

The Groton Independent

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Streets, summer make for short Groton City Council meeting

Street chip sealing, Summer Fest and movie nights at the library were discussed at Thursday's Groton City Council meeting.

Almost half of the council were absent for the meeting, which was rescheduled from its normal Tuesday date because of the July 4 holiday. Present at City Hall were Council members Karyn Babcock, Jason Wambach and Shirley Wells, along with Mayor Scott Hanlon, City Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich and other department leaders. Councilman Brian Bahr joined the meeting via phone.

While some items on the agenda were skipped or postponed to later meetings, Wastewater Superintendent Dwight Zerr presented the public works report to the council, including a map showing which streets are set to be chip sealed this summer.

For north-south oriented roads, that includes North First Street between Railroad Avenue and East Fourth Avenue, North Second Street between Railroad Avenue and East Third Avenue, North Second Street between East Seventh Avenue and Highway 12, North Third Street between East Seventh Avenue and Highway 12, North Fourth Street between East Sixth Avenue and East Ninth Avenue and North Fifth Street between East Ninth Avenue and East 10th Avenue.

East-west oriented roadwork includes stretches on East Second Avenue between Highway 37 and North Main Street, East Third Avenue between Highway 37 and North Main Street, East Sixth Avenue between North Fourth Street and North Sixth Street, East Seventh Avenue between North Fourth Street and North Sixth Street, East Ninth Avenue between North First Street and North Main Street, East 10th Avenue between Highway 37 and North Fourth Street (not including North Main Street) and East 11th Avenue between North First Street and North Fourth Street (not including North Main Street).

Prep work for the chip sealing should be completed within the next couple of weeks, Zerr said.

Concerns about equipment replacement and sewer system issues also cropped up at the meeting.

The city was notified last fall about an emergency sewer discharge bringing the city out of compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Dakota Department of Natural Resources regulations. Those agencies are getting more strict on those issues, and it's something the city will have to look into improving soon.

"It's not going to be cheap, I'm sure," Zerr said.

Councilman Wambach replied, "Yeah, but it's not cheap being out of compliance at some point."

