

The Groton Independent

Vol. 137 No. 47 ♦ Groton, South Dakota ♦ Wednesday, July 22, 2020 ♦ Established in 1889

All classrooms at GHS to be air conditioned

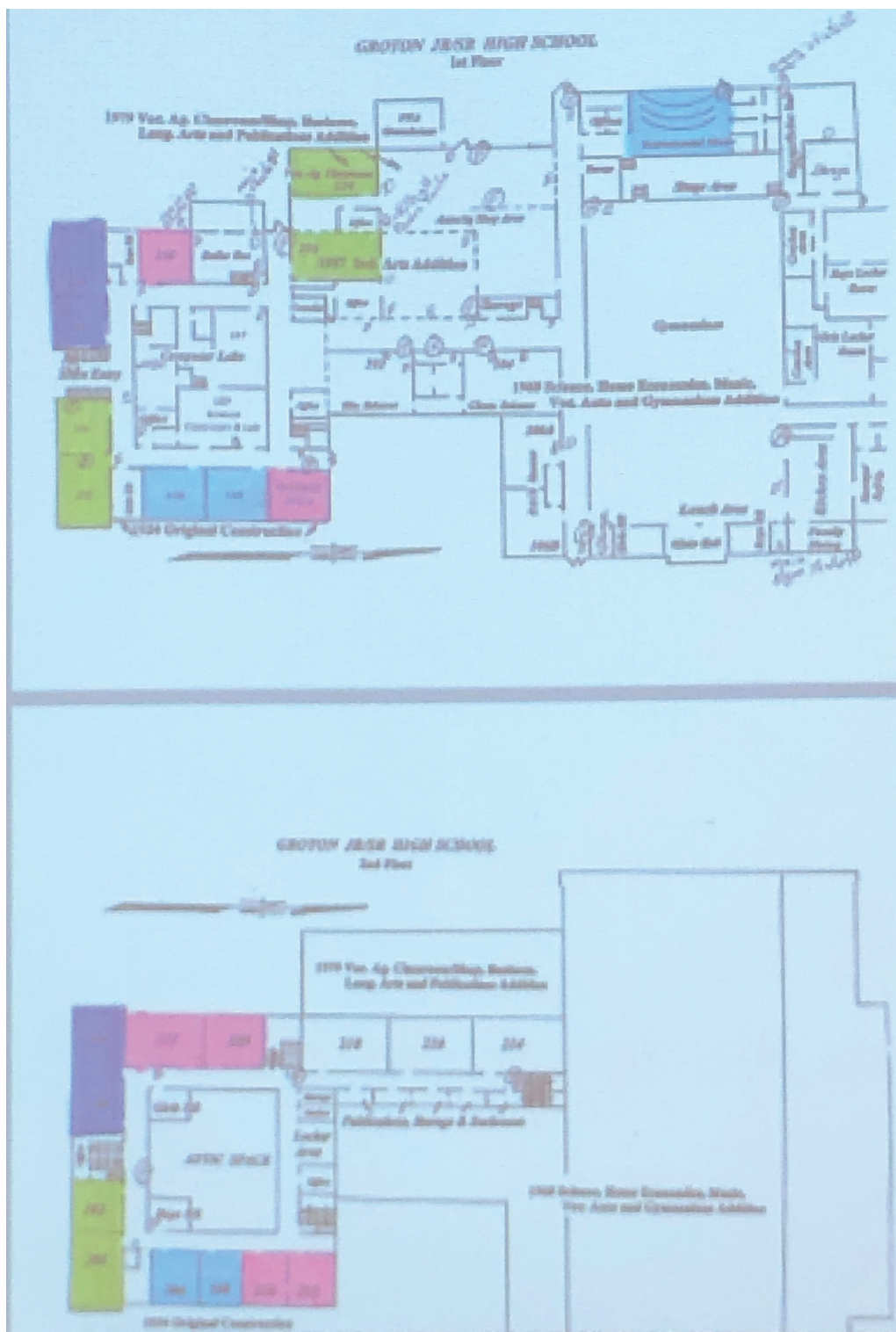
It has been an on-going issue for generations of students going through Groton Area High School. Classrooms would reach into the 90s and 100s, making education very difficult during heat waves. No more!

The Groton Area Board of Education voted Monday night in a special meeting to install air conditioning units in 21 rooms so that all classrooms will be cooled. Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke had asked a question of Kevin Nehls of Allied Climate Professionals of what they could expect for room temperature. Nehls responded 70 to 72 degrees should be no problem. Sombke just shook her head in virtual disbelief and excitement. Superintendent Joe Schwan said asking for students or staff to wear masks in a 105 degree room is not realistic. Sombke said that air conditioned rooms will increase the opportunity for students and staff to wear masks and education will not have to battle with the heat any longer.

One thing that was pointed out is that the units will pull the humidity out of the rooms and the units are also heat pumps so they can assist with heating during the fringe seasons. Each room will be equipped with a unit that will be attached to the wall above the window. There will be a total of 22 indoor units and seven outdoor units. There will basically be no noise from the fan units in the rooms. The units will have a 10 year warranty with a one-year warranty on labor.

The Groton PAC has expressed an interest in donating to the project. Schwan also reported that there is \$29,417 of left over money from the various classes over the years that will have to be turned over to the general fund next year unless a use can be found for the funds. "I can't think of a better use of the money than for this project," Schwan said. "I would say that a bulk of the cost of this project could be paid for with non-taxpayers dollars."

A change in the state law allows statutory capital improvement projects to get done without a bidding process as long as it's under \$100,000. The board voted unanimously to proceed with the project, not to exceed \$90,000. "We have such a great board," Sombke said after the meeting. A DSG representative was also on hand he said they would have everything on-site within one and one-half weeks. The bulk of the work will be completed by the time school starts on August 19.



The above shaded rooms will have air conditioning units installed. The top photo features the first floor and the bottom photo the second floor. Each corresponding shaded area directly above each other represents units with the same condenser. For example, the dark purple on the first floor will be off the same condenser as the dark purple on the second floor.

Council passes on WEB water rate increase

WEB Water notified its customers that there will be a 10 cent per 1,000 gallons of water rate increase effective October 1, 2020. The Groton City Council gave first reading Monday night to pass that increase on to its customers, effective with the October billing.

The council thanked those who were involved in installing the flag pole in the city park.



Summer Fest

Summer Fest at the Groton City Park was held recently. There were lots of vehicles, lots of food and lots of vendors at the event. It was a perfect weather day (unlike last year that ended up being rained out). (Photos from Groton SD Lions Facebook Page)

Groton SD Lions Facebook Page



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EMPLOYMENT

MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Timber Lake is seeking full-time Maintenance Manager. Contact City of Timber Lake at 605-865-3790 or cityoftl@tisd.us. Wage depending on experience. Equal opportunity employer.

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT has teaching and non-teaching vacancies: K-8 Art, K-6 PE, carpenter, paraprofessionals, and coaches. See csd.k12.sd.us for more information and to apply. 605-673-3154

NOTICES

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Happy July, Industry Partners!
 After working for more than a year to put it all together (in collaboration with outstanding state and federal partners), the team and I find it hard to believe South Dakota's Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration has come and gone! What a day and evening! Here are a few of the results we have been tracking since July 3:

Millions around the globe tuned in to watch the show. Viewership on FOX NEWS alone reached 5.5 million. Our Facebook livestream reached more than 1.45 million viewers.

Using very conservative estimates, the fireworks celebration carried an advertising value of more than \$22 million.

Again, using very conservative estimates, the event generated \$2 million in direct visitor spending and spurred \$160,000 in immediate tax revenues to state and local governments.

Web traffic to South Dakota pages skyrocketed during the celebration. Google searches for "Mount Rushmore" reached their all-time high at a rate 1,250% higher than the previous record, which was the July 4th holiday in 2005. The South Dakota Department of Tourism's web traffic increased by 872% compared to July 3-4 of last year – the equivalent of \$95,000 worth of paid promotion.

The feedback we are receiving about the fireworks show from visitors around the country – and I mean from every region of the country – has been so positive and complimentary about our state, our people, and our industry. I wish you could read or hear these comments. They make us incredibly proud to call South Dakota home. I want to take this opportunity to thank every industry member who assisted us with the celebration in some way, shape, or form. Your assistance and constant encouragement helped us overcome challenges and inspired us to do all we could to put our state's best foot forward. We are so grateful for all of you.

Jim Hagen
 Secretary of Tourism

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**Frederick Town
July 8, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Town of Frederick
July 8, 2020 Minutes
Frederick's town board meeting was held Wednesday July 8, 2020 in the Frederick Community Center beginning at 7:09 PM. Attending the meeting were Chairman R. Scott Campbell, Board member Troy Millard, Assistant Finance Officer Mariah Heine, Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg, and Taylor Sumption. Chairman Campbell opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved with a motion by Campbell/Millard; motion carried.

The financial statements were reviewed and accepted with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. The July accounts payable was approved with the exception of a bill to Helm's Associates until there is approval from Val at USDA with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
MDU electric BP/Wtr/Mun Bldg/SP/Sts/Swr/EBL \$994.24; Amsterdam Printing envelopes Swr/Wtr/Grbg \$184.83; Badger Meter meter fees Wtr \$115.70; Bower Tree Service tree cleanup SP \$1500; Century Bus Products printer lease & copies Gen'l \$90.67; Community Store supplies Mun Bldg/SP \$18; D. Bruns CC \$155.30; D. Bruns Exp CC \$32.69; D. Bruns wage FO \$1,301.42; Dale Geffre repairs

Mun Bldg \$500; Dependable Sanitation 2nd qtr grbg Grbg \$4156; Dependable Sanitation cleanup rental Prmt City \$446; EFPTS Fed. Taxes Gen'l/FO/CC/EBL/Sts/Wtr/Swr/Cmty \$962.17; Ellendale True Value supplies Gen'l \$23.33 FDC Econ Dev \$1,200; FU Oil fuel Mun Bldg \$650.40; GDI minutes Gen'l \$314.25; J. Kusters wage Gen'l \$46.17; JVT phone/svc/int FO/EBL/Wtr/Gen'l \$349.71; M. Cox wage EBL \$632.31; M. Heine wage FO \$922.50; M. Morlock mowing wage Gen'l \$235.49; Menard's supplies Mun Bldg/SP \$85.01; Public Health Lab coliform test Wtr \$15; R. Bakeberg wage St/Wtr/Swr \$475.02; R. Bakeberg veh. Allow St/Wtr/Swr \$75; R. Bakeberg wage Cmtry \$251.21; R.S. Campbell wage Gen'l \$69.25; SD Dept of Rev

Sale Tax Grbg \$88.88; T. Millard wage Gen'l \$46.17; US Treasury amt due 2nd Qtr Gen'l \$4.02; USDA-RD loan Wtr \$425; USPS stamps Sts/Wtr/Swr \$165; WEB Water Wtr \$3,307.60
OLD BUSINESS
Rich Bakeberg provided a utility report. The library reopened Monday July, 6. They require masks and to sanitize your hands before entering. The building permit for Frederick Development Corporation's Senior Living Home has been purchased. The variance by Maple Valley Lodging for the senior living facility was approved with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried. Taylor Sumption provided a Plat from Brown County to rezone their lot to Highway - Commercial with a variance to leave part zoned

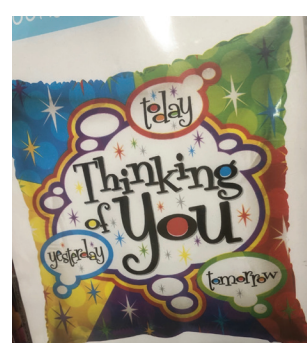
as Ag Preservation district. The city approved the replat with a motion by Campbell/Millard; motion carried. The board is concerned about the timeline for the WasteWater Project. Dahme Construction Co., Inc. anticipates beginning Monday, July 27th.
NEW BUSINESS
DNR recognizes the Town of Frederick and Utility Manager Rich Bakeberg each with a Certificate for Drinking Water Compliance. The second quarter financial report from the Library was accepted with a motion by Millard/Campbell; motion carried.
Motion to adjourn made by Campbell/Millard at 7:37 PM.
M. Heine
Assistant Finance Officer
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$33.50. 19102



Get used to wearing masks

Virtually everywhere you go now days, masks are required. Many of the big chain stores including Dollar General in Groton require staff and customers to wear masks. This is stemming from major outbreaks of the Coronavirus in southern states. Granted, we may seem more secure in South Dakota, but we are not immune from the virus. Every precaution is necessary.

