

# Great Independent

Vol. 137 No. 14 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019 ♦ Established in 1889

## No One Turned Off the Tap: 2019 Wettest on Record

by Lura Roti, for S.D. Farmers Union



Courtesy photo

"My friends and I think we tried too hard this spring to plant because now we can't get the crop harvested. I have gotten the grain cart stuck a couple times. I know people who have gotten their combine stuck," explains **Groton farmer, Chad Johnson, 47.** 

Based on 125 years of South Dakota weather data, 2019 is the wettest on record, says SDSU Extension State Climatologist, Laura Edwards.

"This season tells the story of a long-term climate trend we are seeing of wetter weather. It has created many challenges for our farmers," Edwards says. "Throughout the growing season I heard farmers say they would rather have a drought than a flood because a flood does more damage to the land and equipment. Flooding creates so much more work and managing a farm through an excessively wet year requires much more labor."

Groton farmer, Chad Johnson would agree with the farmers Edwards visited with. He can easily compare the two extremes because in 2018 his area was under a severe drought. And beginning with an April 2019 blizzard, just in time for calving season, excess moisture has challenged every aspect of his farming operation.

"The heavens opened up and it rained, rained and rained. No one ever shut off the tap," explains the fourth-generation farmer.

The 32-plus inches of rain his farm received number of acres Johnson was able to plant. This fall, standing water and muddy soil created by frequent rain and snow events make getting combines into corn and soybean fields challenging to say the least. "My friends and I think we tried too hard this spring to plant because now we can't get the crop harvested. I have gotten the grain cart stuck a couple times. I know people who have gotten their combine stuck," explains Johnson, 47.

As of December 2, he has 450-acres of corn left to harvest. Now, the crop is under 15plus inches of snow. "I typically look forward to harvest. It's when I get to see what that new hybrid I planted did. It's when I receive the fruits of my labor. Not harvest 2019. This fall, farmers in our area began referring to the season as Hellvest."

the U.S. Department of Agriculture, due to excess moisture, South Dakota producers were unable to plant 4 million acres. The greatest

number of prevent plant acres of any state.

"It's certainly a year for the history books and I'm afraid the impacts will be seen into the future," says S.D. Secretary of Agriculture, Kim Vanneman.

Impacts like soil compaction, explains Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist. Caused by heavy equipment tracking on excessively wet soil, soil compaction decreases the soil's ability to store water and transport nutrients, it also makes it difficult for plant's roots to penetrate the soil because "it takes the pores out of the soil," Bly says.

Like so many farmers this season, Bly, a fourth-generation Garretson farmer, had to make some tough management decisions which led to soil compaction. "Farmers, like me, did what we had to do. We needed to harvest on wet soils because the crop was ready and if we waited, we didn't know what the weather would do.'

Compaction isn't the only long-term side effect of 2019 weather. When farmers are unable to plant or harvest their crops, the entire state feels the impact, Vanneman explains. "Agriculture is the backbone of South Dakota and when agriculture is impacted, there are ripple effects across the state. Producers have fewer dollars to spend in town which has negative impacts on Main Street, in small communities like Winner and large ones, like Sioux Falls."

But what about the disaster relief programs and crop insurance? "These programs may help us cover our rental or land payments and input expenses, but there is no possibility of income. These payments don't cover living expenses. Most farmers will just be happy if they can break even," says Beresford farmer, 2019. It's been one heck of a year for our fam-Larry Birgen, 58.

Due to standing water and mud, Birgen was only able to plant 30 percent of his corn and soybean acres. Which means he didn't use all the inputs he pre-paid for at his local cooperative. Although he hopes the 2020 crop uses up the pre-paid inputs and then some, Birgen says with so many farmers in a similar situation, it be ashamed of." makes it tough for cooperatives and privately-

for Southeast Farmers Coop. "Drive by their bunkers and they are only a quarter full, and clear full."

Serving Union, Clay, Lincoln, Turner and and Rural Stress Hotline:1-800-691-4336. Yankton Counties, many of the farmer members Southeast Farmers Coop serves have experienced challenges related to excess moisture going on three years now. The challenges extend beyond input sales, explains Don Truhe, General Manager of Southeast Farmers Coop. "If farmers can't get into their fields, not only we don't get paid to apply the fertilizer or spray the fields.

And the 40-plus fulltime employees who Johnson's story is not unique. According to count on overtime during planting and harvest also took a financial hit, which impacts the many rural communities they call home. Annually, Southeastern Farmers Coop pays



**Chad Johnson** 

more than \$3 million in salaries. "Because we didn't have the busy season we typically do, it impacts what our employees earn and their ability to spend," Truhe says. "We spent a lot of years strengthening our balance sheet just for this type of season. We will be OK. But other cooperatives or private businesses may not be."

We're in this together

With his combine parked in the shop, Johnson prays for warm weather to melt the recent snowfall. Then, he hopes for freezing temps so he can get back into his corn fields. "What we need is some poor man's concrete. If the snow melts and the ground freezes just enough, we can get this harvest wrapped up. I'm so over ily and friends."

Earlier this year, his family experienced a loss when a young farmer committed suicide. "This weather is taking a toll. We talk about the mental health aspect of it all the time. That's why, if there are young farmers out there who are hurting, please ask for help. It's nothing to

Vanneman echoes his thoughts. "Like evled to a few deaths at calving and limited the owned seed, agronomy and grain businesses. eryone in the industry, we've watched with "This is really hurting our cooperative," says growing concern the impact this year has had Birgen who sits on the board of directors on the mental health of producers and others in the ag industry," she says.