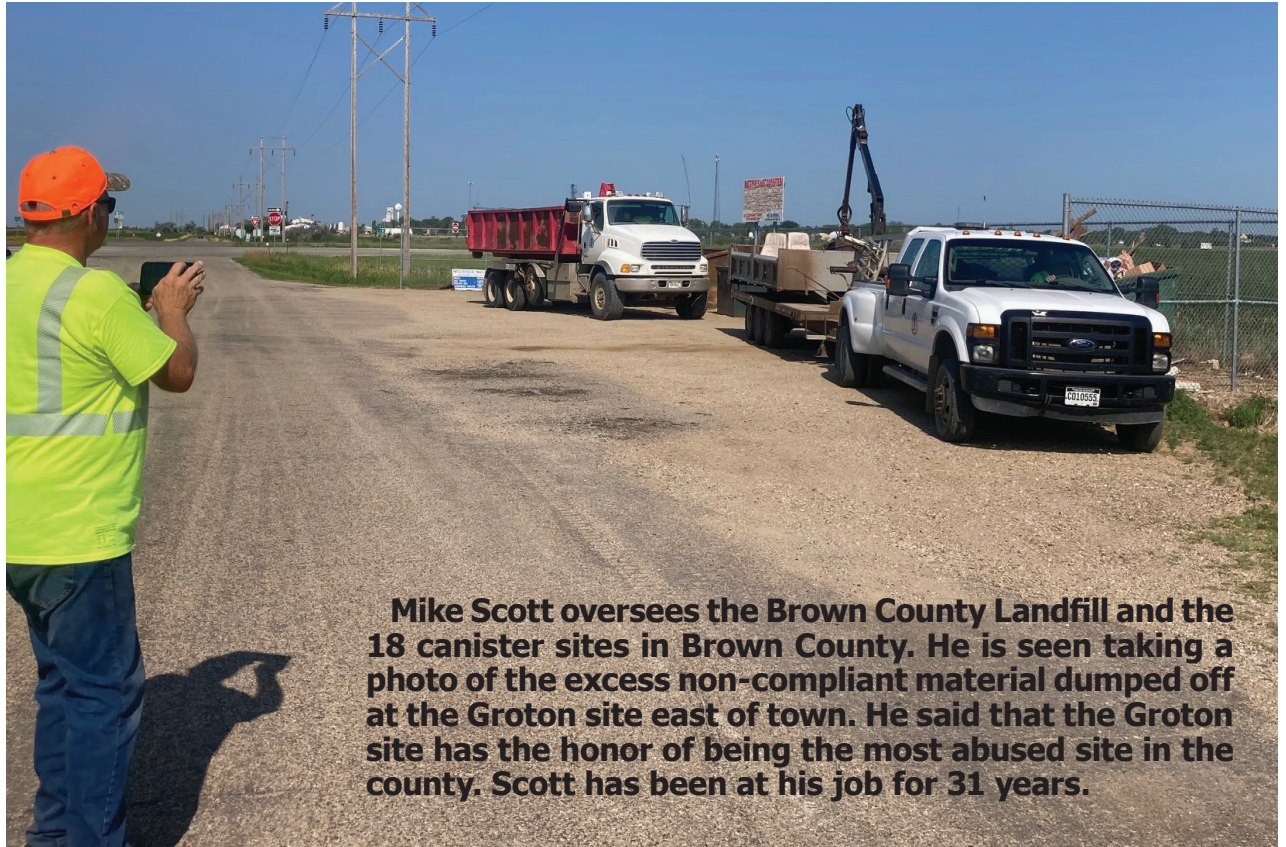
Zerr said he will continue looking into potential solutions, but there will be things that need replacing soon, like the wastewater lift station.

"We've been trying to do it piecemeal," he said. "But if we're going to do a big project, we'll have to do something about that lift."

Technology Specialist Paul Kosel also updated the council on a problem with a pipeline at the city swimming pool.

Continues on Page 3

County dumpsters continue to be abused; continued misuse could result in them being removed



Mike Scott oversees the Brown County Landfill and the 18 canister sites in Brown County. He is seen taking a photo of the excess non-compliant material dumped off at the Groton site east of town. He said that the Groton site has the honor of being the most abused site in the county. Scott has been at his job for 31 years.



The above and below photos shows what was left at the site on Friday.

According to Mike Scott, manager of the Brown County Landfill who also oversees the county dumpster sites throughout the county, "The garbage truck can't dump lumber as it jams up the blade inside as well as it breaks the cab window when sticking out of the can. Maybe someone knows who put this lumber in the can. They can call me at 605-380-0111. Or let them know it is illegal. With that much lumber someone had to see them put it there. It had to take a while to unload." The dumpsters are located just east of Groton along old Highway 12.



Scott said: "Rule of thumb. These sites are meant for bagged household trash. Just as you would put at the curb for the garbage man. No difference.

"A new sign will be made soon and remote camera coming soon as well. If people don't stop abusing it I will have to remove these cans."

Weekly Vikings Recap

Future Vikings Number Retirements

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

With yet another quiet week of Vikings news, we move on to a new fun Vikings topic: possible retired numbers.

Every year a new Minnesota Viking chooses to wear the number 84, Vikings fans everywhere start to debate whether that number should officially be retired. Although it does not appear like the Vikings are going to retire it any time soon as they awarded it to free agent acquisition, Josh Oliver, let's debate whether 84, as well as what other Vikings numbers should be retired.

Currently, the Vikings have six numbers retired: 10 (Fran Tarkenton), 53 (Mick Tinglehoff), 70 (Jim Marshall), 77 (Korey Stringer), 80 (Cris Carter), and 88 (Alan Page). With such a little amount of retired compared to other NFL teams, there is room for the Vikings to consider retiring more numbers.