When I seen WalMart and Dollar General implementing the mask policy, people on Facebook were posting that they would no longer patronize those stores. Really. Do you think those stores like to implement such a policy? Do you think the employees are going to like telling customers to put on a mask or be asked to leave? Simply put, we don't live in a normal world any more. And who knows when normality will return. Be respectful. If a store requires you to wear mask, wear a mask. Don't make a big fuss over it.



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**Frederick School
July 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

OFFICIAL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2
JULY 13, 2020
The meeting was called to order on July 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Dan Nickelson, Jon Ellwein, Richard Achen and Alex Hart. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Kusters, K-8 Principal Jessica Ringgenberg and Business Manager Janel Wagner. The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Duties for the 2020-2021 fiscal year:
a. Set date and time of regular school board meetings as the second Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the School library;
b. Designate Business Manager as custodian of all district accounts and to serve as School Board Secretary;
c. Authorize Business Manager to continue existing funds and establish new accounts and to invest/reinvest funds in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District;
d. Designate First National Bank of Frederick as the official depository of school funds;
e. Authorize participation in the South Dakota Public Funds Investment Trust;
f. Authorize Business Manager to electronically transfer funds-notice of transfer will be provided to Superintendent and/or Board President prior to transfer;
g. Authorize Business Manager to prepay bills that have early payment discounts and to make monthly credit card payments;
h. Authorize the Board President to counter sign checks;
i. Authorize Business Manager to transfer interest earned on all funds, including Custodial, to General Fund;
j. Designate Groton Daily Independent as official newspaper;
k. Authorize Business Manager to publish 2020-2021 staff salaries;
l. Designate Rodney Freeman Jr. as 2020-2021 school attorney;
m. Set board member salary at \$60.00 per meeting, plus mileage at current state rate;
n. Set substitute teacher and secretary salary at \$100.00/day for certified (includes current or lapsed, but not revoked) and \$85.00/day for non-certified; substitute kitchen and custodian salary at \$11.00/hour;
o. Set 2020-2021 lunch prices: grades K-6 \$3.05, grades 7-12 \$3.40 and adult \$4.00;
p. Identify Frederick Area School District #6-2 as an Equal Opportunity Employer;
q. Approve Public Notices of Non-Discrimination and Federal Programs Assurances;
r. Authorize Superintendent as:
i. Representative for Special Education and to administer all federal programs
ii. Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth
iii. Truancy officer
iv. Public Records officer
v. Asbestos Compliance officer;
s. Authorize K-8 Principal as Coordinator of Federal Law/Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;
t. Authorize Business Manager as Title IX officer;
u. Designate Superintendent and/or Business Manager in the purchase of federal and state property;
v. Designate Superintendent and/or Principal to cancel and/

or close school due to inclement weather or other emergencies;
w. Set travel reimbursement rate per state rates for mileage and meals; and lodging at state or best possible rate for staff and students;
x. Designate Superintendent to authorize DOE Child and Adult Nutrition Service application;
y. Appoint board members to the following committees:
i. Negotiations: Rich Schlosser and Jon Ellwein
ii. Athletic Co-op: Alex Hart and Richard Achen
iii. Voting member of the North Central Special Education Cooperative Governing Board for 2020-2021 school year: Dan Nickelson
iv. ASBSD delegate: Rich Schlosser;
z. Designate Division of Criminal Investigation as background check provider;
aa. Adopt Title I School Improvement Plan;
bb. Adopt Handbooks:
i. 2020-21 Technology Handbook
ii. 2020-21 Student Handbook.
All aye, carried.

supplies 57.68; Edmentum, Study Island 1,714.75; Flinn Scientific Inc, science chemicals 184.81; Gaggle,Net Inc, safety management 668.25; Gopher Sport, PE supplies 3,288.92; Goverlan Inc, Maintenance Support Extension 253.00; Hauff Mid America Sports, supplies 343.20; Innovative Office Solutions LLC, supplies 365.26; Interactive Educational Services Inc, website 1,575.00; Intrado Interactive Services Corp, SchoolMessenger 1,250.01; James Valley Telecommunications, telephone 247.83; Lakeshore Learning Company, supplies 24.99; Learning Without Tears, supplies 88.55; Marker-board People, supplies 198.00; Mosyle Corporation, license fee 11.01; NCS Pearson Inc, Aimsweb 520.00; O'Reilly Auto Parts, repairs 7.35; Really Good Stuff, supplies 98.51; SASD, membership dues 1,129.00; School Specialty, supplies 365.31; SD Teacher Placement Center, enrollment fee 435.00; Technology & Innovation in Education, annual membership 920.00; Workers' Compensation Fund, workers' comp premium 4,793.00. Capital Outlay Fund: A&B Business Solutions, managed print contract 649.56; Amazon Capital Services, supplies 198.52; ComTech Inc, security cameras 1,870.00; Edgenuity Inc, Student Seats 1,200.00; Ems Linq Inc, menu planning software 1,125.00; Hauff Mid America Sports, stage mats 1,010.00; Innovative Office Solutions LLC, bulletin board 140.74; JJ & ZAK, ICU database renewal 999.00; Pro-Vision Inc, bus security cameras 2,608.34; Riddell/All American Sports Corp, jh football practice jerseys 198.69; rSchool Today, Activity Scheduler 300.00; SHI International Corp, licenses 1,867.32; Teacher Innovations Inc, Planbook 243.00. Special Education Fund: Avera St Luke's, occupational therapy 173.04; Workers' Compensation Fund, workers' comp premium 481.00. Food Service Fund: Workers' Compensation Fund, workers' comp premium 876.00. Driver's Education Fund: Workers' Compensation Fund, workers' comp premium 19.00.

Open Enrollment application #21-2. All aye, carried.
Mrs. Ringgenberg led a discussion about a district return to school/COVID-19 planning session. A special school board meeting has been tentatively set for 6:00 p.m. on July 30, 2020 to continue planning for the upcoming school year.
Action 20-009 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to approve the HVAC ionization project from Johnson Controls for approximately \$60,000. All aye, carried.
Action 20-010 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the playground upgrade quote#R0011205072 for option A and add on for mats and hoops from by Crouch Recreation for \$64,039.44. All aye, carried.
Action 20-011 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to approve the sole bid received for a used bus purchase from Foreman Sales & Service for \$63,750.00. All aye, carried.
Action 20-012 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to approve the sole bid received for the purchase of the surplus 1999 Suburban from Dan Nickelson for \$200.00. All aye (Nickelson abstain), carried.
Action 20-013 Motion by Achen, second by Ellwein to approve the North Central Special Education Cooperative Comprehensive Plan. All aye, carried.
Action 20-014 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to approve the amended 2020-2021 school calendar. All aye, carried.
Action 20-015 Motion by Nickelson, second by Hart to cast vote for Tom Culver for the SDHSA East River At Large Representative. All aye, carried.
Action 20-016 Motion by Hart, second by Nickelson to approve the 2019-2020 financial statement for the Ovid Stevens scholarship trust. All aye, carried.
Action 20-017 Motion by Achen, second by Nickelson to enter Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for employee matters at 9:44 p.m. All aye, carried.
President Schlosser declared Board out of Executive Session at 9:58 p.m.
Action 20-018 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve the amendment of salaries on contracts for administration, certified teachers, paraprofessionals, janitorial and food service staff; salaries to be published prior to July 31, 2020. All aye, carried.
There are no formal recognitions at this meeting.
Action 20-019 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to adjourn at 9:59 p.m. All aye, carried.
Rich Schlosser, President
Janel Wagner, Business Manager

The board conducted the public hearing for the proposed budget of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.
Action 19-129 Motion by Ellwein, second by Achen to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, carried.
Oath of office was read and signed by Janel Wagner, Business Manager.
Action 19-130 Motion by Achen, second by Hart to appoint Dan Nickelson to a one-year term as a board member. All aye, carried.
President Schlosser called a recess to begin annual organization meeting at 7:14 p.m.
Business Manager Wagner called the annual organization meeting to order.
Oath of office was administered by Janel Wagner, Business Manager, to board members Jon Ellwein and Dan Nickelson.
Ms Wagner called for nominations for President.
Action 20-001 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to nominate Rich Schlosser for President. It was moved by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Rich Schlosser as President. All aye, carried.
President Schlosser now presided the meeting.
Action 20-002 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to nominate Dan Nickelson as Vice President. It was moved by Hart, second by Ellwein to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Dan Nickelson as Vice President. All aye, carried.
Action 20-003 Motion by Ellwein, second by Nickelson to approve two Conflict of Interest Disclosures per SDCL 23-3 for Jeff Kusters. All aye, carried.
Action 20-004 Motion by Nickelson, second by Achen to approve the following Custodial

Claims approved: June 2020 Payroll - General Fund salaries 58,976.74; Special Education salaries 5,701.41. EFTPS, federal income tax/Social Security/Medicare 17,632.93; AFLAC, supplemental insurance 917.74; American Funds, retirement 1,120.02; Delta Dental, insurance 1,545.80; Express Collections, garnishment 466.30; The Standard, life insurance 263.63; Security Benefits, retirement 925.26; VSP, vision insurance 261.72; Wellmark, health insurance 16,610.00; SD Retirement 9,800.06; SD Retirement Supplemental, 465.26.
FY2020 General Fund: Auto Value Aberdeen, repairs 157.94; Dakota Broadcasting, advertising 499.80; Dakota Oil, oil 1,534.00; DRN, troubleshooting 69.50; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 479.32; Hub City Radio, advertising 500.00; Menards, pressure washer 218.26; Merchant Services, online lunch payment fees 7.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 2,071.01; Town of Frederick, utilities 196.00. FY2021 General Fund: Amazon Capital Services, supplies 149.99; Anderson's, homecoming crowns 156.96; ASB Property/Liability Fund, prop/liab premium 32,528.00; ASBSD, annual dues 880.36; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 1,887.08; Dakota Electronics, alarm maintenance 240.00; Demco, Inc, library

Capital Outlay Fund: Auto Value Aberdeen, repairs 157.94; Dakota Broadcasting, advertising 499.80; Dakota Oil, oil 1,534.00; DRN, troubleshooting 69.50; Farnam's Genuine Parts Inc, repairs 479.32; Hub City Radio, advertising 500.00; Menards, pressure washer 218.26; Merchant Services, online lunch payment fees 7.00; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co, electricity 2,071.01; Town of Frederick, utilities 196.00. FY2021 General Fund: Amazon Capital Services, supplies 149.99; Anderson's, homecoming crowns 156.96; ASB Property/Liability Fund, prop/liab premium 32,528.00; ASBSD, annual dues 880.36; Cole Papers Inc, supplies 1,887.08; Dakota Electronics, alarm maintenance 240.00; Demco, Inc, library

The following reports were presented:
A. Jeff Kusters - Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director
B. Jessica Ringgenberg - K-8 Principal
C. Dan Nickelson - NCSEC
Action 20-006 Motion by Nickelson, second by Ellwein to approve the Employment Agreement for Sharon Langley for music teacher - substitute rate of \$100.00 until SD certificate received. All aye, carried.
Action 20-007 Motion by Hart, second by Achen to approve the FY2020 audit engagement letter from Eide Bailly. All aye, carried.
Action 20-008 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve

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Ending June. 30, 2020	General Fund	Capital Outlay Fund	Special Education Fund	Food Service Fund	Driver's Ed Fund	Governmental & Enterprise Fund Account Totals	Trust & Agency
Beginning checking Balance	\$449,741.13	\$308,267.49	\$250,732.75	(\$982.51)	\$1,060.26	\$1,008,819.12	\$48,113.88
Revenue:							
Taxes	\$131,511.30	\$123,874.65	\$60,160.05				
Local Sources	\$1,172.22	\$9,483.08	\$41.00				\$4,764.72
Intermediate Sources	\$605.56						\$2.11
Interest	\$47.18						
Federal & State	\$38,638.77			\$283.14		\$365,816.95	\$4,766.83
Total Revenue	\$171,975.03	\$133,357.73	\$60,201.05	\$283.14	\$0.00		
Disbursements							
Bills	\$20,998.35	\$25,153.12	\$465.02	\$176.30	\$128.34		\$11,992.43
Payroll	\$105,062.85		\$9,404.28	\$219.74			
Total Disbursements	\$126,061.20	\$25,153.12	\$9,869.30	\$396.04	\$128.34	\$161,608.00	\$11,992.43
Transfers							
Transfer-Trust & Agency to General Fund	\$37,388.28						(\$37,388.28)
Transfer-from Cap Out to Gen Fund	\$150,825.00	(\$150,825.00)					
Total Net Transfers	\$188,213.28	(\$150,825.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		(\$37,388.28)
Total checking balance	\$683,868.24	\$265,647.10	\$301,064.50	(\$1,095.41)	\$931.92	\$1,250,416.35	\$3,500.00
Beginning investment balance	\$257,550.10	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			\$3,287,359.35	
Interest	\$486.65						
Total investment balance	\$258,036.75	\$1,783,634.20	\$1,246,175.05			\$3,287,846.00	
Ending Balance	\$941,904.99	\$2,049,281.30	\$1,547,239.55	(\$1,095.41)	\$931.92	\$4,538,262.35	

**Brown County
July 24, 2020
Meeting Minutes**
JULY 14, 2020 – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Kippley at 8:45 A.M. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, Brown County, SD. Present were Commissioners Wiese, Feickert, Sutton, and Fjeldheim. Commissioner Wiese led the Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence for Hughes County Chief Deputy Sheriff Lee Weber who passed away.

MINUTES:
Moved by Feickert, seconded by Sutton to approve the general meeting minutes of July 7th, 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAMS:
Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims:

Professional Fees: Certified Languages \$1,156.65; Claims Assoc. \$3,000.00; Cogley Law Office \$8.40; Dean Schaefer Court Reporting \$216.00; GBR Interpreting \$660.00; Haar Law Office \$42.00; Helms & Assoc. \$2,003.85; Mark Katterhagen \$15.00; Kuck Law Office \$57.00; LaCrosse Co. Clerk of Courts \$8.75; Lucy Lewno \$160.00; Lincoln Co. Treasurer \$361.25; Darcy Lockwood \$15.00; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$1,207.00; Sanford Health Occupational Medicine \$412.00; SD Dept. of Revenue & Regulation \$855,670.78; SD Network

Against Family Violence \$200.00; Tammy Stolle Court Reporting \$358.55; WSP \$21,749.39; Yankton Co. Sheriff \$50.00. Publishing: Aberdeen American News \$1,062.74; Aberdeen Magazine \$1,100.00; Hub City Radio \$300.00; NW Blade \$53.75. Rentals: Ameripride Services \$432.63; Brick's Roto-Rooter \$320.00. Repairs & Maintenance: Aberdeen Clean-All \$185.00; AgTegra \$250.00; Benco Products \$45.53; Clark Engineering \$2,952.80; Diamond Mowers \$38.01; DMI \$11,300.00; Exec. Mgmt. \$52.65; HF Jacobs & Son Construction \$892.02; Hoven Auto Repair \$425.52; Midwest Alarm \$238.20; Pierson-Ford \$498.41; Pomp's Tire Service \$1,509.80; PowerPlan \$15,000.00; Spellman Painting \$1,507.05; Steven Lust Automotive \$143.00; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$10,440.44; Woodman Refrigeration \$145.04. Supplies: AgTegra \$30,858.00; American Business Forms \$109.27; Angerhofer Concrete \$2,610.00; Artz Equipment \$817.52; Cartney Bearing \$599.75; Dakota Oil \$257.12; Detco \$3,891.27; Diamond Mowers \$617.50; DMI \$60.00; Earthgrains \$450.00; East Side Jersey Dairy \$514.00; ES&S \$2,323.01; Farnams Genuine Parts \$22.99; Full Circle Ag \$1,539.83; Gardner Locksmith \$54.00; Heartland Paper \$1,148.06; Hedahl's \$34.47; J Gross Equip. \$54.17; Ken's SuperFair Foods \$13.98; Kessler's \$12.58; L&O Acres Transport \$4,380.00; Leidholdt Tool Sales \$295.05; Lucy Lewno \$6.50; Menards \$187.80; Midstates

Printing \$19.20; Performance Oil \$304.50; Pitney Bowes \$15,000.00; Satellite Tracking of People \$481.00; SD State 4-H Office \$318.00; Share Corp. \$280.00; Town & Country Building Supply \$978.00; TranSource Truck & Equip. \$4,400.02; Van Diest Supply Co. \$3,672.65; Web Water Bottling Co. \$13.00. Utilities: Aberdeen City Treasurer \$1,596.95; City of Hecla \$89.00; Economy Propane \$317.73; Northern Electric \$86.00; NWPS \$107.14; Town of Frederick \$61.00; Web Water Development \$80.05. Machinery & Equip.: DMI \$20,805.00. Other: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce \$100.00; Safe Harbor \$1,096.50; SDACO \$1,834.00; SD Dept. of Health \$190.00; CDH Treasures \$480.00; Conklin Clinics \$500.00; Our Favorite Things \$695.00; Taulelle Concessions \$2,500.00; Cliff Bieber \$160.00; Connie Bohl \$100.00; Sandy Buechler \$200.00; Kristi Eberhart \$140.00; Curt & Jan Erickson \$160.00; Molly Genzler \$200.00; Cheryl & Bryce Hanson \$200.00; Mark & Ellen Harr \$200.00; Merle Hieb \$225.00; Rita Huber \$160.00; Joey Kaven \$200.00; Katrina Metz \$100.00; Shane Moser \$200.00; Donna Nash \$200.00; Brittney Phillips \$100.00; Bob Pray \$225.00; George Regan \$140.00; Harvey Rott \$160.00; Janet or Lawrence Schille \$225.00; Gail Thompson \$160.00. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following HR Office Report, which includes the following personnel changes: Acknowledge resignation of Ryan McClain, Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; effective July 14, 2020. Request to fill; Approve hiring of Ryan McClain, as Brown County Building Maintenance, full-time; starting wage \$17.17/hour; effective when he returns from deployment.; Approve reclassification of Josh Ulmer, Brown County Highway, from Labor grade 3 to Labor grade 4; wage \$18.98/hour; effective July 13, 2020.; Approve hiring of Jean Moody, as Brown County Jail Correctional Officer, full-time; starting wage \$16.65/hour; effective July 13, 2020.; Approve to hire the following temporary positions for Brown County Summer Fest: Temp Office personnel for The Expo Building vendors, August 11-16, 2020, \$14.00/hour; Temp Camping personnel, August 6-16, 2020, \$12.00/hour; Temp Sanitation workers (with approval to hire some that are under 16), August 10-16, 2020, Supervisor: \$14.00/hour; Workers: \$12.00/hour. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LEASE:
Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following lease: Lacey Anderson for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge September 12-13th, 2020; Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club for lease or parking lot east of Expo Building July 13,20,27, August 3,17,24,31, 2020; Shaina Speidel-Nehls for lease of Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge July 25-26, 2020. Aberdeen Downtown Association for lease of West half of parking lot north of museum and lease of 1 panel trailer, picnic tables and stage July 18, August 6,28-29, 2020; Aberdeen Downtown Association for lease of Clubhouse

July 18 and August 6, 2020. All member present voting aye. Motion carried.

DISCRETIONARY FORMULA:
Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #R35-20

WHEREAS, the County of Brown, State of South Dakota has deemed it in the best interest of the County to adopt a Resolution implementing a Discretionary Formula for the reduced taxation of new structures and additions and partially constructed structures pursuant to SDCL 10-6-35.2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following properties shall be, and hereby are, specifically classified for the purpose of taxation pursuant to SDCL § 10-6-35.2:

Any new industrial or commercial structure, or any addition, renovation, or reconstruction to an existing structure, located within a designated urban renewal area as defined in SDCL § 11-8-4, if the new structure, addition, renovation, or reconstruction has a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(1));

Any new industrial structure, including a power generation facility, or an addition to an existing structure, if the new structure or addition has a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(2));

Any new nonresidential agricultural structure, or any addition to an existing structure, if the new structure or addition has a full and true value of ten thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(3));

Any new commercial structure, or any addition to an existing structure, except a commercial residential structure as described in SDCL § 10-6-35.2(5), if the new structure or addition has a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(4));

Any new commercial residential structure, or addition to an existing structure, containing four or more units, if the new structure or addition has a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(5));

Any new affordable housing structure containing four or more units with a monthly rental rate of the units at or below the annually calculated rent for the state's sixty percent area median income being used by the South Dakota Housing Development Authority, for a minimum of ten years following the date of first occupancy, if the structure has a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars or more (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(6));

Any commercial, industrial, or nonresidential agricultural property which increases more than ten thousand dollars in full and true value as a result of reconstruction or renovation of the structure (SDCL § 10-6-35.2(8)); and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any structure classified pursuant to this Resolution shall, following construction, initially be valued for taxation purposes in the usual manner, and that value shall be referred to in this Resolution as the "Pre-Adjustment Value"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assessed value to be used for tax purposes of any structure

classified pursuant to this Resolution shall, following construction, be calculated as follows:

For the first tax year following construction, 20% of the Pre-Adjustment Value;

For the second tax year following construction, 40% of the Pre-Adjustment Value;

For the third tax year following construction, 60% of the Pre-Adjustment Value;

For the fourth tax year following construction, 80% of the Pre-Adjustment Value;

For the fifth tax year following construction, 100% of the Pre-Adjustment Value; and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners may, if requested by the owner of any of the above described property, not apply the above formula, in which case the full assessment shall be made without application of the formula. In waiving this formula for the structure of one owner, the Board of County Commissioners is not prohibited from applying the formula for subsequent new structures by that owner; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that for purpose of this Resolution, the assessed valuation during any of the five years may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property year preceding the first year of the tax years following construction; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any structure that is partially constructed on the assessment date may be valued for tax purposes pursuant to this Resolution and the valuation may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property in the year preceding the beginning of construction; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that following the five-year period under this section, the property shall be assessed at the same percentage as is all other property for tax purposes.

Dated this 14 day of July, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert –aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

DISCRETIONARY FORMULA INDUSTRIAL:
Commissioner Fjeldheim offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #R36-20

WHEREAS, The Brown County Commission has currently adopted a "discretionary formula" for the assessment of certain structures in Brown County.

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-6-35.2 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners, at its discretion, to adopt any formula for assessment of specifically "Industrial" classified structures.

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-6-35.2 states the formula may include for any or all of the five tax years following construction all, any portion or none of the assessed valuation for tax purposes.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may, if requested by the owner of any of the above described property, not apply the above formula, in which case the full assessment shall be made without application of the formula. In waiving this formula for the structure of one owner, the Board of County Commissioners is not prohibited from applying the formula for subsequent new structures by that owner.