Vanneman reminds South Dakotans of the typically by this time of year they would be resources available to farmers, ranchers, their family and friends, like the 24/7 Avera Farm

> She adds that in addition to Presidential disaster declarations, requested by Governor Noem to provide assistance to communities and counties impacted by weather, there are also programs available through U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency.

In addition to resources, Johnson says when does it impact sales of seed and fertilizer, but he needs motivation, he looks to his family and friends who are farming. "We are in this together. It's a tough deal. Farmers are going bankrupt. But we are resilient. I think about the fact that my dad and uncle made it through tough times. I think about my son, Porter, who will be the fifth generation to farm, and I keep pecking away."



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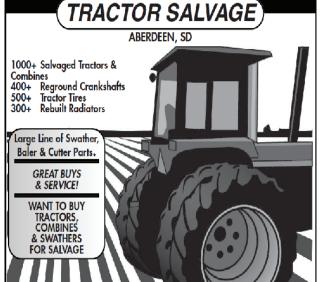
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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

### **EMPLOYMENT**

PERKINS COUNTY FINANCE OFFICE is now taking applications for a full-time Deputy Finance Officer. Perkins County offers competitive wages and an excellent benefits package. Please apply online at www.perkinscounty.org, or submit your job application or resume' to Perkins County Finance Officer, PO Box 126, Bison SD 57620; 605-244-5624. Deadline is December 16, 2019. An equal opportunity employer.

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### TELEMARKETER

Telemarketer to work 10-15 hours per week. \$12 per hour plus production bonus. Must have telemarketing experience.

> Please call 605-214-0101



### **Columbia City December 3, 2019** Meeting Minutes

City of Columbia Council Meeting – December 3, 2019 7:00

CALL MEETING TO ORDER -

7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL – Cara Dennert,

Corey Mitchell, Trevor Meints, Cole Kampa, Tyler Kampa Community –Jeremy Dosch Corey Mitchell called the

meeting to order. Minutes were passed out from the November meeting. Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Warrant Vouchers: SDML Workers Comp Fund - 529.00, Petty Cash - \$150.00:

Northwestern Energy – 6.38; Menards - 90.24; Runnings -167.65 ; GDI – 116.33; Čara Dennert – 823.50; Jeremy Dosch 419.99; Kelsie Ehresmann 335.99; Drew Johnson -400.00 ; Trevor Meints - 77.00;

Corey Mitchell – 165.20; Cole - \$297.00

Cole Kampa made a motion to accept the vouchers as presented. Trevor Meints seconded the motion. All in favor – motion

COMMUNITY COMMENTS / CORESPONDENCE - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -Plow from RDO will be done this week

Streets - There was much discussion about 6th St. East and West. Trevor Meints made a motion to declare 6th St. East and West a minimum maintenance road. Cole seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion passed. Permanent signs will be put up.

Parks – It appears that the surface well is leaking. There was discussion looking ahead to next summer's water problems and solutions.

Lagoon/sewer - Another reminder: Effective January 1st, 2020, sewer rates will go to \$25 per month. Each household received a notice of this rate change. Residents can prepay at our current rate if they do so by December 31, 2019.

Rubble Site – As soon as the burn ban is lifted, we do a burn

NEW BUSINESS - Tyler Kampa stated that this meeting was his last on the board and that he was resigning. He is moving out of town. After much discussion, Corey entertained a motion to appoint someone to the remainder or Tyler's term. Cole Kampa made a motion to appoint Dana Mohr to fill Tyler's position. Tyler seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried. A message to all city residents will be sent out regarding snow removal

FINANCIAL REPORT -Cara asked the board if she could update the Office program on the city computer. She was given the go ahead to purchase a 12-month subscription for Of-Bank balances were fice 365. presented. November 30, 2019 balances: SF - \$138,911.49; GF \$146,566.83; FIT - 13,917.22; Cash on hand: \$0

Trevor Meints made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor - motion carried.

Tyler Kampa made a motion to adiourn. Cole Kampa seconded the motion. All were in favor meeting adjourned.

Next City Meeting - Tuesday, January 7, 2020 7:00 p.m. Submitted by Cara Dennert,

Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$ 31.74. 18402

### **Brown County** Notice of

**Audit** Notice of Audit

of the Fiscal Affairs of **Brown County** 

Notice is hereby given that the records and books of account of Brown County, South Dakota, have been audited by the Department of legislative Audit for the year endedDecember 31, 2018, and that a detailed report thereon, containing additional information, is filed with the county auditor of Brown County and the Department of Legislative Audit in Pierre, South Dakota for public inspection. This notice is published in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 4-11-12.

Martin L. Guindon, CPA Auditor General Department of Legislative

Audit (1127,1204)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$16.45. 18313

**Brown County New Renewal Application**NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,

COUNTY OF BROWN Before the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Brown

County, South Dakota THE MATTER OF THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND ERECT ELECTRIC LINES ON AND ALONG THE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS OF BROWN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA by NorthWestern Corporation, a Delaware Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern).