22 (Paul Krause & Harrison Smith)

22 is the only number on this list with likely two Hall of Famers who have worn the number for the Minnesota Vikings. Paul Krause, who is the NFL's all-time leader in interceptions, and Harrison Smith, the face of the Vikings' defense during the 2010's decade, are two great Vikings' safeties that played the game so much different than one another. Krause was the "centerfielder" of the dominant Vikings' defenses in the 1970s. And, Smith is the "do-it-all" safety who can intercept passes or blitz the quarterback on any given play.

28 (Adrian Peterson)

The greatest running back in Vikings' history, Adrian Peterson, carried the Vikings during the 2010s, when the rest of the roster was not great. Peterson's 2012 MVP season alone is enough to get his number retired. However, his determination and will every time he touched the ball let Vikings fans everywhere know that this guy would give it his all on every given play. You can tell how much Peterson means to Vikings fans when he returned to watch the playoff game this season and the crowd gave him the loudest standing ovation of a returning former player ever for the Vikings.

64 (Randall McDaniel)

Besides the 1970s, the 1990s might be the greatest decade in Vikings' history. And the best player during that time was probably Randall McDaniel, who made first-team all-pro nine straight times from 1990-1998. Arguably, the best athlete in Vikings' history, Randall McDaniel's standout track career allowed McDaniel to do things from the offensive guard position that we have never seen before or since in Minnesota.

81 (Carl Eller)

One of the four faces of the Purple People Eaters, Carl Eller got elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004. He finished his career

with 7 all-pro selections and a defensive player of the year award in 1971. Today, Eller still frequents many Vikings' games and has a special connection with Minnesota sports as he won a National Championship with the Minnesota Golden Gophers in 1960.

84 (Randy Moss)

If you meet a Vikings fan that's not from Minnesota or the Dakotas and ask them why they are a Vikings fan, I bet you 90% of the people will give you the same answer: Randy Moss. Moss came onto the scene in 1998 and flipped the NFL completely on its head. Not only was he the best athlete the wide receiver position has ever seen, but he also had great hands and body control. I would argue that Moss is the most important player in Vikings history from a marketing perspective. He made being a Vikings fan cool, and he made the Metrodome the place to be on Sundays in the fall.

93 (John Randle & Kevin Williams)

Like 22, 93 has two great Vikings players that have worn the number, John Randle and Kevin Williams. John Randle and Kevin Williams have a combined 11 all-pro selections between them. Randle and Williams were much different sizes and personalities on the field. Randle stood 6'0", wore face paint, and never stopped talking trash to his opponents. Williams, on the other hand, is 6'5", even-keeled, and somewhat shy. However, despite their differences, they both were very similar when it came to dominating the opposing offensive line.

A ride for Carl

Editor's note: The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is a month away. Here's Tony's memory from 2013.

Bob and I sat, our motorcycles idle, among a quiet group of veterans, waiting for stragglers. But no one came late. Most of us had been there early enough to stretch our legs. A few of us smoked.

The veil of fog faded away from the black and green hues of the Black Hills. It looked like rain. Hell, it looked like sunshine. It felt like anything was possible. The echoes of motorcycles on the nearby interstate bounced off the blacktop parking lot like ricochets.

One of the leaders walked over, a black leather vest bore faded patches, the vestiges of Vietnam. He shook our hands, and it dawned on me that this group of maybe 50 veterans wasn't accustomed to anyone taking up the invitation to this pilgrimage. Bob told him we had come to honor his father.

Carl Greenfield had endured basic training at Ft. Meade just a few miles to the west. From there he had gone on to fight Nazis, culminating in the Battle of the Bulge where he was shot in the ribs by a sniper's bullet that, an inch or two higher or lower would have ended this story before it began. Instead, Carl returned home with a scar, two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star and a whole lot of things he kept to himself.