WHEREAS, the current discretionary formula allows the level of assessment for all qualifying structures to be 0% of assessed value for the 1st year, 0% for the 2nd, 0% for the 3rd, 0% for the 4th and 0% of assessed value for the 5th year.

WHEREAS, the assessed value during any of the five years may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property year preceding the first year of the tax years following construction.

WHEREAS, any structure that is partially constructed on the assessment date may be valued for tax purposes pursuant to this resolution and the valuation may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property in the year preceding the beginning of construction.

WHEREAS, the county hopes all eligible projects will avail themselves of the formula and exercise their responsibility to apply.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Brown County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts a new discretionary formula as authorized by SDCL 10-6-35.2 for those structures specifically classified pursuant to SDCL 10-6-35.2 with an industrial zoning classification. The level of assessment for the above listed specifically classified structures shall be 0% of assessed value

for the 1st year, 0% for the 2nd, 0% for the 3rd, 0% for the 4th, and 0% of assessed value for the 5th year. The resolution shall be applied beginning the 2021 assessment year.

Dated this 14 day of July, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Feickert, Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert –aye, Sutton – aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim – aye, Kippley – aye. Resolution adopted.

DISCRETIONARY FORMULA SPECIFIC HISTORICAL DISTRICT:

Commissioner Sutton offered the following Resolution: RESOLUTION #R37-20

WHEREAS, the Aberdeen Commercial Historic District is the area in the City of Aberdeen within the border of 6th Avenue SE/SW on the south, Railroad Avenue SE/SW on the north, the public alley right-of-way between Main Street S. and 1st Street S. on the west, and the public alley right-of-way between Main Street S. and Lincoln Street S. on the east.

WHEREAS, the Aberdeen City Council, pursuant to SDCL 11-8-4, designated the Aberdeen Commercial Historic District an urban renewal area.

WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners has currently adopted a "discretionary formula" for the assessment of certain structures in Brown County.

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-6-35.2 authorize the Brown County Board of Commissioners, at its discretion, to adopt any formula for assessment of new industrial or commercial structures, or any additions, renovation, or reconstruction to existing structure, which new structures or additions, renovation, or reconstruction have a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) or more, located within a designated urban renewal area as defined in SDCL 11-8-4.

WHEREAS, SDCL 10-6-35.2 states the formula may include for any or all of the five tax years following construction all, any portion, or none of the assessed valuation for tax purposes.

WHEREAS, the current discretionary formula allows the level of assessment for all qualifying structures, per SDCL 10-6-35.2 to be 20% of assessed value for the 1st year, 40% for the 2nd year, 60% for the 3rd year, 80% for the 4th year, and 100% for the 5th year.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may, if requested by the owner, not apply the above formula, in which case the full assessment shall be made without application of the formula. In waiving this formula for the structure of one owner, the Board of County Commissioners is not prohibited from applying the formula for subsequent new structures by that owner.

WHEREAS, the adoption of the discretionary formula authorized by SDCL 10-6-35.2 shall be concurrent with, and have no effect upon, existing municipal tax assessments for a business improvement district and a parking district that include the Aberdeen Commercial Historic District.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Brown County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts a new discretionary formula as authorized by SDCL 10-6-35.2 for those structures within the urban renewal area known as the Aberdeen Commercial Historic District, which new structures or additions, renovation, or reconstruction have a full and true value of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) or more. The level of assessment for qualifying structures shall be 0% of assessed value for the 1st year, 0% for the 2nd year, 0% for the 3rd year, 0% for the 4th year, and 0% for the 5th year. The resolution shall be applied beginning November 1, 2020 for the 2021 assessment year, which begins November 1, 2021 for completed projects.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of this Resolution, the assessed valuation during any of the five years may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property in the year preceding the first year of the tax years following construction; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any structure that is partially constructed on the assessment date may be valued for tax purposes pursuant to this Resolution and the valuation may not be less than the assessed valuation of the property in the year preceding the beginning of the construction.

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The Department of Health is contacting people who have been exposed to **COVID-19**. Help slow the spread and keep your loved ones and community safe—pick up the phone when we call.

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For more information, go to: [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Dated this 14 day of July 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Wiese Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert -aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

CARES ACT FUNDING: Commissioner Wiese offered the following Resolution: Brown County Resolution Number R38-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS WITH THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE RECEIPT OF CARES ACT FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, div. A, Title V (Mar. 27, 2020) (the "CARES Act"), the State of South Dakota has received federal funds that may only be used to cover costs that: (a) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); (b) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, for the State of South Dakota; and (c) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Brown County acknowledges that the State of South Dakota, in its sole discretion, may retain full use of these funds for the purposes delineated in the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, Brown County acknowledges that in order to provide financial assistance to counties and municipalities in South Dakota, the State of South Dakota, in its sole discretion, may allocate CARES Act funds Act on a statewide basis to reimburse counties and municipalities as delineated herein; and

WHEREAS, Brown County seeks funding to reimburse eligible expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Brown County acknowledges that any request for reimbursement of expenditures will only be for expenditures that were not accounted for in the budget for Brown County most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Brown County acknowledges that it will only seek reimbursement for costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commission of Brown County that the Chair of the Brown County Commission may execute any and all documents as required by the State in order to receive CARES Act funds.

It is further RESOLVED that any request for reimbursement will be only for those costs authorized by the State that: (1) Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) Were not accounted for in the County budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and (3) Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

It is further RESOLVED that the County will not request reimbursement from the State under the CARES Act for costs for which the County previously received reimbursement, or for which the County has a reimbursement request pending before another source.

Dated this 14 day of July, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Fjeldheim, Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert -aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Resolution adopted.

SPECIAL EVENT CAMPING-DAILY RATES:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to approve daily rate for camping during special events. This is for non-reservation camping during special events. Full hook-up \$35, water and power only \$30 per day. All members present voting aye. Motion carries.

SHERIFF REPORTS: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following June 2020 Sheriff Reports: Incidents and offenses, Prisoner care, JDC, and Money deposited with the County Treasurer. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LANDFILL RESTRICTED FUNDS:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Sutton to adjust the restricted funds for the landfill closure/post closure requirement to \$1,400,479.44. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

QUARTERLY INTEREST: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Feickert to accept filing of the Quarter 2 interest statement in the amount of \$13,390.95. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

RAFFLE PERMIT: Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following raffle: Spurs Therapeutic Riding Center for Raffle to be held in December 2020. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

TEMPORARY ALCOHOL LICENSE: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve the following liquor licenses: Fyling Pig Ent. transferred to the Brown County Fairgrounds Clubhouse SW1/4 of Sec 1-123-64 (see map) August 12-16, 2020; Highway 12 Liquors transferred to the Richmond Lake Youth Camp Lodge SW 24-124-65 September 12, 2020. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert -nay, Sutton - aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - aye. Motion carries.

SUMMER FEST LEASES - YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to approve rate of \$750 plus utilities for the youth livestock show during Summer Fest 2020. Roll call vote: Commissioner Feickert -aye, Sutton - aye, Wiese- aye, Fjeldheim - aye, Kippley - abstain. Motion carries.

FAIR CONTRACTS: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve the following fair contracts: Sutton Rodeo (PRCA Rodeo) for August 16-17 2021 @ \$46,200 and August 15-16 2022 @ \$48,510; Ashley Dunham (4H Judge) @ \$40. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2nd QUARTER REPORT: Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the 3rd quarter report for Emergency Management and personnel action forms for salary adjustments. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 168 - STRUCK REZONE:

Moved by Sutton, seconded by Wiese to approve first reading of Ordinance 168, an ordinance to rezone the following described property filed by Gerald Struck, amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "Gerald and Gail Struck Addition" in the NE1/4 of Section 9-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. (12501 385th Ave). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 169- PRAIRIE HILL FARMS:

Moved by Fjeldheim, seconded by Sutton to approve first reading of Ordinance 169, an ordinance to rezone the following described property filed by Prairie Hill Farms, amending Title 4, Second Revision Brown County Ordinances on the following described property from Chapter 4.06 Agricultural Preservation District (AG-P) to Chapter 4.07 Mini-Ag District (M-AG): Lot 1, "Prairie Hill Farms First Subdivision" in the SE1/4 of Section 34-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (2046 130th St NW). All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

avera ADDICTION CARE CENTER:

Jessie Paysen and Jamie Milbrandt with Avera Addiction Care Center met to give an update on services offered to the community and effect of Covid-19 on addiction in our community. No action taken.

SOUTH FIFTH STREET DUMPSTER SITE:

November 6, 2018 motion was passed to close the South Fifth Street Dumpster Site and consolidate the site with the Fairgrounds site. Moved by Feickert, seconded by Wiese to remove the dumpsters by August 1st. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR BOARD CAMPING: Moved by Sutton, seconded by Feickert to compensate board members after six months of service for their camping spot during the Brown County Fair. Board members who do not camp will be compensated at the average price of a camping spot. All members present voting aye.

Motion carried. **APPLICATION FOR OCCUPANCY:**

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Fjeldheim to approve application submitted by Northern Electric for occupancy of Brown County Highway 16, in section SE1/4 8, Township 125N, Range 62W, Brown County, South Dakota for buried electric distribution cable. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE DEDICATION: Discussion on bridge dedication application. Recommendation to have outlined standards and criteria for qualifying for a bridge dedication. No action on application.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Wiese, seconded by Feickert to adjourn the Brown County Commission at 10:26 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. Cathy McNickle, Brown County Auditor Published once at the total approximate cost of \$257.12. 19103

JVT Annual Meeting Postponed

Notice of Postponement of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company 2020 Annual Meeting Due to COVID-19 concerns, the 2020 annual meeting is postponed until 2021. Published once at the total approximate cost of \$3.92. 19104

Westport Town July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Town of Westport General Meeting July 13th, 2020 The Town of Westport met on July 13th, 2019 with Tim Selzler, Shane Storm and Doreen Hertel present.

The following expenses were presented: City General NWPS (\$405.51), Groton Independent (\$74.55), Firework donation-Justin Ellefson (\$500.00), Running's (\$354.91 & 72.97), Postmaster - Stamps (\$320.00), Menards (\$138.86), SD Unemployment Ins. (\$15.745), US Treasury (\$535.98), Darin McGaugh-mowing(\$ 303.46), Mitch Wilson-work on town hall (\$722.14).

Sewer NWPS (\$47.02) & NRWA-loan repayment (\$210.13).

Water WEB (\$1,680.75) & Water Maintenance District (\$408.16). Tim Selzler made motion to pay all bills; second by Shane Storm.

The following deposits were presented: City General Brown County Collections (\$1,436.28), State of SD (\$425.53) & Interest (\$3.39).

Sewer Resident Payments- (\$2,061.00).

Water Resident Payments - (\$3,828.12).

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion was held pump #2 which is in need of repair. A bid was received and approved to go ahead with the repair.

The board has authorized advertising for bids for the wastewater lift station replacement-rebid. Shane made a motion to approve, Mike seconded.

WEB has raised their rates by \$.10 per thousand gallons, the board decided to keep our rates the same without raising it at this time.

The board is currently being paid \$25 per meeting and has been this way for over 20 years. It was approved by all to raise to \$50 a month.

Tim Selzler has given his verbal resignation from the board, as he is planning on moving. This will go into effect on July 31st. The board would like to thank him for his years of service. The city is currently looking for a replacement on the board. If you are interested, please contact Shane Storm, Mike Wilson or Doreen Hertel.

Doreen Hertel, Finance Officer Published once at the total approximate cost of \$23.21. 19107

GFP Commission Proposes Improvements to 2020 Pheasant Season

PIERRE, S.D. - At their July meeting, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made several proposals that would provide more opportunities to hunters in upcoming hunting seasons.