To all persons, firms or entities owning or operating electric, telephone or telegraph lines:

You will please take notice that NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, a Delaware Corporation, having a business office in the City of Huron, Beadle County, South Dakota, has filed with the County Auditor of Brown County, South Dakota its Application for a grant and renewal of any former grants from said County for a period of twenty (20) years and for as long and extended period as the Legislature may provide, granting to NorthWestern the right to erect and maintain poles, wires and necessary appurtenances and bury cable for the purpose of conducting electricity for lighting, heating and power purposes, in and along any public highway in Brown County, South Dakota as provided by Chapter 31-26 of South Dakota Codified Law:

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FUR-THER GIVEN that on the 10th day of December, 2019, at 8:45 a.m. at Brown County Commission Chambers, Brown County Courthouse, Courthouse Annex in the City of Aberdeen, County of Brown, State of South Da-kota, will be the time and place when and where said Application will be heard and considered by the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, when and where all persons, firms, or corporations owing or operating electric, telephone, or telegraph lines on any part of the highway or highways which the proposed lines may occupy may appear, file objections and show cause why said Application should not be granted.

The said Application now on file with the County Auditor of Brown County, South Dakota is hereby referred to for further particulars.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2019 at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Attest: Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(1120.1204)Published 3 times at the total approximate cost of \$69.61.

### **Frederick Town Sanitary Sewer Bid Notice**

Advertisement for Bid City of Frederick

Frederick Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Frederick Sanitary Sewer Improvements will be received by the City of Frederick. at the office of the City Finance Officer at 403 3rd Ave., Frederick South Dakota 57441, until 4:00 2019 at which time the Bids received will be "publicly" opened and read.

The Project consists of the replacement and or relining of the existing sanitary sewer system. This work shall include; installation of new sanitary sewer piping, manholes, cleanouts, sanitary sewer service piping and cleanouts. Work shall also include asphalt street repair, concrete sidewalk and driveway repair, and gravel surfacing repair along with other miscel-

laneous work. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Helms and Associates, 221 Brown County Highway 19, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401 (605) 225-1212 operations@helmsengineering. com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online upon a one-time payment of \$20.00 by registering with the Issuing Office at http://www. helmsengineering.com/biddocs. html. Following registration, complete sets of Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the Issuing Office's website as portable document format (PDF) files. The 11"x17" paper drawings and Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office upon payment to Helms and Associates in the amount of \$100.00 for shipping and handling. Cost of Bidding Documents and shipping is non-refundable. Additionally, upon request, in accordance with South Dakota Codified Law -18B-1, one copy of Plans and Specifications shall be furnished, without charge, to each Contractor resident in South Dakota who intends, in good faith, to bid upon the project. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of the Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Presidents Executive Order Nos. 11246 as amended, 11518, and 11625 as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under these orders are explained in the specifications.

Bidders on this work will be equired to comply with Title 40 CFR 33 and Executive Order 12138. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this regulation which concerns utilization of Disadvantaged/ Minority Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are explained in the specifications. The goals for DBE/MBE participation are 1% and WBE participation are 4%.

The successful bidder- including any contractors on the project, must be registered in SAM (System for Award Management)

In addition to all of the above listed Federal requirements for work on this project, compliance with the contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Executive Order 11375, Copeland Act, the Clean Air Act, and Water Pollution Control Act, and subsequent amendments to all of the above will be required of contractors and/or subcontractors performing work on this project.

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All listed iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials. The deminimis and minor components waiver {add project specific waivers as ap-

plicable} apply to this contract. Owner: City of Frederick By:Scott Campbell Title: Board President Date: December 2, 2019 (1204.1211)

Published twice at the approximate cost of \$94.62. 18403

### **Brown County** Nov. 26, 2019 **Meeting Minutes**November 26, 2019 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Vice-Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Feickert, Sutton, and Wiese. Commission Chair Fjeldheim was absent. Commissioner Sutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the General County Commission meeting minutes of November 19, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. CLAIMS/PAYROLL:

Moved by Feickert seconded

by Sutton to approve the following claims and payroll:

PAYROLL: Commission \$4,285.10; Elections \$0.00; Auditor \$8,721.92; Treasurer \$13,955.23; SA \$22,330.17; SVAWA \$1,193.49; Maintenance \$8,043.12; Assessor \$12,514.12; Register of Deeds \$8,812.20; VSO \$2,480.77; GIS \$2,367.50; IT \$8,444.20; HR \$2,153.85; Sheriff \$38,490.40; Jail \$47,913.76; Coroner \$0.00; Court Security \$6,245.03; JDC \$24,487.91; Welfare \$2,057.70; Museum \$7,024.24; Parks/Fairgrounds \$4,905.75; Fair Board \$3,255.27; 4-H \$0.00; Weed \$2,347.42; Planning & Zoning \$2,486.90; Highway \$52,639.14; Dispatch \$25,924.85; Emergency \$4,087.65; Teen Court \$820.80; JDAI \$1,576.93; 24/7 Sobriety \$3,380.48; Landfill \$13,633.43; Matching Benefits: FICA \$20,022.16, Medicare \$4,682.62, Health Savings Acct \$175., Health Insurance \$121,852.45, Dental Insur-ance \$6,967.8, Life Insurance \$1,070.32, SDRS \$40,703.57. CLAIMS: Professional Fees:

Kristi Brandt \$31.50; Cogley Law Office \$7,142.86; Dependable Sanitation \$29,779.34; Dohrer Law Office \$7142.86; Haar Law Firm \$7,142.86; Kuck Law Office \$12,005.06; Liberty Tire Recycling \$3,160.84; Jerald McNeary \$7,142.86; NE Mental Health Center \$1,560.00; Matthew Payne \$200.00; SD Dept. of Legislative Audit \$29,741.55 Christy Griffin-Serr Law Office \$7,142.86; Kristi Spitzer \$1,800.00; Taliaferro Law Firm \$7,142.86; Mitch Vilhauer \$1,961.40.

