non-school entities to have liability insurance to utilize school facilities. Essentially, the new requirements are not as all-encompassing as previously thought.

Outside entities that are going to charge an admission fee or host a fundraising effort are the ones required to have liability insurance. The insurance agent said they're not concerned about basketball practices or other events where money is not being exchanged.

• The board held its annual reorganization. Board members Grant Rix and Heather Lerseth-Fliehs took their oaths of office after retaining their seats on the board for another term. Rix was re-elected president of the board, and Nick Strom was re-elected as vice president.

• Superintendent Joe Schwan told the board about new curtains ordered for the theater. New black curtains will replace old brown ones, and the old curtains were declared surplus with no value.

• The board approved contracting with MJ Sinclairs for vehicle fuel after receiving quotes from both MJs and Ken's Fair Food. The quote from Ken's included ethanol at \$3.29, lead-free at \$3.90, E-85 at \$0.9144, No. 2 diesel at \$4.02 and No. 1 diesel at \$4.17. MJs quote included ethanol at \$3.143857, lead-free at \$3.718286, E-85 at \$0.955643, No. 2 diesel at \$3.598286 and No. 1 diesel at \$3.788286.

• The board designated the Groton Independent as the official newspaper for the 2027 fiscal year after receiving quotes from the Groton Independent, Reporter and Farmer in Webster and the Aberdeen Insider.



U14 is Runner-Up

The U14 Team placed second at the Northern Plains Fastpitch Softball tournament.

Pictured in back, left to right, Coach Amanda Bisbee, Illyanna Dellaire, Maycee Moody, Kaedy Bonn, Ari Dinger, Caelynn Pullan, Andi Gauer, Neely Althoff and Jackie Iverson; in front, left to right, are Andi Iverson, Brinley Dunker, Gracie Borg, Mya Moody, Kinley Sandness and Tori Schuster. (Courtesy Photo)



U10 takes Third

The Groton 10U Softball team took third place at the Northern Plains Fastpitch Softball Tournament that was held in Aberdeen on Saturday. Pictured in back, left to right, are Callie Wilkinson, Jason Hill, Preslee Giedt, Taya Swanson, Anna Fliehs, Baylin Taylor, Ava Strom, Hazel Hill, Brielle Dunbar, Sydney Kurtz; in front, left to right, are Aria Shellenberger, Kinzie Frost, Madison Richmond, Liv Huber, Ellie Lassel, Laker Hanson, Mya Fliehs, Railey Mulder. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Locke Electric splits at Northville

Groton Locke Electric opened its weekend in Northville with a dominant pitching performance before dropping a hard-fought contest after surrendering an early lead.

Ryan Groeblinghoff was nearly untouchable in Groton's 4-0 victory over the Merchants, tossing a two-hit shutout. Groton broke through in the second inning when BJ Richter drove in the game's first run with a groundout before adding insurance the rest of the way. Ty Sieber sparked the offense by going 3-for-3, while Bradin Althoff, Richter, Sieber and Jonah Schmidt each drove in a run. Brevin Fliehs swiped two bases and Groton backed Groeblinghoff with flawless defense, committing no errors. Brian Hansen led the defensive effort with eight putouts.

Groton was unable to carry that momentum into its second game, falling 10-5 to Dairy Queen despite jumping out to a 4-0 lead in the opening inning. Althoff delivered the big blow with a bases-clearing triple before Dylan Frey added an RBI single. Dairy Queen answered with six runs in the second inning and never relinquished the lead.

Althoff finished with three RBIs, while Sieber, Hansen and Frey each added a hit. Jonah Schmidt took the loss on the mound after working three innings.

Junior Legion rebounds to finish week 4-1

Groton Post 39 Junior Legion responded impressively after opening the week with a loss, winning four of its next five games while receiving outstanding pitching and timely hitting.

Groton dropped its opener against Aberdeen Smitty's Post 24 by a 13-2 score as Smitty's used big innings in the third and fifth to pull away. Alex Abeln started for Groton, while Braden Fliehs, T.C. Schuster, Zach Fliehs and Xavier Ellenbecker each recorded a hit.

The second game against Smitty's was a

completely different story.

Trailing by four runs early, Groton exploded for six runs in the first inning and added eight more in the third to earn a 14-9 comeback victory. Ellenbecker drove in three runs from the ninth spot in the lineup, while Braden Fliehs and Lincoln Shilhanek each collected two hits. Kason Oswald earned the victory on the mound.

Groton then swept Sisseton in a Monday doubleheader.

T.C. Schuster was dominant in the opener, striking out 10 while allowing only two hits over five shutout innings in a 4-0 victory. Kason Oswald drove in two runs, while Schuster and Alex Abeln each finished with two hits.

The nightcap turned into an offensive thriller as Groton rallied for an 11-10 walk-off win.

After Sisseton erased an early Groton advantage, the Junior Legion tied the game in the fourth before Wesley Borg delivered the game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the fifth. Lincoln Shilhanek paced the offense with three RBIs, while he and Ryder Schelle each had two hits. Borg reached base three times via walks, and Schelle earned the win in relief after allowing no earned runs over the final 2 2/3 innings.

The 4-1 week showcased Groton's balanced attack, with Schuster's dominant pitching, timely hitting from Shilhanek, Ellenbecker and Oswald, and the team's ability to rally from deficits proving to be the difference.

Senior Legion earns split in busy stretch

Groton Legion Post 39 put together another solid week, winning three of six games while competing against strong competition.

Groton opened the stretch at the Clark Tournament with a 3-0 shutout of Lidgerwood/Hankinson behind a memorable performance from Carter Simon. Simon homered twice, accounting for all three Groton runs, while Jarrett Erdmann tossed 5 2/3 scoreless innings before Nick Groeblinghoff recorded the save. The pitching staff combined on the shutout and

Groton played error-free defense.

Later that day, Dell Rapids escaped with a dramatic 5-4 walk-off victory after scoring twice in the bottom of the sixth following a Groton error. Simon drove in two runs, Alex Abeln collected two hits and Gavin Englund

gave Groton a solid start before Groeblinghoff suffered the tough-luck loss in relief.

Against Huron Post 7, Groton out-hit its opponent 9-3 but couldn't overcome early defensive miscues in a 5-4 defeat. Simon collected three hits, Ryder Schelle added two, and Karsten Fliehs drove in two runs. Alex Abeln was outstanding in relief, striking out five over four scoreless innings to give Groton a chance to rally.

The Senior Legion bounced back by splitting a doubleheader with Milbank.