The first proposal is a 10 a.m. CT start time for the resident-only pheasant season and the traditional pheasant season in 2020. Also included is an extension of the season to January 31. Currently, the pheasant season ends the first Sunday in January, which fluctuates with the calendar year.

"Season extensions like these would allow more opportunity for hunters to get into the field and enjoy South Dakota's great outdoors," said Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director for GFP.

If the proposal is passed, the changes would take effect for the upcoming 2020 season.

The commission also proposed an increase to the daily bag limit next season starting December 1, 2021, which would allow hunters to harvest four (4) rooster pheasants per day from December 1 through the end of the season. The possession limit would increase from 15 to 20 rooster pheasants after Dec. 1, 2021.

The 2021 start time of this proposal was set to allow time for preserve operators in the state to prepare for an adjusted release requirement.

"Because they have a license to operate as a preserve, they start hunting earlier in the fall and continue hunting after the traditional season," said Kirschenmann. "They are also required to release a certain number of pheasants onto the landscape each year. A higher bag limit will result in adjusted release amounts for these operations. With the impacts on businesses due to COVID-19 this year, we want to give them time to prepare."

To keep other upland bird hunting seasons in alignment, the commission proposed to extend the prairie grouse, quail and partridge seasons to end on January 31.

All these efforts are coming together alongside GFP's partnership with the Department of Tourism to get more people in the field hunting pheasants in South Dakota.

"With abundant public land hunting opportunities, pheasant hunters have access to some of the greatest spots to chase birds and work their dogs here in South Dakota," said Hepler. "We have worked hard and will continue to work hard on habitat and access. Our department continues to partner with private landowners to create and improve habitat on their farms and ranches."

South Dakota has increased public hunting access to private land within the primary pheasant range by adding over 7,500 acres to the Walk-In Area public hunting access program. Each year, GFP provides incentives that help landowners establish over 10,000 acres of food habitat plots and 140 acres of tree and shrub plantings. In the last year, over 4,000 acres of cropland have been planted to grassland habitat through the Second Century Working Lands Habitat program. In addition, over 16,000 acres of new grassland habitat will be created by last winter's general CRP sign up.

Individuals can comment on the proposals by going online to gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held on Sept. 2-3, tentatively at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City.

Brown County 4-H Fashion Revue Results

The 2020 Brown County 4-H Fashion Revue was held Tuesday July 14th virtually. We had two members participate in the virtual contest, Shakinah Holsing and Alicia Davis.

In the early afternoon, Karelyn Farrant of Aberdeen and Ashley Dunham of Groton judged the models. The models were judged on the following criteria: the fit of the garment, the accessories, the individual's modeling ability, the construction of the garment; and the garments cost and care. Each model was given a ribbon placing. Both members received a purple ribbon. All participants are invited to represent Brown County during the South Dakota State Fair.

ARE YOU AT HIGHER RISK FOR COVID-19?

People with conditions like heart or lung disease, asthma, or diabetes have a higher risk of more serious complications from coronavirus. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed.

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Claremont Town Resolution for Sewer Improvement RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION GIVING APPROVAL TO CERTAIN SEWER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS; GIVING APPROVAL TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A REVENUE BOND TO FINANCE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES; APPROVING THE FORM OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE REVENUE BOND AND PLEDGING PROJECT REVENUES AND COLLATERAL TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND; AND CREATING SPECIAL FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM AND RETIREMENT OF THE REVENUE BOND AND PROVIDING FOR A SEGREGATED SPECIAL CHARGE OR SURCHARGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS.

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of SDCL Chapter 9-40 (the "Act") as found and determined by the Legislature is to provide for financing the acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension or improvement of any system or part of any system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; or any system for the control of floods and drainage; or any combination thereof, together with extensions, additions, and necessary appurtenances; and,

WHEREAS, a municipality is authorized by Section 6 of the Act to issue revenue bonds to defray the cost of extensions, additions and improvements to any utility previously owned without pledging its credit and is authorized to pledge the net income or revenues from the Project in accordance with Section 15 of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Claremont (the "Town") currently operates a sewer system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes; and for the control of floods and drainage and has determined that improvements to the sewer facilities are necessary for the conduct of its governmental programs and qualifies as an improvement, extension or addition to its sewer system; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has determined to issue its revenue bonds to finance the improvements to its sewer system for the purpose of collecting, treating and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes (the "System") and has applied to the South Dakota Conservancy District (the "District") for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the improvements;

WHEREAS, the Town shall adopt special rates or surcharges for the improvements to be pledged, segregated and used for the payment of the Bonds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town as follows:

Definitions.
The terms when used in this Resolution shall have the following meanings set forth in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise. All terms used in this Resolution which are not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Loan Agreement unless the context clearly otherwise requires.

"Act" means South Dakota Codified Laws Chapter 9-40.

"Loan" means the Loan made by the South Dakota Conservancy District to the Town pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement and as evidenced by the Revenue Bond.

"Project" means the Town of Claremont Wastewater Improvements.

"Revenue Bond" means the revenue bond or bonds issued the date of the Loan Agreement by the Town to the South Dakota Conservancy District to evidence the Town's obligation to repay the principal of and pay interest and Administrative Expense Surcharge on the Loan.

"System" means the Town's system of collecting, treating and disposing of sewage and other domestic, commercial and industrial wastes.

Declaration of Necessity and Findings.

The Town hereby determines and declares it is necessary to construct and finance improvements to its System described as the Project.

Findings. The Town does hereby find as follows:

The Town hereby expressly finds that if the Project is not undertaken, the System will pose a health hazard to the Town and its inhabitants and will make the Town unable to comply with state and federal law.

Because of the functional interdependence of the various portions of the System, the fact that the System may not lawfully operate unless it complies with State and federal laws, including SDCL Chapter 34A-2, and the federal Clean Water Act, and the nature of the improvements financed, the Town hereby finds and determines that the Project will substantially benefit the entire System and all of its users within the meaning of Sections 15 and 17 of the Act.

The Town hereby determines and finds that for the purposes of the Act, including, in particular, Sections 15 and 17 of the Act, only the net income from the Project financed by the Revenue Bond be pledged for its payment.

Authorization of Loan, Pledge of Revenue and Security.

The Town hereby determines and declares it necessary to finance up to \$625,000 of the costs of the Project through the issuance of bonds payable from the revenue of the Project and other funds secured by the Town. The Town hereby determines that because the Revenue Bond is issued in connection with a financing agreement described in SDCL 46A-1-49, pursuant to Section 15 of the Act no election is required to issue the Revenue Bond.....

Approval of Loan Agreement.
The execution and delivery of the Revenue Obligation Loan Agreement (the "Loan Agreement"), the form of which is on file with the Finance Officer (the "Finance Officer") and open to public inspection, between the Town as Borrower and the District, is hereby in all respects authorized, approved and confirmed, and the Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement in the form and content attached hereto, with such changes as the Attorney for the Town deems appropriate and approves, for and on behalf of the Town. The Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby further authorized and directed to implement and perform the covenants and obligations of the Town set forth in or required by the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement herein referred to and made a part of this Resolution is on file in the office of the Finance Officer and is available for inspection by any interested party.

Approval of Revenue Bond.

The issuance of a revenue bond in a principal amount not to exceed \$625,000 as determined according to the Loan Agreement in the form and content set forth in Appendix B attached to the form of Loan Agreement (the "Revenue Bond") shall be and the same is, in all respects, hereby authorized, approved, and confirmed and the Mayor, Finance Officer, and other appropriate officials shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and seal the Revenue Bond and deliver the Revenue Bond to the District, for and on behalf of the Town, upon receipt of the purchase price, and to use the proceeds thereof in the manner set forth in the Loan Agreement. The Mayor and Finance Officer are hereby authorized to approve the final terms of the Revenue Bond and their execution and delivery thereof shall evidence that approval. The Revenue Bond shall be issued under the authority of SDCL Chapter 9-40 and SDCL Chapter 6-8B, and the provisions of the Act are hereby expressly incorporated herein as provided in Section 19 of the Act.

Pledge of Revenues. The Revenue Bond together with the interest thereon, shall not constitute a charge against the Town's general credit or taxing power, but shall be a limited obligation of the Town payable solely out of the Project Debt Service Account, which payments, revenues and receipts are hereby and in the Loan Agreement pledged and assigned for the equal and ratable payments of the Revenue Bond and shall be used for no other purpose than to pay the principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond, except as may be otherwise expressly authorized in the Loan Agreement (including the purpose of securing Additional Bonds issued as permitted by the terms thereof).

The Town covenants and agrees to charge rates for all services from the Project or establish special charges or surcharges which will be sufficient to provide for the payments upon the Revenue Bond issued hereunder as and when the same become due, and as may be necessary to provide for the operation and maintenance and repairs of the Project, and depreciation, and the Rate Resolution shall be revised from time to time so as to produce these amounts. The Town hereby reserves the right to determine on a periodic basis the appropriate allocation of operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation, repair and reserves associated with the facilities financed with the Revenue Bond, provided that such determination of allocable operation and maintenance expenses shall in no event abrogate, abridge or otherwise contravene the covenant of the Town set forth in this Section 3 or any other covenant or agreement in the Loan Agreement.

Special Charge or Surcharge for Revenue Bond.

The Town does hereby create the Revenue Bond Special-Surcharge District (the "Surcharge District") which shall include all users which benefit from the Project. There shall be charged a special charge or surcharge pursuant to Section 15 of the Act for the services provided by Project financed by the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall be segregated from other revenues of the System and shall be used for the payment of the Revenue Bond. The special charge or surcharge shall create net income, remaining from time to time after first paying all reasonable and current expenses of maintenance, repairs, replacements and operation, sufficient to fund interest, reserve and debt service fund annual requirements and shall be 110% of the debt service requirements on the Revenue Bond.

Rates and collection. The rate herein specific will be collected as a special charge or surcharge for the Project. This special charge or surcharge shall remain in effect until such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full.

Initial Surcharge. The initial special charge or surcharge shall be set by resolution and collected at the same time as other charges of the utility. All users within the Surcharge District which benefit from the Project, current and future, shall be charged the special charge or surcharge. The special charge or surcharge is found to be equitable for the services provided by the Project. The special charge or surcharge shall begin at such time as will produce sufficient revenue to pay principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due.

Segregation. The Finance Officer shall set up bookkeeping accounts in accordance with South Dakota Legislative Audit guidelines for the segregation of

the revenue, special charges and surcharges.

Periodic review. The amount of the surcharge shall be reviewed from time to time, not less than yearly, and shall be modified in order to produce such funds as are necessary and required to comply with the Loan Agreement's rate covenant and to pay principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bond when due. The surcharge may be set by resolution in accordance with this Section. The rate resolution shall be necessary for the support of government and shall be effective upon passage.

Additional Bonds. As permitted by Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, Additional Bonds payable from revenues and income of the System or Project may be issued, as permitted in the Loan Agreement, and no provision of this Resolution shall have the effect of restricting the issuance of, or impairing the lien of, such additional parity bonds with respect to the net revenues or income from the extensions, additions or improvements. The Town shall have the right to issue additional bonds secured by a lien subordinate to the lien from the Revenue Bond pursuant to the Loan Agreement.

Project Fund Accounts. For the purpose of application and proper allocation of the income of the Project and to secure the payment of principal, Administrative Surcharge and interest on the Revenue Bond, the following mandatory asset segregations shall be included in the sewer system account of the Town and shall be used solely for the following respective purposes until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Revenue Bond:

Project Revenue Account. There shall be deposited periodically into the Project Revenue Account the net revenues as defined in Section 17 of the Act derived from the operation of the Project collected pursuant to the resolutions and ordinances of the Town of Claremont, South Dakota (collectively the "Rate Resolution"). Moneys from the Project Revenue Account shall be transferred periodically into separate funds and accounts as provided below.