Publishing: Aberdeen Ameri can News \$161.53. Rental: 446-Praxair \$26.25. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Plumbing & Heating \$273.23; B&B Contracting \$7,059.96; Dakota Doors \$122.45; Double A Plumbing \$216.84; Ecolab \$147.16; Fire Safety First \$31.40; GCR Tires & Service \$1,112.97; Graham Tire \$205.00; House of Glass \$290.82; Jason's Electric \$2,346.94; Midwest Pump & Tank \$601.87; Total Drywall Finishing \$182.73; TransSource \$1,003.52. Supplies: Century Business Products \$927.93 Dakota Electronics \$4,500.00; Dacotah Country Masonry \$1,779.90; DPM – Petty Cash \$12.28; DSG \$134.67; GovConnection \$707.15; Hanlon Brothers \$129,366.18; Heartland Paper \$1,414.10; LabSource \$717.76; Marco \$25.22; Menards \$413.28; Pitney Bowes \$7,000.00; Running's \$85.10; Tyler Business Forms \$471.86 Travel & Conference: Jeannette McClain \$72.00; Roberta Nichols \$109.88; Lora Schaunaman \$268.84. Utilities: CenturyLink \$499.56; Dependable Sanitation \$165.00; Northern Electric \$1,587.07; NWPS \$2,499.80; NVC \$544.89. Other: Pizza Ranch \$89.44. Bond Payments: Alan or Angela Bernard \$13,013.70; Darwin or Mary Bettmann \$1,952.10; Joop Bollen \$16,267.30; Bruce or Lynette Durheim \$6,507.35: FDM Revocable Living Trust \$16,267.30; Don or Maxine Fischer \$1,952.00; Great Plains Bank \$19,521.05; James Gressett \$16,267.30; Kendall Peterson Trustee \$39,042.10: John Kippley \$3,253.51; Robert or Lora Larson \$3,253.55; David or Jill Lehmann Living Trust \$16,268.50; Marlin Nilsson \$13,013.70; Pyush Patel \$16,267,30; Kendall or Linda Peterson \$6,507.35; Plains Commerce Bank \$248,240.80; Herman Schumacher \$8,134.25 Mark & Mary Volk \$6,507.35.HR

REPORT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following: Approve request to fill vacancy for Brown County Fair & 4-H assistant. Approve the following employee step increase effective December 1, 2019: Lora Shaunaman @ \$17.87 and Kayla Reinert @ \$17.72. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS:

R 56- 19 Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: R 56-19 "Be it Resolved by the **Board of County Commissioners** of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing: L&S Subdivision in the NW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of Section 20-T128N-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 amendments thereof." Seconded by commissioner Feickert, Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese – aye, Kippley – aye. Fjeldheim- absent. Resolution adopted.

R 57-19 Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: R 57-19 "Be it Resolved by the **Board of County Commissioners** of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Allen and Emery Subdivision in the NE1/4 of Section 8-T121N-R60W of the 5th p.m., Brown County, South Dakota, having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provision of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by commissioner Feickert, Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert - aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese - aye, Kippley – aye. Fjeldheim- absent. Resolution adopted.

offered the following Resolution: R 58-19 "Be it resolved by the **Board of County Commissioners** of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing Mark Erickson's Second Subdivision in the W1/2 NW 1/4 section 20 and in the SW1/4 SW1/4 section 17 both in T122-R62W 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 amendments thereof." Seconded by commissioner Feickert, Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert - aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese – aye, Kippley - ayé. Fjeldheim- absent. Resolution adopted.

R 58-19 Commissioner Wiese

R 59-19 Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: R 59-19 Be it resolved by the board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Marzenell Subdivision, in the SE1/4 of the SW ¼ of Section 25, Township 123 North, Range 65 West of the 5th P.M., in Brown County, South Dakota, be approved and accepted" Seconded by commissioner Feickert, Roll call vote: Commissioners Feickert – aye, Sutton- aye, Wiese – aye, Kip-pley – aye. Fjeldheim- absent. Resolution adopted.

ORDINANCE 152 - 153 SET **HEARING DATE - ORDINANCES:** Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to set hearing dates for the following ordinance rezones:

Ordinance 152 – December 17, 2019 at 8:45 AM - applicant Nick Berbos to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1 Subdivision" in the S1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 35-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

Ordinance 153 – December 17, 2019 at 8:45 AM – applicant Roger Gray to rezone the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District R-3): Lot 2C of Lot 2, fer Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the NW 1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M. Brown County, South Dakota. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to authorize chair sign documentation to assign claims against individuals to Credit Collection Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

VACATION OF PLAT - SET HEARING DATE:

Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to set hearing date to consider petition to vacate the following plat: Petition by Bruce Jones to vacate the plat described as follows: "Jones Conservation Easement Tracts' in the E1/2 of Section 06-T125N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Hearing to be held December 17th, 2019, at 8:47 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota. All members present

voting aye. Motion carried. BCCHC CONTRACT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chair sign Contract with the State of South Dakota for providing community services in Brown County for fiscal year 2020 in amount of \$19,231.56. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LI-

CENSE TRANSFER:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the transfer of the following license: PACKAGE (OFF-SALE) LIQUOR: Mansfield Bar and Grill (Lots 11-14 Block 4 Mansfield SE 32-121-64) from Venus Donley to Stacy Gossman; RETAIL (ON-SALE) AND SUNDAY LIQUOR: Mansfield Bar and Grill (Lots 11-14 Block 4 Mansfield SE 32-121-64) from Venus Donley to Stacy Gossman, All members present voting aye. Motion