Groton rolled to a 9-2 victory in the opener after erupting for five runs in the seventh inning. Simon tripled during the rally, while T.C. Schuster, Tristin McGannon and Lincoln Krause also drove in runs. Jarrett Erdmann earned the win with six strong innings, Braeden Fliehs closed out the game, and Schuster and Jordan Schwan each collected two hits.

The nightcap came down to the final play before Milbank edged Groton 5-4 on a walk-off sacrifice fly. Groton led 3-0 early and regained a 4-3 advantage in the fourth on an RBI single by Alex Abeln before Milbank tied the game and eventually won in the fifth. Abeln, Jordan Schwan and Simon each drove in a run, while Braeden Fliehs struck out five in his start.

Groton Post 39 14U sweeps Aberdeen Smitty's

Groton Post 39's 14U squad turned in an impressive offensive weekend by sweeping a pair of games from Aberdeen Smitty's.

In the opener, Groton earned a 10-2 victory behind a balanced effort.

Trayce Schelle collected three hits, including a triple, while Easton Leicht and Asher Zimmerman each had multiple hits. Kyson Kosel picked up the victory after allowing no hits over three innings, and the defense backed him with a double play. Groton stole nine bases, with Schelle and Leicht each swiping multiple bags. The decisive fourth inning featured six runs, highlighted by Easton Leicht's two-run single and Tucker Leicht's sacrifice fly that plated two more runs.

The second game required a comeback.

After falling behind 5-0 in the first inning, Groton answered immediately with six runs and never looked back in a 12-6 victory. Bentley Englund earned the win on the mound, while the offense pounded out 11 hits. Trayce Schelle drove in three runs, and Keegan Kosel, Schelle, Kyson Kosel and Mason Luvaas each collected two hits. Groton continued its

aggressive play on the bases, stealing 12 bases while also turning a double play defensively.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Valley
5 Unruly crowds
9 Dean's list stat
12 Pinnacle
13 Each
14 Science room
15 Show loyalty to
17 Mentalist Geller
18 Green land
19 Critic Roger
21 Finished
24 Love god
25 Parliamentarian
26 Raised children, say
30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
31 Desert haven
32 Call — day
33 Native of Yerevan
35 Read quickly
36 Mast
37 Bracelet site
38 Pocket breads
40 Japanese soup
42 Hindu honorific
43 Street game
48 Pouch
49 Actress Fisher

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18					19	20		
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25					26	27					28	29
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33			34						35			
			36					37				
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

- 50 Party cheese
51 "For shame!"
52 Penn or Astin
53 Harvard rival
DOWN
1 German article
2 Suitable
3 Floral garland
4 Surpass
5 Bryn —
6 Mayberry boy
7 Automaton, for short
8 Orbs
9 Crafter's adhesive
10 Henry VIII's Catherine
11 Slightly
16 Josh
20 "— voyage!"
21 First lady of scat
22 Dark film genre
23 Chicken choice
24 Actress Moran
26 Twosome
27 Botanist Gray
28 List-ending abbr.
29 "Great" dog

- 31 Jackie's Ari
34 Ecol. watchdog
35 Stuck-up
37 Request
38 "Hey!"
39 Nest egg choices
40 "— 18" (Uris novel)
41 Optimist's credo
44 Mao — -tung
45 Celestial altar
46 Like Abner
47 Country music's Greenwood

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	A	L	E		M	O	B	S		G	P	A
A	P	E	X		A	P	O	P		L	A	B
S	T	I	C	K	W	I	T	H		U	R	I
			E	I	R	E		E	B	E	R	T
E	N	D	E	D		E	R	O	S			
L	O	R	D		P	A	R	E	N	T	E	D
L	I	U		O	A	S	I	S		I	T	A
A	R	M	E	N	I	A	N		S	C	A	N
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S	R	I		S	T	I	C	K	B	A	L	L
S	A	C		I	S	L	A		B	R	I	E
T	S	K		S	E	A	N		Y	A	L	E




1503 N Broadway, Groton, 605/397-8145






New Construction
Remodeling
Roof Barns
Shops
Perry Blocker

13379 Sperry Ln, Bath
605/216-2677
prblocker@hotmail.com

Community Calendar
Thursday, July 16
 Senior Menu: Cheeseburger casserole, sweet potatoes, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.
 Junior Legion hosts Watertown, 5:30 p.m. (DH).
 U14 Tournament in Groton: Game 1: Redfield vs. Groton, 5 p.m.; followed by Clark taking on the winner of Game 1.
 Junior/Adult Golf Tournament, 5:30 p.m., Olive Grove Golf Course.

Friday, July 17
 Senior Menu: Ham and cheese sandwich, potato salad, fresh celery, fruit./
 Junior Legion at Aberdeen Smitty's "B", 5:30 p.m., (DH).
 U14 Tournament in Groton: Game 3: Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of Game 2 followed by the winners of Games 2 and 3.
 U12 Baseball State Tournament at Elkton/Salem/Beresford

Saturday, July 18
 U14 Tournament in Groton: Game 5 (if necessary): 1:00 p.m.
 U12 Baseball State Tournament at Elkton/Salem/Beresford

Sunday, July 19
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.
 St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., at Zion, 11 a.m.
 United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
 Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.
 First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
 Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.
 U12 Baseball State Tournament at Elkton/Salem/Beresford
 Jr. Legion at Clark: vs. Garretson at 4 p.m. and Clark at 6 p.m.

Monday, July 20
 Senior Citizens meeting at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
 St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21
 Senior Legion Region at Milbank
 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
 Tiger Skills Workouts, GHS Arena, 7:30 a.m.
 JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena.
 St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.; Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22
 Senior Legion Region at Milbank
 JVT Practice, 6 p.m., Arena.
 St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 23
 Senior Legion Region at Milbank
 Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.
 Tiger Skills Workouts, GHS Arena, 7:30 a.m.