Project Debt Service Account. Out of the revenues in the Project Revenue Account, there shall be set aside no later than the 25th day of each month into the account designated Project Debt Service Account, a sum sufficient to provide for the payment as the same become due of the next maturing principal of, interest and Administrative Surcharge on the Revenue Bonds and any reserve determined by the Town's governing body to be necessary. The amount set aside monthly shall be not less than one-third of the total principal, interest, and Administrative Surcharge payable on the following February 15, May 15, August 15 or November 15 and if there shall be any deficiency in the amount previously set aside, then the amount of such deficiency shall be added to the current requirement.

Depreciation Account. There shall be established a General Depreciation Account. Out of the revenues of the Project Revenue Account there shall be set aside each month into the General Depreciation Account an amount determined by the Common Council to be a proper and adequate amount for repair and depreciation of the Project.

Project Surplus Account. There shall be established the Project Surplus Account. Revenues remaining in the Project Revenue Account at the end of any fiscal year after all periodic transfers have been made therefrom as above required, shall be deemed to be surplus and shall be transferred to the Project Surplus Account. If at any time there shall exist any default in making any periodic transfer to the Project Debt Service Account, the Common Council shall authorize the Finance Officer to rectify such default so far as possible by the transfer of money from the Project Surplus Account. If any such default shall exist as to more than one account or fund at any time, then such transfer shall be made in the order such funds and accounts are listed above.

When not required to restore a current deficiency in the Project Debt Service Account, moneys in the Project Surplus Account from time to time may be used for any of the following purposes and not otherwise:

To redeem and prepay the Revenue Bond when and as such Revenue Bond becomes prepayable according to its terms;

To pay for repairs of or for the construction and installation of improvements or additions to the System; and, if the balances in the Project Debt Service Account and the Project Depreciation Account are sufficient to meet all

payments required or reasonably anticipated to be made therefrom prior to the end of the then current fiscal year, then:

To be held as a reserve for redemption and prepayment of any bonds of the System which are not then but will later be prepayable according to their terms; or

To be used for any other authorized municipal purpose designated by the Common Council.

No moneys shall at any time be transferred from the Project Surplus Account or any other account of the Fund to any other fund of the Town, nor shall such moneys at any time be loaned to other municipal funds or invested in warrants, special improvements bonds or other obligations payable from other funds, except as provided in this Section.

Approval of Paying Agent/ Registrar. The Revenue Bond shall be payable at the office of U.S. Bank National Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, hereby designated as paying agent and registrar.

Approval of Bond Counsel. Meierhenry Sargent LLP is hereby retained as Bond Counsel with respect to the Revenue Bond.

Tax Matters. The Interest on the Revenue Bond shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("the Code") and applicable Treasury Regulations (the "Regulations").

Covenants.

The Town hereby covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond as follows:

The Town will punctually perform all duties with reference to the Project, the System and the Revenue Bond required by the constitution and laws of the State of South Dakota and by this Resolution.

The Town agrees and covenants that it will promptly construct the improvements included in the Project.

The Town covenants and agrees that pursuant to Sections 25 through 27 of the Act, the lawful holders of the Revenue Bond shall have a statutory mortgage lien upon the Project and the extensions, additions and improvements thereto acquired pursuant to the Act, until the payment in full of the principal and interest on the Revenue Bond, and the Town agrees not to sell or otherwise dispose of the System, the Project, or any substantial part thereof, except as provided in the Loan Agreement and shall not establish, authorize or grant a franchise for the operation of any other utility supplying like products or services in competition therewith, or permit any person, firm or corporation to compete with it in the distribution of water for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes within the Town.

The Town covenants and agrees with the District and other owners of the Revenue Bond that it will maintain the System in good condition and operate the same in an efficient manner and at a reasonable cost, so long as any portion of the Revenue Bond remains outstanding; that it will maintain insurance on the System for the benefit of the holders of the Revenue Bond in an amount which usually would be carried by private companies in a similar type of business; that it will prepare, keep and file records, statements and accounts as provided for in this Resolution and the Loan Agreement. The Revenue Bond shall refer expressly to this Resolution and the Act and shall state that it is subject to all provisions and limitations thereof pursuant to Section 19 of the Act.

Depositories. The Finance Officer shall cause all moneys pertaining to the Funds and Accounts to be deposited as received with one or more banks which are duly qualified public depositories under the provisions of SDCL Ch. 4-6A, in a deposit account or accounts, which shall be maintained separate and apart from all other accounts of the Town, so long as any of the Bonds and the interest thereon shall remain unpaid. Any of such moneys not necessary for immediate use may be deposited with such depository banks in savings or time deposits. No money shall at any time be withdrawn from such deposit accounts except for the purposes of the Funds and Accounts as authorized in this Resolution; except that moneys from time to time on hand in the Funds and Accounts may at any time, in the discretion of the Town's governing body, be invested in securities permitted by the provisions of SDCL 4-5-6; provided, however, that the Depreciation Fund may be invested in such securities maturing not later than ten years from the date of the investment. Income received from the deposit or investment of moneys shall be credited to the Fund or Account from whose moneys the deposit

was made or the investment was purchased, and handled and accounted for in the same manner as other moneys therein.

Consent to Appointment. In the event of mismanagement of the Project, a default in the payment of the principal or interest of the Revenue Bond, or in any other condition thereof materially affecting the lawful holder of the Revenue Bond, or if the revenues of the Project are dissipated, wasted or diverted from their proper application as set forth in the Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or herein, the Town hereby consents to the appointment of a receiver pursuant to Section 33 of the Act, and agrees that the receiver will have the powers set forth therein, and in Sections 34 and 35 of the Act to operate and administer the Project, and charge and collect rates as described therein.

Severability.
If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution, the Loan Agreement, the Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution or said Loan Agreement, Revenue Bond, or any other Loan Document.

Repeal of Resolution. At such time as the Revenue Bond is defeased or paid in full, this Resolution and the special charge or surcharge shall automatically be repealed without any further action of the Town.

Authorization of Town Officials.

The Mayor, Finance Officer, Town Attorney and Town officials shall be and they are hereby authorized to execute and deliver for and on behalf of the Town any and all other certificates, documents or other papers and to perform such other acts as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to implement and carry out the actions authorized herein.

Effective Date.
This Resolution shall take effect on the 20th day following its publication, unless suspended by a referendum.

Adopted at Claremont, South Dakota, this 14th day of July 2020.

APPROVED:
/s/Shane Johnson
Mayor
(SEAL)
Attest: /s/ Charla Rye
Finance Officer
First Reading: 7-14-2020
Published: 7-22-2020
Effective: 8-11-2020
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$241.61.
19108

Claremont Town July 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The board of trustees for the town of CLAREMONT met in regular session on 7-14-20 at 7:00pm in city hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with trustees SPENCER and Rasmussen present. On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen the following warrants were allowed. General :Dacotah Bank, city hall loan, 573.55; NWE, lights and power, 285.46; Shane Johnson, gas for mower, 140.93; James Valley, telecommunication, 98.97; Br.Co. Treasurer, mosquito, 607.10; GDI, publishing, 165.93; Missi Smith, 29 hrs. 294.61; Barney Donbrowe, 3hrs excavating, 489.80; IRS, 2nd quarter Fed. 597.52; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00; WSSW: DENR, dancing water fee, 60.00;NWE, sewer, 144.90; SD Public Health Lab, water samples, 30.00; BDM, water purchased, 1140.50; DPC, storm lift pump repair, 2093.72; Helms and ASSOC. (grant) wastewater improvement, 7000.00; Rural Development, loan payment, 576.00; On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded Spencer the town of Claremont passed a resolution giving approval to the issuance and sale of a revenue bond to finance, directly or indirectly, the improvements to the facilities; approving the form of the loan agreement and the Revenue Bond and pledging project Revenues and collateral to secure the payment of the Revenue Bond; and creating special funds and issuance for the administration of funds for operating of the system and retirement of the Revenue Bond and providing for a segregated special charge or purchase for the payment of the Bond. With no further business before the board a motion to adjourn was made by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen. motion carried.

Charla Rye F.O.
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$19.92.
19109

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Worries hover over return to schools

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

With a new school year fast approaching in South Dakota, the usual feelings of excitement, anticipation and opportunity have been replaced with angst, anxiety and worry.

The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a pall of uncertainty over whether students, teachers and staff can safely return to schools for in-person teaching and learning. As of mid-July in South Dakota, the vast majority of public schools appeared poised to open in late August and bring children back to the classroom, though many are offering a remote, home-based option.

Districts big and small are undergoing extensive planning to reopen as safely as possible at a time when a fierce national debate is raging about whether to bring children back, whether the coronavirus will spread among adults and children, and whether masks should be worn.

To better understand what people at all levels of the public education system are enduring, News Watch in early July contacted several South Dakotans on the front lines of the fall 2020 return to school. Here are some of their stories.

PARENTS FACE HEART-WRENCHING CHOICES

Before the school year starts, Jodi Jensen and her husband are facing a decision that could have life-or-death consequences for their son, Justin.

Justin is a gregarious, high-achieving sixth-grader who loves going to school in Huron. According to his mom, Justin desperately wants to see his friends again after losing out on social interaction with them when schools closed in the spring and while isolated during the summer.

Jodi Jensen wants to send him back to school in August, but the coronavirus has created agony over the choice of whether Justin returns to classes, undergoes remote learning through the school district or begins a home-school program with his mom.

If Justin became infected with COVID-19, the likelihood of major complications, possibly even death, is high due to a number of comorbidity issues created by previous and ongoing illnesses.

Justin had whooping cough at two weeks old, which destroyed part of his bronchial function. Later, he contracted Kawasaki Syndrome, a lymphatic disorder that can cause swelling in coronary arteries but also swelling of mucous membranes in the mouth, nose and throat. Justin also has dysautonomia, which inhibits his ability to regulate body temperature, and he suffers from severe asthma.

"When he catches even the slightest cold, he gets very sick very quickly, and it turns into pneumonia very quickly," Jensen said.

Since the pandemic hit, the Jensens — who operate a farm just outside town — have primarily stayed home, and have taken strong precautions against the coronavirus when venturing out. They wear masks in public, and after Jodi has been to populated areas or a medical facility, she quickly showers in a separate bathroom to keep Justin safe from the virus.

The family is aware that sending Justin back to school, even with safety measures in place, will be risky.

"Based on the way his health works, our fear is that even if he gets the regular influenza, he's in trouble and sometimes is hospitalized for that," Jensen said. "And now you're talking about another virus that comes along that acts



Justin Jensen wants to return to school in Huron and be with his teachers and friends in August, but his mother Jodi Jensen is concerned about the safety of her son, who is susceptible to illness.

Photo: Courtesy Jodi Jensen

differently and attacks the part of his body that is already compromised, and we don't want to put him in a situation where there just isn't going to be as much control as you think."

The Huron school district is considering a plan to allow parents who don't want their children to attend school to engage in remote learning provided by the district. So far, the plan is to recommend but not require masks in schools, Superintendent Terry Nebelsick said.

Jensen pointed out that wearing a mask for a long period of time is difficult for Justin due to his asthma and the heat the mask creates on his face and mouth.

At this point, the risk for Justin is likely too high for him to return to school in August, Jensen said, even though she worries that isolating an intelligent, curious, fun-loving child from his peers could cause heartache or even depression.

"It's really scary based on his health," she said. "You don't want to say, 'Let's risk the child's life for social happiness,' but social happiness is also very important."

Jensen, a military veteran and former emergency medical technician, said she supports the rights of other parents to decide what is best for their children, including choosing not to wear a mask. She also understands that some working families may not have the ability to keep children home from school if they have a minor illness, which could unknowingly be COVID-19.