When it was time to ride, the leaders fired up their bikes followed by the rest of us in thunderous progression. The stars and stripes led the line of bikers to the Interstate where highway patrolmen respectfully parted traffic. We eased out onto the highway.

I thought back to the days when Bob and I



That's Life

by Tony Bender

shared an apartment on Railroad Avenue in Aberdeen, days when we would weave through 6th Avenue traffic on our motorcycles, invincible, long hair flying in the wind, teeth fixed in a grin that seemed to come so easy back then. We had graduated to bigger bikes that now, ironically, we drove much slower.

Red lights flashing, the highway patrolmen cleared our path, standing at attention. Evenly spaced, we slowed and turned of one mind, like a school of fish. We inhaled deeply the fragrance of the pines.

Bob and I don't see each other much these days. He's out in Denver. I'm out here. But Sturgis is a good place to meet, so that is what we do from time to time. A few years back, we went to the museum at Ft. Meade so Bob could trace his father's steps. It was hot inside, permeated by the smell of historical dust. Bob studied the pictures and relics and tried to imagine what it had been like and perhaps who his father had been. It seemed my friend was recording history, sacred family history. These are the memories a son keeps for his father. Carl's own memory slipped away in large parcels in the end, unable at times recall the name of the son who loved him so much. Sometimes death steals us piece by piece. Back in Castlewood, the grass had yet to sprout on the fresh black mound of dirt where Carl lay, at peace and finally reunited with his memories, united with his wife and a son lost to leukemia.

That weekend, I realized how much Bob had begun to look like his father and I wondered how much I looked like mine. He hadn't said much about his father's passing. Just the usual things.

Slowly, we turned into Black Hills Cemetery, and the solemn site of 19,000 white crosses seemed to mute the pops, snorts and growls from our mufflers. One by one, we circled and parked, meeting in a small circular open-air building. A grizzled gray-bearded chaplain stepped forward in boots and chaps to speak of sacrifice and loss. And of hope. The usual things.

We stood in a circle, swallowing hard, honoring the ghosts of our contemplation. When the chaplain finished his prayer, we stood for a moment longer as if no one wanted to be the first to move.

The man who had first welcomed us moved closer to Bob and put his hand on his shoulder. And then another. And another, until he was surrounded by brothers, each sharing his loss.

I walked out, stood, and looked out over the graves and waited. I thought about what each cross represented—the lives cut short and the grief endured. I thought about Carl, and somehow I knew he was going to be just fine. When I glanced up, Bob was there, some invisible burden now gone from his shoulders. He seemed... well, satisfied. Suddenly I became aware of sounds again. I heard the gentle flap of the flags in the breeze, the birds and the faint roar of two-stroke engines.

It looked like rain. For the time being, though, the sun shone defiantly upon the clean white crosses. Mindful of the clouds moving our way, we scattered as we had come together, in ones and twos, and then we were gone.

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Items stolen from vehicles in Groton

From the Groton Police Department Facebook Page:

During the night of July 7th 2023 through the morning of July 8th 2023 The Groton Police Department has received calls for several vehicles that had been gone through. Multiples items have been reported stolen including a vehicle. The vehicle has since been located with the help of the Brown County Sheriff's Office. These incidents are still under investigation and if you have any information, or videos/pictures you believe may be helpful please contact the Groton Police Department.

The Groton Police Department would also like to remind everyone to follow these three simple rules to help prevent thefts from your vehicle and the theft of your vehicle.

- Make sure you lock your vehicle.
- Do not leave anything of value in your vehicle.
- Do not leave the keys in the vehicle.

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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Declaration of Independence: Advancing American Ideals

The Declaration of Independence—its words, elements, and ramifications—remains profoundly relevant in America. As the founding document of the world's longest running democracy and the ultimate expression of the ideas, values, and principles that culminated in the American Revolution, it certainly deserves a special place in our national consciousness, debates, policies, and laws.