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LI-CENSE RENEWAL:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following application for renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to operate outside of the Municipality: PACKAGE (OFF-SALE) LIQUOR: Stacy Gossman DBA Mansfield Bar and Grill (Lots 11-14 Block 4 Mansfield SE 32-121-64); RE-TAIL (ON-SALE) AND SUNDAY LIQUOR: Stacy Gossman DBA Mansfield Bar and Grill (Lots 11-14 Block 4 Mansfield SE 32-121-64). All members present voting ave. Motion carried. BURN BAN EXTENDED:

Moved by Wiese, seconded

by Sutton to extend the burn ban, Resolution 55-19, effective through December 17th, 2019. All members present voting aye. Motion Carried.

EDWARDS PRESERVE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Kippley to approve and authorize chair sign contract for Edwards Preserve Land Exchange Agreement. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 9:00 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$100.79.

#### **Brown County Berbos Rezoning Notice** NOTICE

Application has been made

by Nick Berbos to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on December 17, 2019 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG):

Lot 1 "Berbos Subdivision" in the S1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 35-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 152

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown Coun-

(1204.1211)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$22.34.

### **Brown County Gray Rezoning Notice**

NOTICE

Application has been made by Roger Gray to the Brown County Board of Commissioners for a change of zoning. Hearing to be held in the C nmissin Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota on December 17, 2019 at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of rezoning the following property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.10 Lake Front Residential District (R-3), said property described as follows:

Lot 2C of Lot 2, "Schaeffer Richmond Lake Subdivision" in the NW 1/4 of Section 25-T124N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the amendment to Second Revision Brown County Ordinances pertaining to rezoning the described property. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Brown County Commission may adopt first reading of Ordinance No. 153.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor

(1204.1211)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$24.10.

Groton Independent ♦ Wed., Dec. 4, 2019 ♦ 3

### The Groton Independent

21 N Main, Groton 605/397-NEWS (6397) Paul Irvin Kosel, Publisher <u>paperpaul@grotonsd.net</u> ~ 605-397-7460

Tina Kosel, Office Manager office@grotonsd. net ~ 605-397-7285

Notices: <u>legals@grotonsd.net</u> News Items: <u>news@grotonsd.net</u>

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### **How to Live 40 Percent Longer**

"Doc, I've started on this new diet and I wonder what you think," said my patient. Then I hear about the patient's latest weight loss plan. There are so many plans out there...the Noom® plan, the Shark Tank diet, the keto diet, the Mediterranean diet, the paleo diet, the sugar-free diet, the low-carbohydrate diet, the one day a week fast. Some diets increase the intake





By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspective

of water, of fiber, of antioxidants and the list goes on. Many of these new plans are variations of a low-carb plan, which I like. I also have found that a weekly fast seems to work for some people.

About 20 years ago, two huge studies compared the low-carbohydrate diet with the low-fat diet. Both studies showed the same thing. People liked the low-carb diet better and with it, they lost more weight easily and initially. After one year, however, most people from both groups regained the weight they had lost. Similar studies through many years showed the same thing, no plan seems to keep the weight off long term. The two questions commonly left unanswered are, is it good to eat less, even without weight loss; and how important is exercise in all this?

The most powerful studies have shown that when people eat 40 percent less than what they would eat if they had no limit, they live about 40 percent longer. It is the calorie count that matters, not weight loss. Add to this the multiple scientific studies that show if an overweight person is fit and in good condition then their risks of death are no greater than for a thin person who is in good condition.

When people ask me, I recommend starting with three to seven days of calorie counting and exercise measurement before any changes are made. The calorie goal depends on one's height and age, but an average sized middle-aged woman or man needs fewer than 1800-2000 calories per day for maintenance and at least one mile of walking per day. By the way, I think a balanced diet with plenty of vegetables and fewer carbohydrates makes the transition easier to tolerate and is especially good if one is diabetic or pre-diabetic. The most important point remains...fewer calories.

Bottom line: Setting a goal to "lose weight" puts you at risk for disappointment. For heavy and thin people alike, your best chance for success is to be mindful of your calorie intake and exercise regularly. Then, love yourself as you are.

Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

## Brown County Edwards Preserve Land Exchange

NOTICE OF HEARING EDWARDS PRESERVE A public hearing will be held by the Brown County Commission on the 17th day of December 2019 beginning at 8:50 a.m. in the Brown County Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Aberdeen, SD to consider land exchange agreement. The following parcels are to be exchanged:

COAL IS GOOD, COAL IS GREAT
A new coal retail and sales operation is establishing
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To verify availability and assist coordination of sales, please call ahead of time to: **GMHR**, **LLC** at 605-695-0880. We look forward to fulfilling your energy needs

Brown County Parcel I:

That certain part of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124) North, Range Sixty-five (65) West of the Fifth P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, totaling approximately 64.3 acres, and subject to easements, restrictions, and reservations of record, if any.

Edwards Legacy Family Limited Partnership Parcel II:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW1/4 SE1/4) of Section One (1), Township One Hundred Twenty-three (123) North, Range Sixty-three (63) West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, subject to easements restrictions, and reservations of record, if any.