"They're coming to school and no masks are required, and they're coughing and sneezing and now 20 kids have got it," she said. "It's going to be the unlucky kid, and ours would probably be the one, that gets it and it doesn't react well in the body."

Jensen said the family will likely elect to keep Justin home for remote learning, at least in the fall, and then keep an eye on how the virus affects students and learning.

If things go well, or a vaccine is discovered, they may allow Justin to return to classes at some point in the 2020-21 school year, Jensen said.

In the meantime, the family has had some socially distanced visits with extended family members, bought Justin a new bike, and has gone camping four times this summer to keep Justin's mind, body and soul active during

isolation.

"My son says, 'No way, I don't want to be home all day,'" Jensen said. "But right now for us, it's a Catch-22; we're damned if we do and damned if we don't."

Parent Stephany Weed is also hoping the Huron schools allow for a remote-learning option or a hybrid program in which students can learn from both home and school.

Weed, who works for the public transit system in Huron, is severely anemic and her husband is disabled, so she worries what COVID-19 could do to her family if an infection breaks out in the school system. Her son is a rising senior at Huron high.

Weed pointed out that Beadle County, where Huron is the county seat, has been a hotspot for COVID-19, with 553 cases and eight deaths, likely due in part to the meat-processing industry in town.

She questions whether schools can be made safe enough for students to return, even if precautions are taken.

"Not everybody is comfortable piling a whole bunch of kids into the schools," she said. "Yes, you're going to practice social distancing, but they're kids. There's going to be high-fives and hugging because they're kids."

During the pandemic, Weed and her family have diligently used masks and hand sanitizer and have been careful to maintain social distance when out.

Weed said she wants her son to attend school and fully enjoy his senior year, especially after missing out on prom and other important social events during his junior year. She also believes in the importance of staying connected to teachers, and wants to be sure he maintains good grades, which might be easier through in-person learning. However, as the school year approaches, Weed is seriously considering arranging to home-school her son, which could be done by her husband, who stays at home.

"There are a lot of people here in town who are shrugging it off and acting like, 'If I get it, oh, well,' but what about those around you?" she said. "I just think there are other options that should be considered before just trying to pretend everything is OK and going back."

TEACHERS FEAR FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

Susan Waagmeester, 63, is a 25-year art teacher in Sioux Falls who is worried that the school environment may be a crucible for spreading the coronavirus.

As of July 15, Minnehaha County, where Sioux Falls is the county seat, was home to about half of the state's 7,652 total COVID-19 infections, with 3,796 cases and 60 of the state's 111 deaths.

"In the Sioux Falls schools, it's like a sea of bodies wall to wall, and all it takes is one person to have it and it could just explode," she said. "I see bad things happening, just like in all the states that re-opened too early."

In addition to her concerns for the safety of her students and fellow staff members, Waagmeester is also worried that the virus could infect her or her husband, who is a custodian in a Sioux Falls elementary school.

"Every day we go to work, chances are we'll be close to someone who is infected and may be asymptomatic, because it's going to be in



Justin Jensen has undergone treatment for a variety of illnesses that may put him at higher risk of serious complications from the coronavirus. Photo: Courtesy Jodi Jensen

the halls, it's going to be in the air and in the cafeteria when 400 of them are in there eating lunch," said Waagmeester, who teaches at Lincoln High. "It's just a big worry for me; will we even be able to sleep safely in the same house at night?"

Beyond that, Waagmeester helps care for her elderly parents, frequently bringing food and supplies to the couple, ages 85 and 88, and she worries she could spread the potentially deadly virus to them.

Due to their ages, both the Waagmeesters and her parents are concerned they likely are at higher risk for serious health implications from the potentially deadly virus.

Waagmeester has been watching the planning process by Sioux Falls administrators and says more safety measures are needed. She wants all faculty, staff and students to be required to wear masks at all times, for classrooms to be sterilized between classes and for daily student attendance to be staggered so fewer students are at school and in each classroom on any given day.

Waagmeester donned a mask and sunglasses and joined several other protesters outside the Sioux Falls school administration building before the board meeting on Monday, July 13. She carried a sign with a picture of her parents and a message that she is their caretaker.

Her sign also read: "Taught over 6,000 students in my 25 years in education — I am valuable not expendable!!!"

Waagmeester said she protested at the meeting "just to be heard" and because she feels like the push by administrators and others to return to normal may put veteran teachers at unnecessary risk of contracting COVID-19.

"I've still got a lot to give and it's almost like we older teachers and the elderly across America are being treated as though we are expendable," she said.

Waagmeester said it will take a community-wide and school-wide effort — and some personal sacrifice — to limit exposure of students, faculty and staff to the virus in South Dakota schools in the fall.

"It's like back in World War II, it took an effort by everybody who had to give up their nylons and their metal for the war effort," she said. "We've got to all be willing to do what it takes because this is a war, too."

Sue Podoll is a special-education teacher in Rapid City and is the president of the Rapid City Education Association. Podoll said she and most other teachers are hopeful that staff, faculty and students can all return to school in the fall and do so safely.

Pennington County, home to Rapid City, had reported 674 COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths as of July 15, many cases arising in recent months

amid tourism season.

Special-education students and teachers may face unique challenges, Podoll said. Some special-education students are unable to wear masks and breathe well, and others may not tolerate having a mask on their face, she said.

Special-education teachers, meanwhile, are committed to the close-up nature of teaching special-ed students, which will make social distancing nearly impossible. Special-education students also may not be as successful with remote learning, if that becomes necessary, she said.

Podoll said she was also concerned by data released by the Rapid City schools in the spring indicating that about 25% of students in the system were never contacted or never participated in any way in remote learning offered by the district when schools closed due to the pandemic.

"We know the detriments of either unsupervised learning, or if there is a lack of resources or support in a home situation, which creates a struggle that puts some of our most vulnerable kids even further behind," she said.

Low-income students may also be at a disadvantage when it comes to staying safe, including in Rapid City, where the district does not plan to provide masks to students.

"If my priority is a mask for my kid to be in school or food on the table, you know I'm going to choose food," she said.

Podoll noted that many teachers in Rapid City and across the country are in high-risk groups when it comes to the coronavirus, mainly because of their age. She pointed out that the median age of teachers in Rapid City is 41, so half are older than that.

"We're a graying group, and many have great hesitancy if they have underlying health concerns of their own, whether it's diabetes or immune compromises or they're under chemotherapy," she said. "They're concerned about their health situations and being in the classroom without students required to be masked."

Teachers who refuse to go back to work over health concerns involving COVID-19 will not be protected by their teaching contracts, so they would either have to retire if eligible or quit and face breach-of-contract penalties.

Podoll said a safe return to school will require some flexibility and willingness to adapt as the COVID-19 pandemic changes throughout the school year.

She said success will require "lots of deep breaths, lots of patience, and lots of grace."

Tim Eckart, who spent four years as a band teacher at Edison Middle School in Sioux Falls, recently transitioned into a full-time position as president of the Sioux Falls Education Association.

Eckart, who is also a parent of three school-aged children, said he and his family have been wearing masks and dutifully taking precautions



Tim Eckart

person learning and from others who are concerned for their safety.

"There's worries there," he said. "It's an unprecedented year because we haven't seen anything like this for 100 years and the people who experienced that are no longer around."

In an email sent to union members, Eckart said he urged them to work collaboratively with the district to keep schools safe.

"First and foremost, we all know that the best education is in person, but in-person education also offers the highest level of exposure for our educators and our students, and it's a difficult tightrope to walk," he said. "It will take all of our education community walking together to find success in this process."

Some school districts may be challenged logistically and financially to provide protective medical equipment for students and staff and in offering the technology to effectively teach students remotely, said Mary McCorkle, president of the South Dakota Education Association.

"There are a lot of supplies that districts need to ensure the health and safety of their students and staff, and it's in short supply as we've all found," McCorkle said. "Those things that are in short supply are very expensive as well, and if we want to provide hybrid approach, we want to make sure those students have technology infrastructure."

McCorkle, who will leave her statewide post in July, said the challenging circumstances of learning during a pandemic provide parents, teachers and administrators an opportunity to teach children valuable lessons about working together, thinking of others and making wise choices. From cleaning their own desks to making good decisions about safety to wearing masks to protect others, students can learn important lessons during the pandemic that might otherwise have gone untaught.

"I think it's about respect, being kind and taking care of your community," she said. "These are important life lessons."

ADMINISTRATORS SCRAMBLE TO BE READY

In Huron, located in a county that has seen hundreds of cases of COVID-19, 93% of parents surveyed by the district said they want their children to attend schools in the fall, said Superintendent Nebelsick.

The unique makeup of Huron's student population — roughly half of students are non-white, 69% receive free or reduced-priced lunches and nine languages are spoken within the district — has required extensive planning and preparation to work toward a safe return in the fall, Nebelsick said.

"A goal cannot be to open up schools no matter what; our goal has to be to open up schools as safety as possible as soon as possible," Nebelsick said. "We have to balance the protection from the virus the best we can with also meeting the other needs of our children."

Though the final return plan is a work in progress, Nebelsick said the district intends to offer in-person and remote learning options, and will encourage mask use but not require it.

"The more we do guidelines and the less we do mandates, the more participation we



Sioux Falls art teacher Susan Waagmeester protested outside the school board meeting on July 13, pushing for more protections in schools against the spread of the coronavirus. Photo: Courtesy Sioux Falls Argus Leader



Mary McCorkle, who will soon leave her post as president of the South Dakota Education Association, said the pandemic is worrisome but also provides some opportunities for children to learn valuable life lessons. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

are going to have, and I really believe that," Nebelsick said.

Seating in school classrooms will be reconfigured, and plastic barriers will be used to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, he said.

To reduce any spread during band or choral classes or rehearsals, among the most dangerous activities during the pandemic, students will sing or play outside or be spaced well apart in the auditorium, Nebelsick said.

For students who do wear masks, Nebelsick said the district would seek situations in which social distancing will allow for removal of masks to provide breaks from any discomfort.

Throughout the planning, Nebelsick said he has tried to remain fully informed on the latest information on the virus, how to prevent its spread and how to create the safest possible environment in Huron schools.

Nebelsick, president of the state association of superintendents, has participated in numerous state and national education programs for school administrators during the pandemic. The goal is to be prepared and be willing to adapt quickly if things change.

"If certain grades have to be shut down, so be it, and if an entire school has to be shut down, so be it, but we have to be ready," Nebelsick said. "Behind the scenes, we're trying to create situational decision-making based on the situation in the schools."

The Rapid City area school system, the second-largest in the state, is still working out many details of its back-to-school plan

but expects to offer in-person classes and a remote-learning option for parents who don't feel comfortable having their children in schools, said Katy Urban, spokeswoman for the district. The remote-learning option could also be used by students who get sick or are exposed to the virus and must isolate, she said.

The district is facing difficulty in trying to increase social dis-

tancing at a time when roughly half its schools are already at capacity or overcrowded, Urban said.

"We are already crunched for space, so there are some pretty big issues with that given our space constraints," she said.

The district will provide masks and personal protective equipment to teachers and staff, but not to its 14,000 students, and wearing of masks is not expected to be mandatory except perhaps in some limited situations, she said.

The mask debate — whether to require them and whether parents will tell their children to wear them — has been a hot topic in across the state and nation, fueled in part by mixed messages about the efficacy of masks by the administration of President Donald Trump and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

"It is political, whether we like it or not, and I've already seen a great debate happening on social media posts the district has had, where we've seen parents fighting back and forth," Urban said. "I can only imagine that some of our kids will pick up on that as well."