Friday, July 24
 State B Legion 14U at Vermillion
 10U Baseball State at Hartford/Beresford

Classifieds and Card of Thanks
 The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
 2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
 3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
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605/397-NEWS (6397)

MISCELLANEOUS

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NOTICES

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AGTEGRA COOPERATIVE
NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2025

Agtegra Cooperative's records indicate that the following individuals or entities do not have an address on record or a known valid address on record and have one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) or more of unclaimed money or property with Agtegra:

- ALEX KULM ESTATE
- B A CLEMENT ESTATE
- DON BEANER
- RAYMOND BEED
- CHARLES BRUMMOND
- CHARLES LOSEY ESTATE
- CLAYTON LAKNER ESTATE
- CROW CREEK FARMS INC
- RICHARD FIGGINS
- CALVIN FUEHRER
- RAY GABEL
- HAROLD CARR ESTATE
- CLARIEN HOGG
- JOHN P BUSHFIELD ESTATE
- DON JORGENSEN
- KENNETH D BARROWS ESTATE

- KEITH W KETTERING
- FRANCES KLEIN
- MELVIN BECK ESTATE
- BERNICE MITZEL
- LEONARD PAUL
- W A PAUTSCH
- J T ROGERS
- TOM SCHRAMEL
- SEXAUER OF HARROLD
- SEXAUER OF MILLER
- ROBERT & KATHY SOUGSTAD
- ROBERT TRAXINGER
- WARREN SPICER ESTATE
- RALPH WATKINS
- HAZEL WOLTER

If you are one of the above-listed owners of unclaimed property or believe you are entitled to the unclaimed property of any one of the above-listed owners, please call or email Agtegra at (605) 725-8599 or unclaimedproperty@agtegra.com to request an application. If the property is not claimed by the rightful owner within six (6) months of the date of first publication of notice, the money or property may be forfeited to the cooperative.



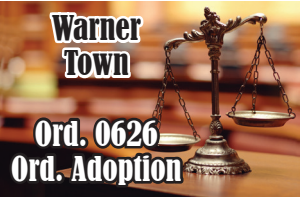
Weekly Vikings Roundup
By Jordan Wright

group faces.
 Coming in at number 5: quarterback
 Confidence level: 60%
 Current projected starters: Kyler Murray
 Current depth: J.J. McCarthy, Carson Wentz
 Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Max Brosmer
 Why I'm confident: Kyler Murray is a former number one overall pick with an immense amount of talent. The two-time Pro Bowler spent the first seven seasons of his career on an Arizona Cardinals team that routinely found itself near the bottom of the standings. Now, after being cast aside by his former team, Murray gets a chance to rewrite his story in Minnesota. He'll be throwing to one of the NFL's best groups of pass catchers while being coached by Kevin O'Connell, one of the league's top offensive minds and a former NFL quarterback.
 Hot on Murray's heels is McCarthy, who the Vikings spent a top 10 pick on just a couple years ago. McCarthy has shown flashes of phenomenal play, but injuries and inconsistencies have plagued him since day one. If he can figure out how to put it all together, there's still a chance he becomes the player the Vikings thought they'd be getting when they drafted him.
 And worst-case scenario, the Vikings have Carson Wentz ready to step in. While he may not be the same player he was earlier in his career, Wentz proved last season that he's more than capable of coming in and playing solid football. He is, without a doubt, the best third-string QB in the NFL.
 Cause for concern: There are plenty of ways this experiment can go wrong, which isn't great considering quarterback is the most important position in football.
 Kyler Murray will be 29 years old when the season starts, and his diminutive stature combined with his reckless playmaking means he likely has a shorter shelf life than the average NFL QB. The worst case scenario here is that Murray plays... fine. Not good enough to clearly be the Vikings starter for the foreseeable future, but not bad enough for the team to turn the reins over to McCarthy. He's also on a one-year deal, and after watching Sam Darnold leave after one season then immediately win a Super Bowl, will the Vikings over-pay Murray just to prevent that from happening again?
 And what about McCarthy? He's still young, but after a rocky start to his career, will he be able to survive another year sitting behind a one-year rental QB? Or will another year on the bench hurt his development to the point where he never gets a real opportunity to prove he can be the Vikings' long-term answer?
 Potential upgrades: As you can imagine, the QB cupboard is bare at this point in the offseason. Russell Wilson is the biggest name still available, while Cooper Rush, Jimmy Garoppolo, and Teddy Bridgewater would be decent backups. But honestly, none of those players are better than Carson Wentz. So like it or not, the Vikings QB room won't be changing unless something drastic happens.
 Ultimately, this ranking comes down to one thing: options. The Vikings don't know who their long-term quarterback will be, but they have multiple paths forward. That uncertainty keeps this group in the bottom half of my confidence rankings, but it's also why I'm more confident in it than the remaining position groups.



Marty Weismantel
605/396-7341
weisag@nvc.net





Zoning Ordinance Notice of Adoption
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE #0626
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 34B, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF WARNER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND REPLACING IT WITH ORDINANCE 0626, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF WARNER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND AMENDMENT THEREOF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTERS 11-4 AND 11-6, 1967 SDCL, AND AMENDMENTS THEREOF, AND FOR THE

REPEAL OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.
Notice is hereby given that Ordinance #0626, "An ordinance repealing Ordinance 34B, An ordinance establishing comprehensive zoning regulations for the Town of Warner, South Dakota, and all amendments thereof, adopted March 10, 1993, and replacing it with Ordinance 0626, An ordinance establishing comprehensive zoning regulations for the Town of Warner, South Dakota, and providing for the administration, enforcement, and amendment thereof, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 11-4 and 11-6, 1967 SDCL, and amendments thereof, and for the repeal of all resolutions and ordinances in conflict herewith" was duly adopted by the Town Board on June 10, 2026, and will become effective on the 3rd day of August 2026.
The following is a summary of the Zoning Ordinance:
Article 1 General Provisions
Article 2 District Regulations
Article 3 Administration
Article 4 Supplemental Regu-

lations
Article 5 Definitions
Finally, the zoning ordinance includes the Official Zoning Map, which designates the respective zoning districts for the Town of Warner.
The proposed Ordinance #0626 will be made available for public inspection at the Warner Community Center, Town Office located at 11 West Main Street, Warner, SD, pursuant to SDCL Section 11-4 and 11-6 and amendments thereto.
This Ordinance shall become effective twenty days after the last publication of this notice once a week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper thereby repealing all ordinance or parts thereof in conflict herewith unless a referendum is timely involved prior there to.
Dated July 8, 2026 and July 15, 2026
Nichol Townsend
Finance Officer
Published July 8 and 15, 2026.
27005