Proposed agreement states

after the exchange Parcel I will be gifted back to the County on the condition that it be retained in its natural state for the enjoyment of the general public.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and to present comments and testimony regarding the land exchange agreement. ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County

Auditor
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.30. 18408

## **Brown County Jones Plat Vacate Notice**

HEARING NOTICE

TO VACATE PLAT
Notice is hereby given by the
Brown County Commission of
a hearing to receive testimony
pertaining to a petition, submitted by Bruce Jones to vacate the
plat, described as follows:

"Jones Conservation Easement Tracts" in the E1/2 of Section 06-T125N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota

Said hearing shall be held in the Commissioner's Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, South Dakota at 8:47 a.m. December 17, 2019. At said hearing the Board shall consider a resolution to accept or reject the petition to vacate. Any person unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony to the Brown County Auditor, 25 Market Street, Ste 1, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

ATTEST:

Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor Published once at the total ap-

proximate cost of \$11.10. 18407

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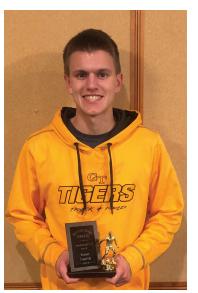


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**Austin Jones Most Valuable Player** Offensive **Most Valuable Player** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Isaac Smith Defensive Most Valuable Player** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**GHS Soccer Awards** 

**Hunter Schaller Perseverance Award** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Austin Jones** First Team - All State (Photo by Tricia Keith)



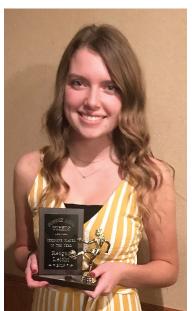
**Grady O'Neill** Most Valuable Player (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Piet Solling** Offensive **Most Valuable Player** 



Allyssa Locke & Trista Keith **The Heart and Soul Award** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Regan Leicht** Offensive **Player of the Year** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Steven Paulson Most Improved Player** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Braxton Imrie Rookie of the Year** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Laila Roberts Rookie of the Year** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Anthony Schinkel Defensive Most Valuable Player** 



**Carly Guthmiller & Madeline Fliehs The Hustle Award** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Kaylin Kucker Defensive Player of the Year Academic All-State** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



**Emma Schinkel & Brooklyn Gilbert Miss Universal** (Photo by Tricia Keith)



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## New midwife certification in S.D. allows home births with less education and clinical training

**By: Samuel Blackstone** 

Legislation passed in 2017 in South Dakota and training necessary and opened the door to licensing of a new classification of "professional midwives," who can become certified to perform home births with far less training and education than "nurse midwives" who have been regulated in South Dakota for 40 years.

While midwives with the new professional certification have successfully delivered 10 babies since then (two of whom required transport to a hospital), one top medical official in South Dakota is concerned the new certification may legitimize lay midwives who an undergraduate setcan put mothers and children at risk.

A main concern is that the new classification master's degree in nursing of legal midwifery, the Certified Professional Midwife, demands far less education and clinical training than a Certified Nurse Midwife, a classification that requires a nursing degree autonomy and opportuand which has been regulated in South Dakota since 1979.

Some supporters of home births say CPMs are fully capable of delivering babies safely and that midwives in general create needed birthing options for prospective parents, particularly in rural areas where access to hospitals may be limited. They also note that lay midwives have been working outside the law for years and that at least now they must be certified.

But opponents of the CPM license law, including Dr. Robert J. Summerer, president of the South Dakota State Medical Association, cite studies showing higher neonatal mortality rates in home births than in hospital deliveries.

Summerer, a Madison, S.D. surgeon, also noted the discrepancy between the hours of clinical training demanded of Certified Nurse Midwives (1,040 hours) versus Certified Professional Midwives (about 50 hours depending on the program) before they can deliver babies independently.

"It is very clear that their training is inadequate and it's putting two people at risk: the mother and the child," he said. "We still think it is unsafe that the state would sanction 2017, South Dakota became the 32nd state to something that is so risky for our residents in

The rate of home births has been rising in South Dakota and across the country, and is much higher among Native Americans.

In South Dakota, there were 50 intentional home births in 2014, compared to 79 in 2017 and 75 in 2018, according to the state Department of Health.

attended by midwives, more than double the right to self-determination. If those families are 1990 rate of 3.9%. The rate of home births is willing to take that risk [of home birth], then more than double among Native Americans we need to understand that risk. Let's create nationally, with 19.9% of all Native babies a structure where we can see it." delivered by midwives in 2017 compared to only 9.1% of all births that year, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2017 CPM law was passed in South Dakota after more than a decade of effort by midwifery supporters and lobbyists to legitimize the practice of home births assisted by lay midwives, which they argued was occurring regardless of the law and thus should be parable to hospital births. According to the brought under state control to ensure safety.

State law says a CPM is responsible for "the management and care of the low-risk motherbaby unit in an out-of-hospital setting during pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum periods." CPMs differ from Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) in a few regards, chief among

them the level of education the location where each can work.

As is the case in many other states, CNMs practicing in South Dakota must undergo a more academically rigorous program than CPMs before certification. CNMs are also registered nurses and typically study nursing for four years in ting before obtaining their after two or three years of further study.

The payoff is greater nity, as CNMs are free to practice in hospitals, birth centers, clinics, for the Indian Health Service, or to

start their own midwifery business. There are 37 active CNMs in South Dakota, according to the state Department of Health.

In the spring of 2019, the state board tasked with regulating home births performed by nonregistered nurse midwives began to issue their first CPM licenses in South Dakota.