The celebration of the Declaration, from coast to coast on July 4, unites the nation in civic idealism in a way that no other national holiday can. Students recite memorable lines from America's political creed, unique to the world at its birth. Parades and fireworks celebrate liberty and independence and commemorate the vision and courage of the men in Philadelphia who signed the Declaration despite the risk to life and limb that their signatures invited. Government officials read proclamations and deliver speeches invoking its values and themes. The full day of celebration suggests possibilities for civic education.

The celebration—and celebration—of the Declaration yields important discussions about its origins and intellectual influences, as well as critical questions about the means of its fulfillment. Let us consider today two cornerstones, the principle that "all men are created equal" and the premise that "just" governments derive their legitimacy from the consent of the governed. Both assertions were radical for their time and drew upon the work of dissidents, the Levellers and Diggers, in 17th Century England.

Abraham Lincoln, our poet president, described the Declaration as "the sheet anchor of the Republic," a charter that set forth a new American creed, announcing to the world the birth of a nation "conceived in liberty," dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights," including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." For Lincoln, the institution of slavery meant that the Declaration was speaking not of rights for all in 1776, but rather of "aspirational rights" that could be achieved once the nation reached political and social maturity.

The fulfillment of this cardinal principle of republicanism awaited the

drafting and ratification of the 14th Amendment which, in addition to protection for due process and the privileges and immunities of citizenship, guaranteed the "equal protection of the law." This historic provision, however, was soon deprived of its majesty through Supreme Court decisions, Jim Crow and segregation laws that relegated Black Americans to second class citizenship.

Drained of its promise, the premise of equal protection found critical support in a series of decisions, beginning with *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), that struck down segregation in public schools and affirmative action programs that began to level the playing field. The Court's ruling last week striking down affirmative action in universities raises deep concerns about the future of opportunities in higher education for underrepresented communities.

America's assertion of independence rested on the embryonic idea of popular sovereignty, the premise that the authority and legitimacy of government are derived from the consent of the governed. That assertion, the offspring of English dissidents who rebelled against the authority of the monarchy, justified the American Revolution. Indeed, the long list of grievances against England featured mostly prominently the colonists' outrage at the specter of being subordinate to parliamentary authority—including taxing powers—without representation. Few sentiments in Americans' political memory banks rival in familiarity the rallying cry of the revolution: "no taxation without representation."

That philosophical cornerstone of the American rebellion has faced stern challenges in our history, particularly when it involves denial of voting rights. The 15th Amendment and the 19th Amendment remedied denial of the franchise to Blacks and women, respectively, but the embarrassing fact of denial of voting representation in Congress to those Americans who live in Washington, D.C., is an affront to those colonists who gave their lives in the revolution for the right to voting representation in Parliament.

Let us stamp that inequality and deprivation of a foundational right with an exclamation point. The population of Washington, D.C., is approximate to that of Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota combined. We can ask residents of these great states how they would feel if, say tomorrow, they awakened with news that they were denied representation in Congress. Who would speak for them on the great issues of the day, issues affecting their regions and home life? Would such a denial move them to urge voting representation in Congress for fellow Americans who also pay taxes and go to war to defend the nation and, in the end, bear the same obligations and duties of citizenship that they do?

Groton City

Continued from front

A pipe broke under the building at the swimming pool, and there was water coming out of the concrete, he said. That pipe feeds the geysers in the kiddie pool area, and it has been turned off until something is done to fix the pipe.

"The question remains do we want to try and fix them or not," Kosel said. "Because that's going to be a huge expense because they're under the concrete."

New library option discussed

The Wage Memorial Library may soon host movie nights.

Librarian and Assistant Finance Officer Kellie Locke is looking into whether the library could host movie nights, said Councilwoman Babcock. The library would need either a projector screen or a large television to show those movies.

It would allow the library to continue scheduled reading times into the fall and allow for fun activities when it's cold outside, Babcock said.