JULY 7, 2026 – 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. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the agenda. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
PUBLIC COMMENT: None
ORDWAY TOWNSHIP ROAD: Mike McHugh and John Kippley with Ordway Township met with the Commission and presented a Resolution asking them to Acknowledge a Road in Ordway Township. The road is a half-mile line, not a section line and located at NW ¼ and the NE ¼ of Section 31-Township 12S-Range 63 North of the 5th P.M., which was acknowledge and adopted by Ordway Township to recognize the said Hall Road as an official Township Road. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to acknowledge the Resolution presented by Ordway Township to adopt Hall Road as a Township Road for Ordway Township. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Ordway Township will file the Resolution with the Register of Deeds office.
DISCUSS PURCHASING 2 – 50 YD. CONTAINERS: Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, met with the Commission to discuss purchasing 2 – 50 yd. containers. He received 2 quotes: Bon Homme Colony at the cost of \$18,800 per container and Olympic Sales Inc. at the cost of \$22,875.00 per container. Mike recommended going with Bon Homme Colony. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the purchase of 2 – 50 yd. containers from Bon Homme Colony at the cost of \$18,800.00 per container. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LANDFILL CELL #5 CONSTRUCTION – PAYMENT #2: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Payment #2 for the Landfill Cell #5 Construction to Midland Contracting, Inc. for \$391,359.96. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR LANDFILL CELL #5 WITH MIDLAND CONTRACTING: Leif Redinger with Helms Engineering and Mike Scott, Landfill Manager, gave an overview of the progress on Landfill Cell #5 and explained the reasons for the Change Order in the amount of \$518,821.25. There is no change in the completion date and there is still \$200,000.00 left in contingency for the project. Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Dinger to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Change Order #2 for \$518,821.25 bringing the new total to \$3,095,604.85. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND DOMESTIC & SEXUAL ABUSE (DASA) GRANTS: Karly Winters, State's Attorney and Adelaide Mouna, State's Attorney Victim Witness Spe-

cialist met with the Commission to get approval for the required match of \$1,200.00 for the VOCA Grant and \$4,500.00 for the DASA Grant along with authorizing Chairman Sutton to sign the necessary documents for accepting the Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Funds in the amounts of \$6,000.00 for the VOCA Grant and \$18,000.00 for the DASA Grant. Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the required matches for both the VOCA & DASA Grant in the total amount of \$5,700.00 and authorizing Chairman Sutton to sign the necessary documents for the Grant Funds totaling \$24,000.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
RICHMOND DAM UPDATE: Scott Meints, Emergency Management Director, gave an update on the fire that happened at the weekend at the construction site. There was fuel spraying from the tanker truck and within a matter of minutes it was on fire. They evacuated 3 homes and luckily the wind switched with took the threat away from the homes. It was decided to let it burn so not to contaminate the water, they placed absorbent booms on the lakeside and downstream to catch any run-off. It was a joint effort with DANR, Journey Group and Geotech Engineering, there will continue to work on further clean-up, and soil sampling throughout the project. Believed to be non-malicious at this point but continuing their investigation. The tanker truck was a total lost along with 1 pump, which costs around \$500,000.00. Commissioner Sutton shared that he hadn't received anything from Commissioner Greenfield.
MINUTES: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve the General Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
CLAIMS: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Claims: Professional Fees: American Engineering Testing, Inc \$620.00; CGI, LLC \$187.50; Cogley Law Office, Prof LLC \$61.00; Dohrer Law Office, PC \$719.80; Election Systems & Software \$1.20; Gillette Law Office, PC \$912.50; Helms & Associates \$35,592.34; Jason Hasty \$550.00; Jenna Mickelson \$300.00; Kuck Law Office \$1,581.60; Kylee Boomsma \$317.20; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$2,957.50; Mariann Malsom \$49.76; Modern Day Health Care Prof LLC \$4,725.00; Pauer Sound, LLC \$105.00; SDSU Extension \$180.00; Taliaferro Law Firm, PC \$2,962.20; William A. Moss, Psy.D., LLC \$2,500.00. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$143.55; McQuillen Creative Group, Inc \$464.32; The Watertown Current \$198.00. Rentals: Linde Gas & Equipment Inc \$66.11. Repairs & Maintenance: Big Scoop Snow Removal \$120.00; Dakota Pump LLC \$10,526.48; Graham Tire Inc \$381.20; Hanlon Brothers, LLC \$7,575.00; Jake's Heating & Cooling \$172.50; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$10,967.47; Lawson Products, Inc \$57.66; Leidholt Electric, LLC \$358.87; Lien Transportation Company \$1,260.00; Olson's Pest Technicians \$260.00; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$32.00; Prahm Construction, Inc \$205,042.56; Precision Kiosk Technologies \$6,000.00; Pye-Barker Fire & Safety, LLC \$544.00; RDO Equipment Co \$7,316.27; Sewer Duck, Inc \$313.00; Titan Machinery \$209.68; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$5,457.16. Supplies & Materials: Agtegra Cooperative \$6,894.99; Amazon Capital Services, Inc \$581.87; Central Network Retail Group LLC \$95.77; Christina M. Flack \$800.00; Cole Paper Inc \$2,996.85; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$153.85; Dakota Fluid Power, Inc \$177.09; Dakota Supply Group \$129.87; Election Systems & Software \$4,836.52; FedEx \$45.82; Geffdog Designs \$57.12; GovConnection, Inc \$1,014.64; Hanlon Brothers, LLC \$82,492.77; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$152,671.50; Kuck Law Office \$71.22; LabSource, Inc \$848.82; Lawson Products, Inc \$635.11; Lien Transportation Company \$16,023.60; Menard \$302.85; Midstates Group \$914.50; Myers Tire Supply Distribution, Inc. \$329.84; Performance Oil \$123.75; PharmChem, Inc \$1,151.34; Quality Welding \$116.60; Runnings \$469.97; Thomson Reuters – West Payment Center \$374.70; T-Mobile USA Inc \$121.12; Transource Truck & Equipment, Inc \$5,458.73. Travel & Conference: CGI, LLC \$4.20; Drew Dennert \$443.70; Duane Sutton