Known as the South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives, it was created as part of the 2017 law that legalized and created a framework to regulate the Certified Professional Midwife industry.

"We were trying to create the legislative highway for that Certified Professional Midwife to be able to be in practice in the sunshine instead of in the underground," said Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, a registered nurse, chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and former president of the South Dakota Nursing Association.

When the law became effective on July 1, have a licensing track for CPMs on the books. To date, there are 35 such states. Soholt voted against the bill for years before voting in sup-

"For 20 years I fought against [it]," she said. "Finally I came to the realization that as a senator, if I believe in local control, and I know what it means to have a baby, who am I to say to another family 'I am going to write In 2003, about 8% of American births were your birth process for you?' Families have the

The board began issuing licenses in March. So far, four CPMs and two student CPMs have been licensed in the state, with 10 recorded home births, two of which required transport to a hospital.

Supporters of the CPM licensure law point to some studies depicting a reduced risk of health complications and death for mothers and/or babies in home birth settings as comstate Department of Health, there have not been any reported deaths during 342 home births recorded since 2014.

In that same period, there have been 60,379 hospital births in the state, with 374 infant deaths, an infant mortality rate of 0.62%. The national average for infant mortality in 2017 was 0.58%, the CDC said.

Both sides of the issue said the tracking of such rates is difficult because of differences in



Many home births are "water births" in which the mother is immersed in a pool of warm water to ease the birthing process. This photo taken after a home water birth is a stock image with no known connection to residents of South Dakota, Photo: Shutterstock

> how hospitals may label a birth. For example, if complications occur during a home birth that require transport to the hospital and the baby is then delivered in the hospital, it is labeled as a hospital birth.

> State law permits a home birth only if the pregnancy is deemed "low risk" and is anticipated to be problem-free "based on an assessment of the woman's past medical history and ongoing assessment of the mother-baby unit throughout the pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum care."

> Measurements of the woman's vital signs, blood work, and results from the 20-week ultrasound are typically part of the assessment. As a result, Summerer said statistics for home births constitute results only for the lowest risk populations.

> "I'm not sure that they are really comparing apples to apples," he said.

> Cassie Applegate, R.N., CNM, followed the nursing school route in Colorado before opening Apple Tree Midwifery in Rapid City in 2016. Her job, she said, is to perform the duties of a women's health nurse practitioner, offering care for women from puberty through menopause.

The breadth of education and scope of practice for CPMs is more limited.

Per state law, CPMs must complete an educational program certified by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council and receive their certification from the North American Registry of Midwives. They can then apply for a state license.

Typically, the course load for a CPM in training requires students to shadow a licensed CPM as they perform prenatal health assessments and care, home births and postpartum care. CPMs primarily practice in client's homes and are not allowed to practice in hospitals.

Applegate, who has overseen more than 150 home births as a CNM, noted that the education for CNMs is broader than that of CPMs, who typically only focus on the skills necessary to deliver a baby safely in an out-of-hospital setting. CNMs also have more freedom in the medications they can prescribe. Applegate said that though some may see the CPM practice as undercutting CNMs, she doesn't share that

"I'm always supportive of more midwives," Applegate said in an October interview with South Dakota News Watch. "I think more midwives beget more midwives. I did not feel

### **Continued from previous page**



State Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls

are already occurring and it's best to create a framework that ensures consistency, safety and accountability.

Applegate said she believes there are certainly a handful of home births still being overseen by non-licensed midwives, but that "women doing that are probably going to do that regardless" of the law, as their preference for a home birth is motivated by "a philosophy of birth rather than access to care."

Pat Schwaiger, R.N., CPM, and vice president of the South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives, said choice and control are what draw many women to undergo home births.

"It varies from lifestyle to finances to geographic location to religion to political beliefs but I think the common denominator is personal choice," said Schwaiger, who had her four children in a home birth setting and recently retired after 37 years as a midwife. "Women want to feel like they are in charge of their own birth experience and to a large degree that is compromised in the hospital."

Schwaiger, who serves as chairperson for the Wyoming State Board of Midwifery, said licensing CPMs and allowing home births make sense in states like South Dakota and Wyoming where families may live far from the nearest healthcare facility.

"It is very clear that their training is inadequate and it's putting two people at risk: the mother and the child. We still think it is unsafe that the state would sanction something that is so risky for our residents in the state." -- Dr. Robert J. Summerer, a Madison, S.D. surgeon who is president of the South Dakota State Medical Association

like [the legalization of CPMs] was a threat [to CNMs] because the more midwives we have, the more women will choose midwives."

Applegate added that more midwives also means more options for women and increased access to care for rural

and low-income populations.

"Our state needs more midwives in any birth setting to give women options and to really reach that access to care which we're lacking," she said.

Summerer, however, flipped the argument that women who live far from a hospital are better served by a home birth.

"Those people are probably the most vulnerable in a home delivery because if they are far away from a facility where babies are delivered safely and something goes wrong then they are even further behind the 8-ball as far as getting the appropriate care," he said. "I get that people want to go to a more natural kind of setting but you just hate to put your child or yourself at risk to make those decisions. We've come so far in medicine, it just doesn't seem like a smart thing to move back."

Applegate echoed a sentiment similar to Soholt and many of the 2017 bill's other supporters: that home births overseen by non-CNMs

"You're better off if you have someone coming to you," she said.

Debbie Pease also serves on South Dakota's CPM board and for years led the lobbying efforts for the state CPM licensure law. She decided on a home birth for her four children because she didn't want to deliver her baby in a car on the way to the hospital.