Challenges have arisen in filling positions such as substitute teachers, bus drivers and other non-teaching jobs in the district that are often held by retirees or older workers who may be at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, Urban said.

The district learned many lessons while conducting emergency remote teaching in the spring, Urban said. In the fall, the district will feature more classes that are broadcast live to students at home so they can ask questions and interact with teachers in real time, she said.

"In the spring, mostly they were given assignments and asked to join in on a Zoom call once a week, and not every teacher was doing the same thing," she said. "They were kind of all over the place, so this will be more consistent."

Enhancing safety and offering both in-person and remote learning will add expenses to school districts. The Sioux Falls schools, for example, recently announced that adaptations made during the pandemic could cost as much as \$8 million in the coming year.

In Rapid City, officials have delayed the start of school by a week, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 8, to give teachers, staff, parents and students more time to prepare to return.

Smaller, more rural school districts are facing many of the same concerns as larger districts when it comes to keeping kids safe, though they may have some advantages, said Rod Weber, superintendent in Woonsocket, a district with about 250 students located 35 miles north of Mitchell.

"The smaller schools might be able to social distance better," Weber said. "We're talking about our school with 70 kids compared with a school of 1,000 students, so we're not packed in here shoulder to shoulder."

In classes, desks will be spread out, sanitizer will be available and disinfectants will be used between classes. The district installed auto-flush toilets and water stations that allow for hands-free refilling of water bottles that will be provided to students. Temperature checks will be done in morning classes to scan for fevers. Masks will not be required of students or staff, Weber said. An at-home learning plan will be available to parents who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school, Weber said.

The district is adding employees to the lunch room to reduce student contact within the food-selection and clean-up processes.

Weber said the less-populous, close-knit nature of Woonsocket also played a role in how well the district reached students during emergency remote education in the spring. Learning

packets and lunches were hand-delivered to all students at their homes, he said. Only 2% of students did not initially complete all assignments, and eventually all students made up the work and graduated to the next grade.

The district's return plan is not finalized, but Weber said that, no matter what, the district would remain flexible on how students are taught as the year goes on. As of mid-July, Sanborn County, where Woonsocket is the county seat, had 12 COVID-19 cases and no deaths.

"I'm feeling confident that we're going to be able to serve our students well," Weber

said. "I'm not confident that we're going to just have a regular school day throughout the year. We're probably going to go in and out of phases depending on what the spread may be in our schools or in our community."

STATE OFFICIALS PUSH FOR AND PREPARE FOR RETURN

At the highest level of state government, Gov. Kristi Noem is pushing for schools to re-open for in-person classes.

In a statement to South Dakota News Watch, Noem's communications director Ian Fury wrote: "Given how important it is for our kids to be back in school this fall, our Department of Education team is working around the clock to get school districts all the information they need

to make decisions that best fit their unique situations. We expect each district may approach this differently, but our common goal is one everyone agrees with — our kids must have access to the full educational experience this fall."

In response to questions from News Watch, Department of Education Secretary Ben Jones said

his agency issued guidelines for school districts called the "Starting Well 2020" plan in June, developed in conjunction with local school leaders across the state, which he said "carefully balances public health considerations with the known benefits of a full school experience."

Jones wrote that the American Academy of Pediatrics supports a return to in-person learning for children and has documented the "negative impacts on children" due to school closures in the spring of 2020.

"It goes without saying, our children are our future and they need the academic, emotional, social, nutritional and physical benefits of the full school experience," Jones wrote to News Watch.

In the run up to the start of school, education department employees are holding regular phone calls and online webinars with superintendents and education associations, Jones said. The department has two web pages dedicated to information about the upcoming school year, including the Starting Well page and at the Hot Topics tab on the department website at doe.sd.gov.



Rod Weber, superintendent of schools in Woonsocket, said small school districts may find it easier to engage in social distancing than larger districts with greater student populations.

Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch



Ben Jones



Terry Nebelsick

"A goal cannot be to open up schools no matter what; our goal has to be to open up schools as safety as possible as soon as possible. We have to balance the protection from the virus the best we can with also meeting the

Pro-Am Golf Tournament

Olive Grove Golf Course, Thursday, July 16, 2020

- 70- Drake Patterson, Jerry Johnson, Austin Schuelke, Kyle Karazissis
- 69- Luke Kraft, Allen Heer, Craig Grupe, Tim Ailes
- 69- Jan Gilchrist, Brad Hanson, Ken Carlson, Li Wang
- 69- Brad Larson, Tyler Sperry, Blake Ronning, Zack Staub
- 68- Kalen Kjellsen, Brandon Stanley, Scott Vedvei, Charles Merzbacher
- 64- Tom Mahan, Tim Bergstrom, Steve Dunker, Adam Navigato
- 63- Brandon Spanier, Gabe Kjellsen, Sam Heintzman, Mitchell Ellis
- 63- Lance Frohling, Connor Hanson, Jeff Christenson, Jay Jurecic
- 63- Randy Stanley, Mike Siegler, Lorin Flihs, Don Leafstrand
- 59- Jason Hill, Brian Carrels, Eric Moody, Aaron Whalen
- 44- Tony Madsen, Reid Johnson, Jarod Flihs, Alejandro Perazzo

Pro's Scores

Kyle Karazissis 65, Zach Staub 66, Don Leafstrand 68, Jay Jurecic 69, Charles Merzbacher 69, Li Wang 70, Adam Navigato 71, David Rose 72, Mitchell Ellis 72, Tim Ailes 73, Alejandro Perazzo 74, Aaron Whlaen 74.

Amateur Gross Scores

Brad Larson 77, Tyler Sperry 78, Gabe Kjellsen 79, Austin Schuelke 80, Tim Bergstrom 80, Luke Kraft 81, Jeff Christenson 81, Drake Patterson 81, Sam Heintzman 82, Connor Hanson 83, Jason Hill 83, Jan Gilchrist 84, Scott Vedvei 84, Tom Mahan 85, Brian Carrels 85, Craig Grupe 86, Kalen Kjellsen 86, Randy Stanley 86, Reid Johnson 87, Brandon Spanier 87, Allen Heer 88, Jerry Johnson 88, Lorin Flihs 89, Blake Ronning 90, Brad Hanson 91, Ken Carlson 92, Eric Moody 94, Brandon Stanley 95, Jarod Flihs 95, Mike Siegler 95, Steve Dunker 97, Tony Madsen 97, Lance Frohling 99.

Amateur Net Scores

Brad Larson 70, Luke Kraft 70, Austin Schuelke 72, Jeff Christenson

72, Tom Mahan 73, Kalen Kjellsen 73, Jan Gilchrist 73, Tyler Sperry 73, Jason Hill 73, Ken Carlson 74, Randy Stanley 74, Gabe Kjellsen 74, Tim Bergstrom 74, Scott Vedvei 74, Sam Heintzman 74, Allen Heer 75, Brian Carrels 75, Lorin Flihs 75, Drake Patterson 75, Connor Hanson 76, Brandon Stanley 77, Jerry Johnson 78, Eric Moody 80, Blake Ronning 80, Brad Hanson 81, Mike Siegler 81, Steve Dunker 82, Lance Frohling 83, Jarod Flihs 85, Reid Johnson 85, Tony Madsen 85.

Firecracker Couples Tournament

Olive Grove Golf Course, July 4, 2020

Championship Flight: 70- Brad and Dar Larson, 70- Mark and Suzie Papstein, 71- Mike and June Heinz, 72- Tim and Barb Gillick, 73- Mike and Cherry Baker, 74- Randy and Sue Stanley, 74- Austin Schuelke and Elise Ferrell 74, 77- Tom and Pat Price

First Flight: 75- Brad and Brenda Waage, 75- Steve and Betty Dunker, 76- Ryan Easthouse and Carmen Ferguson, 78- Joe and Ruth Gourneau, 78- Scott Kettering and Susie Easthouse, 80- Lorin and Julie Flihs, 80- Mie and Lisa Hammerich, 84- Eric and Hannah Miller, 87- Marvin Bonnet and Sue Stewart

Second Flight: 82- Jonathan and Mandilyn Flihs, 84- Lance and Cindy Frohling, 84- Rich and Tami Zimney, 86- Jessica Gourneau and Levi Logan, 87- Tavis and JJ Johnson, 88- Les and Julie Flihs, 89- Torre and Denise Raap, 93- Larry and Shirlee Frohling, 96- Lexi Ferrell and Cody Kliever, 100- Rod and Arlys Kluess

Closest to Pin #4: Suzie Souza

Closest to Pin #8: Mike Baker

Longest Putt #9: Shirlee Frohling

Putting Contest Winner: Eric Miller

First Round State Teener Tournament Groton Claws Back, But Falls Just Short Against Castlewood

Despite a 6-run deficit in the third inning, SDVFW 14U Groton almost came all the way back, eventually falling 7-5 to SDVFW 14U Castlewood on Friday. SDVFW 14U Groton put up four runs in the failed comeback. Colby Dunker, Logan Ringgenberg, and Bradin Althoff came through with RBIs to lead the rally.

SDVFW 14U Groton couldn't keep up with SDVFW 14U Castlewood early in the game. SDVFW 14U Castlewood scored on a single by Kabren Jackson and a groundout by David Prohl in the second inning.

SDVFW 14U Castlewood pulled away for good with two runs in the second inning. In the second Jackson singled on a 2-1 count, scoring one run and Prohl grounded out, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Groton tallied three runs in the third inning. Dunker and Ringgenberg each had RBIs in the big inning.

SDVFW 14U Castlewood scored five runs in the third inning. Quincy Thu, Jackson Schofield, Jackson, Paul Everson, and Sam Kooima all contributed in the big inning with RBIs.

Trey Maaland was the winning pitcher for SDVFW 14U Castlewood. He went five innings, allowing four runs on three hits and striking out six. Lane Tvedt and Kooima entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief. Kooima recorded the last out to earn the save for SDVFW 14U Castlewood.

Althoff took the loss for SDVFW 14U Groton. He went three innings, allowing seven runs on five hits and striking out four.

Kaleb Hoover, Dunker, Ryan Groeblichhoff, and Althoff each collected one hit to lead SDVFW 14U Groton. SDVFW 14U Groton stole ten bases during the game as three players stole more than one. Althoff led the way with three.

Everson went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead SDVFW 14U Castlewood in hits.

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2nd Round State Teener Tournament Travnicsek's Walk-Off Seals The Deal In Parker Victory Over Groton

A walk-off walk propelled SDVFW 14U Parker to a decisive, dramatic victory over SDVFW 14U Groton, 6-5. The game was tied at five with SDVFW 14U Parker batting in the bottom of the seventh when Raymond Travnicsek drew a walk, scoring one run.

SDVFW 14U Parker earned the victory despite allowing SDVFW 14U Groton to score three runs in the second inning. SDVFW 14U Groton's big inning was driven by a walk by Ryan Groeblichhoff and a fielder's choice by Kaleb Hoover.

SDVFW 14U Groton took an early lead in the second inning. Hoover hit into a fielder's choice, scoring one run.

Logan Bridges led things off on the pitcher's mound for SDVFW 14U Parker. He allowed three hits and five runs over three innings, striking out four.

Groeblichhoff led things off on the mound for SDVFW 14U Groton. He went four and two-thirds innings, allowing three runs on five hits and striking out six. Hoover and Teylor Diegel entered the game from the bullpen, throwing one and two-thirds innings and one-third of an inning respectively.

SDVFW 14U Parker tallied eight hits on the day. Gabe Gillespie, Travnicsek, and Brenden Pesicka all had multiple hits for SDVFW 14U Parker. Pesicka, Travnicsek, and Gillespie each collected two hits to lead SDVFW 14U Parker. Gillespie led SDVFW 14U Parker with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with eight stolen bases.

Bradin Althoff led SDVFW 14U Groton with three hits in four at bats.

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