\$208.80; Kent Karlen \$19.00; Kyler Dinger \$181.98; Lenling Law Office, Prof. LLC \$200.00; Neil Bittner \$19.00. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$184.89; CenturyLink \$296.42; City of Aberdeen Treasurer \$2,322.32; Northwestern Energy \$16,073.10; WEB Water Development Association, Inc \$122.71. Other: City of Aberdeen – Rideline \$1,000.00. Improvements: Midland Contracting Inc \$391,359.96; Northern Electric \$8,551.06. Machinery & Equipment: Transource Truck & Equipment \$229,993.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
HR REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Dennert to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Generalist, Jessica Johnson:
o Amendment to June 9, 2026 HR Report; retracted hiring of Brian Bell as Brown County Seasonal Weed & Pest Control Technician – effective June 29, 2026.
All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LANDFILL TONNAGE REPORT: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Gage to acknowledge the Landfill Tonnage Report for June 2026. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR BUDGET HEARING: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Wiese to authorize advertising for the Budget Supplement Hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 28th. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
SET HEARING DATE/AUTHORIZE ADVERTISING FOR COUNTY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ORDINANCE: Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date and authorize publication for the first reading of Ordinance # 331 - County Gross Receipts Tax to be held on July 28, 2026 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. Proposed Ordinance #331 for the purpose of providing additional revenue for Brown County, South Dakota, by imposing county gross receipts tax pursuant to the powers grant to the county by the State of South Dakota, by SDCL 10-XX entitled Uniform County Non-Ad Valorem Tax Law and acts amendatory thereto. The purpose of the county gross receipts tax is to provide property tax relief on the county property tax levy for all property classified as owner-occupied. All monies collected by the county from the gross receipts tax must be deposited into a property tax reduction fund, which is hereby created. From and after the first day of January 2027, a one half percent (0.5%) on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business with the jurisdiction of Brown County, South Dakota, who are subject to the South Dakota Retail Occupational Sales and Service Tax, SDCL 10-45 and at the same rate upon all transactions or use, storage and consumption which are subject to the South Dakota Use Tax, SDCL 10-46, and acts amendatory thereto. The purpose of the county gross receipts tax is to provide property tax relief on the county property tax levy for all property classified as owner-occupied. All monies collected by the county from the gross receipts tax must be deposited into a property tax reduction fund, which is hereby created. From and after the first day of January 2027, a one half percent (0.5%) on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business with the jurisdiction of Brown County, South Dakota, who are subject to the South Dakota Retail Occupational Sales and Service Tax, SDCL 10-45 and at the same rate upon all transactions or use, storage and consumption which are subject to the South Dakota Use Tax, SDCL 10-46, and acts amendatory thereto. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Chairman Sutton and Commissioner Wiese shared that the Commission would like to see this be referred to a vote of the people, in time to have it on the General Election ballot so not to hold a special election.
TRAVEL REQUESTS: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dinger to approve the following Travel Requests: Lynn Heupel, Auditor/Welfare Director to attend SDACO Executive Board Meeting and to attend SDACO Fall Convention/Welfare Meetings & Tours. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
LOTTERY PERMIT FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB: Moved by Commissioner Dinger, seconded by Gage to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Lottery Permit Application submitted by Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area for August 10th & 11th at the Brown County Fair to raise funds for Operational Expenses. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
OTHER BUSINESS: Patricia Kendall, Museum Director stopped in to Thank the Commission for allowing them to use the parking lot for the July 4th Parade. The Commission gave thanks to Patricia and those that helped put the parade together.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 for Personnel. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.
Chairman Sutton declared the Executive Session closed with No

Action taken.
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:07 A.M. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.
Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
Published July 15, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$111.60 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27013



NOTICE OF HEARING
AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A COUNTY GROSS RECEIPTS TAX & A USE TAX FOR BROWN COUNTY, SD
An application has been made by Brown County Board of Commissioners to impose a County Gross Receipts Tax and a Use Tax. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on July 28, 2026. Proposed Ordinance #331 for the purpose of providing additional revenue for Brown County, South Dakota, by imposing county gross receipts tax pursuant to the powers grant to the county by the State of South Dakota, by SDCL 10-XX entitled Uniform County Non-Ad Valorem Tax Law and acts amendatory thereto. The purpose of the county gross receipts tax is to provide property tax relief on the county property tax levy for all property classified as owner-occupied. All monies collected by the county from the gross receipts tax must be deposited into a property tax reduction fund, which is hereby created. From and after the first day of January 2027, a one half percent (0.5%) on the gross receipts of all persons engaged in business with the jurisdiction of Brown County, South Dakota, who are subject to the South Dakota Retail Occupational Sales and Service Tax, SDCL 10-45 and at the same rate upon all transactions or use, storage and consumption which are subject to the South Dakota Use Tax, SDCL 10-46, and acts amendatory thereto.
The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to the gross receipts tax and a use tax for Brown County, South Dakota as described. At conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 331.
ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor
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NOTICE OF GOVERNOR RUN-OFF ELECTION
A Governor Runoff Election will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 in all the Vote Centers in Brown County.
The Election Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., Central Time on the day of the election.
The Vote Centers in Brown County are as follows:
In Aberdeen City:
• AmericInn Event Center
• Best Western Ramkota Convention Center
• Brown County Courthouse Community Room
Rural Sites:
• Claremont City Hall
• Columbia Legion
• Frederick Community Center
• Groton Community Center
• Hecla Community Center
• Stratford Community Center
• Warner Community Center
• Westport Community Center
Any voter who needs assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the Brown County Auditors Office at 605-626-7120 before the election for information on polling place accessibility for people with disabilities.
Lynn Heupel, County Auditor
Brown County, SD
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NOTICE OF HEARING
2026 BROWN COUNTY BUDGET SUPPLEMENTS

A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 28th day of July 2026 in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider supplementing the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the supplements.

ATTEST: Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

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TOWN OF WARNER
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH, 2026

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

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Townsend to approve the minutes from June 10th, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: MSC: Evans/Townsend. Checking: Town \$387,605.10; Water \$87,833.72; Sewer \$221,269.83. CDs: Town \$35,014.25; Water \$52,781.59; Sewer \$29,869.21.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT: MSC: Townsend/Evans. Agtegra (gas) \$2.40, Amazon (supplies) \$346.82, CoroMed (AED fee) \$69, Groton Independent (fees) \$60, Hobby Lobby (supplies) \$50.95, Gas N Goodies (fuel) \$91.72, Dependable Sanitation (garbage) \$66, Lyle Signs (supplies) \$133.96, Nippon Sanso (fees) \$54.99, US Bank (sewer loan) \$9631.84, WEB Water (water usage) \$7013.33, USDA (water and sewer loans) \$2083.00, 3E (sewer) \$2171.59, Agtegra (fuel) \$313.40, Badger Meter (fees) \$24.84, Country Concrete (maintenance & repairs) \$14,555, DANR (fees) \$230, Dependable Sanitation (garbage service) \$2600, Fire Safety First (annual inspections) \$336.03, Groton Independent (advertising) \$84.42, Hofer Repair (equipment repairs) \$4970.91, Lynn Aman (CC Cleaning) \$75, Matt's Tree Service (maintenance) \$450, Metering & Technology Solutions (supplies) \$3573.90, Midcontinent (phone & internet) \$301.18, Northwestern Energy (electric & gas) \$1863.76, SD Federal Property Agency (supplies & equipment) \$17,445.25, SD Dept of Rev/Sales Tax \$223.33, SD Public Health Lab (water test) \$20, SD One Call (locates) \$30.45, Town Water/Sewer \$278.25, PAYROLL: Stewart Nelson (101) \$1813.64 (602) \$906.82 (604) \$906.82, Terry Evans (101) \$322.30, Gaylon Townsend (101) \$55.41, Nichol Townsend (101) \$895.68, SD Retirement Fund \$542.36, Payroll Taxes \$1199.64

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Warner Little League Fund-raiser was discussed. A formal request/notice was received from the organization. No city council objection.