"I had a really good experience with my midwife at home and then all of a sudden she wasn't able to practice anymore," Pease said, citing the state crackdown on non-licensed lay midwives in the 1980s and 1990s, which led to cease-and-desist orders being sent out. Two lay midwives were jailed for short stints for continuing to practice without a license.

"I think I was five months pregnant with my next baby before I found a midwife because they were so underground," she said. "If you weren't in the right circles you couldn't find them. That's what happens when you don't have licensure and everything above board."

> Summerer said he'd like to see CPMs undergo more clinical training hours before they receive their certification. He would also like the state to require regular exams to demonstrate continued competency, a requirement for continued training and for CPMs to have liability insurance. He does not accept the argument that just because something medical is al-



Dr. Robert J. Summerer

ready happening in the state, that it is best to acknowledge its presence and try to regulate.

"There are a lot of things that happen in our society that are happening whether we have regulations for it or not," he said. "To simply put a stamp of approval and say 'Hey, this is OK' doesn't make those things better for the residents."

## ABOUT SAMUEL BLACKSTONE

Samuel Blackstone is a correspondent for South Dakota News Watch. Samuel has a decade of journalism experience, writing



for both national magazines and websites; he most recently served as a staff reporter at the Rapid City Journal.

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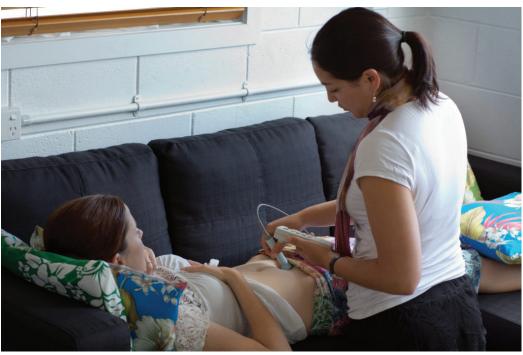
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A midwife provides a check-up to an expecting mother in her home. This photo is a stock image with no known connection to residents of South Dakota. Photo: Shutterstock



### Four named to All-Conference Volleyball Team

Groton area placed four members on the All-Conference Northeast new fee will be \$2,525. Conference Team. Left to right they are Tadyn Glover, Nicole Marzahn, Eliza Wanner and Kaylin Kucker. Marzahn was also named to the Second Team All State Volleyball Team.

Three bids were submed to the Brothers was accepted Hanlon Brothers for \$18.



### Chelsea Hanson Region 1 Coach of the Year

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2018 SDPB/Craig Wollman



### **City increases fees**

Some of the fees were adjusted for 2020 at the city council meeting held Tuesday. At the pool, private lesson went from \$10 per 30-minute session to \$15 per 30-minute session. That would amount to \$75 for five classes. Swimming lessons will increase from \$25 to \$30 for a two-week session. Season tickets were increased by \$5. Water aerobics increased from \$4 to \$5 per session and from \$30 for the summer to \$35 for the summer. The same applies to lap swim. Combined lap swim and aerobics increased from \$50 for the summer to \$55 for the summer.

The rental for the pool increased from \$150 to \$175 for two hours. The planning and zoning fees increased by \$10. The building permit fees had a major overhaul with the new permit now being \$25 plus .05 percent of the total project cost. So under the old rate, a \$500,000 home was \$70 (anything \$50,001 and over was a flat \$70 fee). The new fee will be \$2.525.

Three bids were submitted for gravel bids. The low bid from Krueger Brothers was accepted for \$17.25 per cubic yard. The other bids were Hanlon Brothers for \$18.75 per cubic yard. Jensen Rock and Sand bid by the ton instead of cubic yards so that bid was not accepted.

Dwight Zerr reported that the lagoon was just emptied last month and he said he may have to discharge again this month - which would probably be an emergency discharge. The main lift station at Aspen Avenue is still running nearly 24 hours a day.

Terry Herron reported that there are nine ash trees that will need to come down this winter. The council expressed gratitude for the quick snow removal around town.

Dan Sunne said he would like to send Landon Johnson to the JUTS training school in Sioux Falls in January.

The WEB water annual meeting will be held December 6. Mayor Scott Hanlon reported that anyone wanting to go is invited to attend. "It's a very good meeting to go too," he said.

The second reading of the supplemental appropriation ordinance was approved.

The council authorized the annual Christmas lighting contest with \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place with funds to be applied to the utility bill.

Mayor Scott Hanlon also reported that the lot lines cannot be located by city employees. People will need to hire a survey company.

The council approved membership to the Northeast Council of Government at the annual fee of \$1,637.66.

Nicole Marzahn was hired as the skating rink manager at minimum wage plus 60 cents an hour plus a monthly salary of \$250. The state minimum wage will increase from \$9.10 per hour to \$9.30 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2020.

The warming house attendants, hired at minimum wage, were Anthony Schinkel, Lee Iverson, Andrew Marzahn, Kelsie Frost, Hollie Frost, Shallyn Foertsch, Anje Hinkelman, Emma Schinkel, Candace Tullis, Corbin Reich, Aspen Johnson, Ava Kramer, Austin Aberle and Sara Menzia.

Gordon Nelson was hired as a building code inspector at \$30 per inspection. This is a new position.

The first reading of the 2020 salary was approved with a rate of 2.6 percent for full time employees.

### **Closing for Inventory**

We will be closing at Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 18th for Inventory We will be reopening for normal hours on Thursday, Dec. 19th *Thank you for your patronage!* 

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