NEW BUSINESS:

WEB Water Fees were discussed. New WEB fees will take effect October 1st. No action taken.

Street work was discussed. Patching will be done as soon as possible with chip sealing to follow.

Approved **RESOLUTION #070826: RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF UTILITY AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS.** WHEREAS, there has been filed with the Town of Warner, South Dakota, a petition by the developer to accept the operation and maintenance of Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Street Improvements, and; WHEREAS, said improvements have been inspected by the Town and found them to meet the mini-

mum Town standards, and; BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees, Warner, South Dakota that the improvements were made to legally platted right-of-way known as: Monarch Court Subdivision to the Town of Warner, in the NW ¼ of Section 1-T121 N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Warner, SD that the plat showing Monarch Court Subdivision to the Town of Waner, in the NW ¼ of Section 1-T121 N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendment thereof. Dated this day of July 8, 2026. Signed: Dave Fair, Chairman, Attest: Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer. MSC: Evans/Townsend

Discussed old city pickup surplus. It will be done when the new pickup is ready to use.

Planning & Zoning Administrative Manual was approved. MSC: Townsend/Evans

Delinquencies: 4 were noted and notices will be posted on doors.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: August 19th, 2026 at 7PM at the Warner Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dave Fair, Chairman; Nichol Townsend, Finance Officer

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Town of Westport General Meeting

The Town of Westport met on July 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., with Mitch Wilson, Shane Storm, Troy Tschappat, and Deb Schlosser present.

The following bills were presented:

City General: Elan Financial Services-ballpark swings (\$194.28) NW Energy- utilities (\$413.87), Groton Independent-June meeting minutes and subscription renewal (\$98.12), Runnings-epoxy (\$11.58), Menards-ballpark supplies (\$27.97), Jeff Schroeder-mowing (\$349.99), SD Unemployment-2nd qtr (\$14.96), US Treasury-2nd qtr taxes (\$837.18)

Sewer: NW Energy-Lift Station utilities (\$56.99)

Water: Water Maintenance District-May testing (\$714.29), Public Health Laboratory-June testing (\$20.00), WEB-water (\$2266.03), Water Maintenance District-June testing (\$714.29)

Shane Storm motioned, second by Troy Tschappat to pay all bills.

The following deposits were presented:

City General: Hall Rental (\$25.00) Building Permits (\$20.00) Shane Storm-donation (\$90.02) State of SD (\$1083.97), Brown County Collections (\$1712.61), Interest (\$47.79)

Sewer: Resident Payments (\$2612.734)

Water: Resident Payments (\$3919.10)

Old Business: None

New Business: A few residents are quite behind on paying their water bills. Payment should be made as they are in danger of having their water shut off. The Town has been notified that WEB will be increasing their rates. Action to increase rates in the Town has been tabled. Any resident concerned about increased rates should attend the August 3 Town Board meeting. A recent storm caused a tree to fall on one of the dugouts at the baseball field. A header and possibly other things will need to be replaced. Early this fall, gravel will be ordered for some of the roads in town. Another playground set will be ordered for the ballpark.

Meeting dismissed at 7:55 p.m.

Deb Schlosser, Finance Officer

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July 7, 2026

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, Voss-Severson, Shilhanek, Nehls, Cutler, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were Attorney Chad Locken, Douglas Heinrich, Dean Marske, Ken Hier, Kami Lipp, Tricia Keith, Suzie Easthouse, Todd Gay, Dwight Zerr, Greg Heilman, Bruce Babcock, and Elizabeth Varin.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to approve the agenda with change of switching items 11 and 12. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Voss-Severson to adjourn the 138th City Council. All members present voted aye.

The 139th City Council was convened on a motion by Voss-Severson and seconded by Cutler. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Cutler and seconded by Babcock to approve Mayor Hanlon's appointment Kevin Nehls as Ward 1 Councilperson for a term of one (1) year. All members present voted aye.

Mayor Hanlon administered the Oath of Office to all council members.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Voss-Severson to elect Brian Bahr as City Council President and Karyn Babcock as City Council Vice President

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Cutler to approve the following committee representative list for 2026. All members present voted aye.

2026 Committee Representatives
NECOG Representative: Babcock
Planning & Zoning Representative: Bahr

Committees: Chairman, Co-Chairman

Electric, Transit, Insect & Weed Control, Airport: Cutler, Bahr.

Water, Swimming Pool, Skating, Economic Development: Babcock, Shilhanek.

Streets, Baseball, Storm Drainage, Other Rec (Tennis, Basketball, Golf): Voss-Severson, Nehls.

Wastewater, Cemetery, Civil Defense, Community Center: Shilhanek, Nehls.

Finance Office, Legal, Library, Insurance, General Admin, Elections, Code Enforcement: Voss-Severson, Babcock.

Solid Waste, Rubble Site, Parks, Forestry, Liquor: Bahr, Cutler.

Police: Cutler, Nehls.

Moved by Babcock and seconded by Nehls to appoint Chad Locken as City Attorney. All members present voted aye.

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

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

Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Bahr to approve bills at each meeting and authorize the Finance Officer to pay payroll and all monthly bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and take advantage of discounts. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Cutler to authorize alcoholic beverages to be consumed during the Celebration in the Park on August 1, 2026, from 8am to 10pm at the Groton City Park. No alcohol is to be served or sold. All members present voted aye.

Easthouse exited the meeting.

Department reports were reviewed and discussed.

Gay, Lipp, and Keith exited the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding Main Street parking and the signage. Shilhanek entered the meeting. Zerr, Heilman, and Bruce Babcock exited the meeting.

Moved by Bahr and seconded by Babcock to accept the grant from FEMA for a park saferoom and authorize the sub-recipient agreement and environmental report to be signed. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Shilhanek and seconded by Babcock to approve the cemetery map update agreement with IMEG. All members present voted aye.

Discussion took place regarding the airport and hanger leases.

Discussion took place regarding the agreement to allow Area IV Senior Nutrition to use the kitchen and portion of southwest room at the Groton Community Center.

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

Payroll, \$107,865.76, Employee salaries; Executive, \$17,348.46; Administrative, \$9,741.38; Public Safety, \$9,989.79; Public Works, \$34,383.76; Culture & Recreation, \$36,402.37; Stacy Mayou, \$169.00, Mtd flex; City of Groton, \$200.00, Utility deposit applied to bill; NW Energy, \$952.28, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool & PD generator; Dacotah Bank, \$10,513.61, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; Brown County Treasurer, \$17.00, New title and registration for 2026 Ford F550 bucket truck; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router - Rubble Site; Badger Meter, Inc., \$162.31, Water metering fees - May 2026; Aflac, \$456.96, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; Health Pool of SD, \$16,687.14, Employee insurance; Reliance Standard Life Insurance, \$85.60, Employee insurance; Dacotah Bank, \$6,808.28, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Aberdeen Hardball Association, \$350.00, 14U baseball Vern Jark entry fee; Dacotah Bank, \$10,311.18, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$689.57, HSA contributions; USPS, \$162.00, PO Box annual renewal; Amanda Zimmerman, \$80.00, Add'l U12 umpire pay - 1 game; Adrienne Flihs, \$80.00, Add'l U10 umpire pay - 1 game; Douglas Heinrich, \$85.00, Mtd flex; Payment Service Network, \$206.75, PSN gateway and eBill fees - June 2026; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$940.00, Supplemental retirement; Aberdeen Clean-All, \$4,547.84, Duct cleaning - City Hall; Douglas Heinrich, \$89.00, Mileage reimbursement to register new bucket truck; Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2026; April Abeln, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2026; Kellie Locke, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2026; Paul Kosel, \$105.00, CDL update fee reimbursement; Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2026; Jesse Anderson, \$60.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2026; Chad Locken, \$2,180.00, Legal services - Q2 of 2026; Menards, \$68.97, Fatigue mats - Baseball Concessions; Cole Papers, Inc., \$202.66, Garbage bags, toilet paper, paper towels - Baseball Complex; Geffdog Designs, LLC, \$152.00, Baseball banner; Core & Main, \$626.86, Manhole cover and frame - Sewer Dept.; Associated Supply Co, Inc., \$200.49, Pool chemicals - Swimming Pool; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$2,884.48, Fuel purchases - Multiple Depts. ; SD Department of Health, \$80.00, Water/pool testing; Matheson Tri-Gas, \$146.26, Welding wire - City Shop; Schwan Welding, \$712.18, Baseball scoreboard support welding; Angerhofer Concrete Products, \$315.00, x18 sandblasted bricks w/ names - Swimming Pool; Lien Transportation Co, Inc., \$8,151.30, Hot mix - Street Dept.; Glenn Bitz, \$155.00, Window cleaning - City Hall; Banyon Data Systems, Inc., \$990.00, Annual UB meter device and payroll timecard entry support; VESTIS, \$70.43, Rug rent - City Hall; Dennis "Mike" Olson, \$911.17, Code enforcement services - 1/1/26 thru 6/29/26; The Groton Independent, \$160.29, Publishing costs; J's Superior Cleaning, \$225.00, Commercial cleaning services - City Hall/PD; Flihs Sales & Service, \$107.57, New blades and oil filters - Park Dept.; NW Energy, \$12.64, Natural gas service - PD; Diesel Machinery, Inc., \$2,850.00, 4-week rental of Bomag roller - Street Dept.; Irby, \$4,497.80, FR clothing, hard hats, harnesses, impact drills, lanyards for harnesses, parts for new bucket truck, rubber goods - Electric Dept.; Dollar General, \$485.02, Food for resale - Pool concessions, cleaning supplies, batteries, toilet paper, bottled water, paper towels, garbage bags, wipes, baking soda - Multiple Depts.; Coca-Cola Bottling Company, \$4,376.50, Drinks for resale - Baseball/Pool Concessions; Darrels LLC, \$211.80, New tire - Baseball/Cemetery; Vermeer High Plains, \$307.26, Hose and clamp for vacuum trailer - Electric Dept.; Full Circle Ag, \$574.47, Weed control chemicals; Railroad Management Co., LLC., \$458.76, Power line crossing license fee; WEB Water, \$29,619.15, Water services - June 2026; Badger Meter, Inc., \$162.84, Water metering fees - June 2026; Runnings, \$159.99, Utility box - Electric Dept.; Jerry's Electric, Inc., \$28,750.00, x2 padmount transformers - Electric Dept.; Ken's Fair Foods, \$6,637.16, Food for resale - Baseball/Pool concessions and fuel purchases for multiple depts; Korbin

Kucker, \$125.00, Reimbursement for costs of physical for CDL; S&S Lumber Co., \$1,385.98, Baseball concessions project materials, bolts, masonry bit, lawn sprinkler, field marker, gloves, squeegee, screws, pliers, keys cut, vinyl tubing, hose clamps, sump pump, wire brush, anchors, scraper, park bathroom supplies, trimmer line, LED bulbs, flange bearings, chain snaps, reflective letters, eye screws, paint, 6ft ladder, glue, socket adaptor, bungee cords - Multiple Depts.; WAPA, \$25,789.40, Power services - June 2026.

Announcement: Groton 1912 Historical Jail Open House is on July 12, 2026, from 10am to 3pm.

Varin exited the meeting.

Moved by Nehls and seconded by Cutler to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal matters 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 8:58pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:24pm.

Varin reentered the meeting.

Moved by Voss-Severson and seconded by Babcock to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm. All members present voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

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Stratford Town Board Meeting
May 12th, 2026

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 April 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 Its) \$597.76, (ball pk) \$13.30, (tennis) \$12.00, (st Its2) \$181.41, (hall) \$476.11, (sign) \$15.72; James Valley (auto): \$44.62; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; IRS: \$217.89; DANR Fees: \$30.00; Menards: \$31.83; HH&C: \$132.65; Mowing: \$950 (kadoun2); -Water Sewer Fund: NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$64.24, (p hse) \$14.06; Web Water (auto): \$1518.10; USDA RD Loan (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan (auto): \$383.71; Public Health Labs: \$20.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Project discussion about adjusted budget and reviewed proposed contract with Helms Engineering.

NEW BUSINESS

Pest control for summer - plan is to spot spray for special events in town: 4th of July (behind hall, next to park and ballpark infield); smokeoff; car show (aug 29th across from hall); tractor pull. Will reach out for estimates.

Request to use Rondell Ave for auction on June 20th, 2026, a motion was made by Prickett to approve, seconded by Engelhardt; passed.

Unkept lawn letters to go out this month. Require property owner to mow it or hire someone. Failure to do so will result in the city to mow - if bill goes unpaid, balance will be added to property taxes.

Estimate for re-roofing ball park concession stand materials approx \$2,000 to be finished on clean up day. A motion was made by Prickett to purchase materials for the roof, second by Schley, passed.

City to provide brats, dogs, and buns for clean up day bbq.

Maintenance repaired sump pump hoses and other problems were found where water runs back into basement. Will get estimate for wall repair and landscape rock to control water near building. Women's bathroom in town hall also needs repair.

CLOSING:

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

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

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer

Published July 15, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$25.47 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27022

trustee. Administration of Oaths completed.

CLOSING:

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

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

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer

Published July 15, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$22.61 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27021



Stratford Town Board Meeting
June 9th, 2026

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 12th 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 Its) \$394.13, (ball pk) \$12.94, (tennis) \$12.00, (st Its2) \$174.96, (hall) \$348.79, (sign) \$15.18; James Valley (auto): \$44.62; Quickbooks (auto): \$40.36; PDFFiller (auto): \$20.90; IRS: \$217.89; DANR Fees: \$30.00; Menards: \$31.83; HH&C: \$132.65; Mowing: \$950 (kadoun2); -Water Sewer Fund: NWE Bills: (2nd st) \$64.24, (p hse) \$14.06; Web Water (auto): \$1518.10; USDA RD Loan (auto): \$478.00; NESD Loan (auto): \$383.71; Public Health Labs: \$20.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Project discussion about adjusted budget and reviewed proposed contract with Helms Engineering.

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CLOSING:

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 2026 at 6:30pm at town hall.

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

-Anna Kwak; Finance Officer

Published July 15, 2026 at the total approximate cost of \$25.47 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 27022

STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2027-2030 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 14, 2026 • 2:00 PM (CDT) | July 16, 2026 • 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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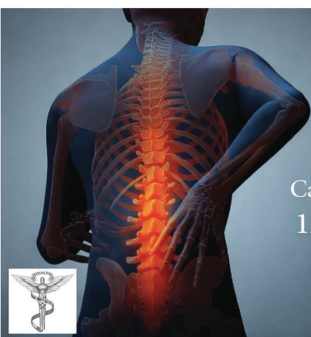
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Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton

605-397-8204

Poet awards grants

POET Bioprocessing–Groton awarded \$10,000 in 2026 Community Impact Grants to seven area organizations supporting health care, recreation, emergency services, and community pro-

grams. Recipients were GRASP (\$2,000), Turton Volunteer Fire Department (\$2,000), Midwest Street Medicine–Aberdeen (\$2,000), North-east SD Family Violence Prevention Conference (\$1,000), Aberdeen Area Foster Closet (\$1,000), Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District (\$1,000), and Enrich Groton SoDak/The Pantry (\$1,000). “Each project POET supports has a mission to make this community a better and safer place,” said General Manager Blake Gomer.

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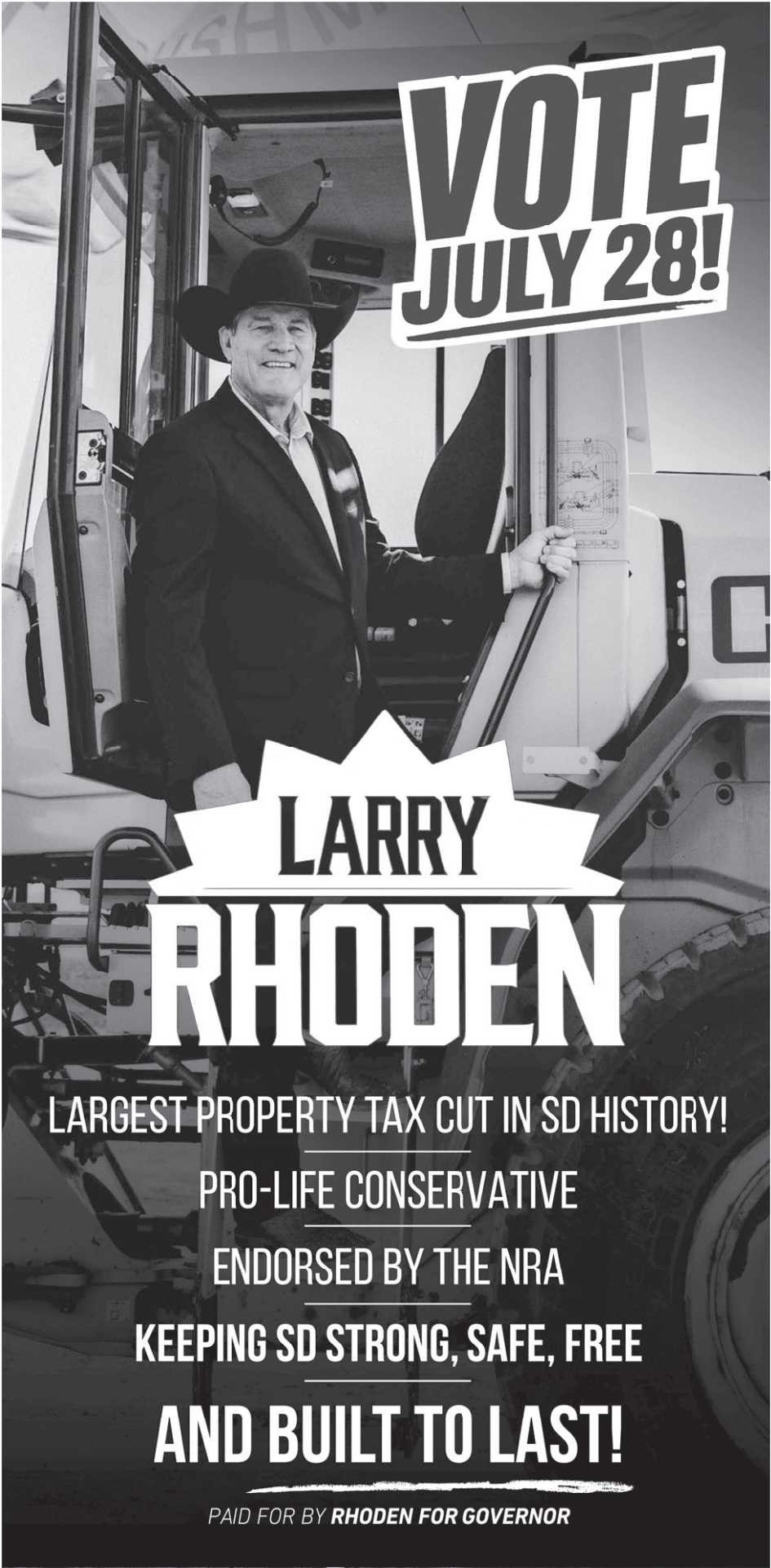
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6 ♦ Groton Independent ♦ Wed., July 15, 2026