Summer Fest approaching

Topper Tastad reminded the council that the Lions Club is sponsoring the seventh annual Summer Fest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Groton City Park.

There will be a 9 a.m. church service, a car show, vendors and more, he said.

Comfort station designs still a concern

Discussion continued about preferred designs for a tornado shelter/bathroom facility at the city park.

While decisions were not finalized, the council reviewed the three options presented to the council at its last meeting in June.

Option No. 1 includes two-toned pre-cast concrete walls, trusses and a gable roof. The trusses and roof would be added on top of a concrete shell that makes up the tornado shelter.

Option No. 2 includes a single-color pre-cast concrete shell with a flat roof that includes an overhang. Option No. 3 would be the same single-color pre-cast concrete shell, but the flat roof would not include any overhang.

A recent poll of residents on Facebook showed many preferred option No. 1, with option No. 2 coming in second, said Councilwoman Karyn Babcock.

Councilman Brian Bahr responded, "Yeah, but No. 1 is the most expensive, and we'd have a \$50,000 roof."

Much of the costs for the main comfort station facility is expected to come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. However, Bahr said, cosmetic additions like the gable roof would have to be covered by city funding.

Council members compared option No. 3 to a jail or mausoleum.

While cosmetic upgrades would be shouldered by the city, in the long term it will make the city park more appealing, said Councilwoman Shirley Wells.

Babcock agreed.

"It's a one-time deal though, so we have to make sure (it looks nice)," she said.

The comfort station is set to be back before the council at its next meeting in July, where officials anticipate presenting a breakdown of what costs would be covered by grant funding and what would have to fall to the city.

- The council voted to keep legal advertisements in the Groton Independent and keep banking with Dacotah Bank. "We've had good luck with them, so I suggest we stay with them," Mayor Scott Hanlon said. Councilman Brian Bahr agreed: "I'm OK with that. Keep everything the status quo."

- The city council approved a replat of the site that houses the Groton historic jailhouse. However, a request to transfer ownership of the property where the jailhouse sits was tabled until the replat has been finalized with the county and filed with the Brown County Register of Deeds.

- The council approved language for a temporary use agreement to use the new city park sound system. The agreement includes a \$500 deposit to cover any damage to the sound system while it is leased out, as well as an agreement to act in a responsible manner concerning noise levels and times of use.

- Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay told the council about problems with one of the lights at the baseball field. "It's falling over, and it needs work," he said. "We had to replace one of the breakers last week because it wasn't working." It is something the city will need to address, though Gay said he hopes to get through the rest of the year with what is currently there.

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Brown County
July 6, 2023
Meeting Minutes
 JULY 6, 2023 - GENERAL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
 Commissioner Gage moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Fjeldheim. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AVERA ST. LUKE'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & ADDICTION CARE SERVICES:
 Jessi Paysen and Jodi Heperle met with the Brown County Commission to give an update of the service provided to Brown County residents and submit their budget request for Fiscal Year 2024. The program offers six levels of care for alcohol, drug, and gambling addiction treatment delivered through inpatient and outpatient services. Funding is provided in part from the state as well as the annual funding received from Brown County. In 2021, an intensive methamphetamine treatment program was implemented which is producing a positive success rate. This program offers resources to connect patients to positive sources of support as well as reintegrate them into the community through jobs and community service. Some patients choose to relocate in Brown County due to the support system developed while in the program. Ross Aldentaler inquired about their tracking of this program as there are opioid grant funds that could potentially be tapped into for supplemental funding. They are requesting \$25,000 for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

BID FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY - 2914 INDUSTRIAL AVE.
 Rod Tobin representing both Harris Machine Company and the Aberdeen Development Corporation, and Jay Harris of Harris Machine Company addressed the Brown County Commission to share information regarding Harris Machine Company and its impact to Brown County. Mr. Tobin stated this is a unique opportunity to both bring a quality employer to Aberdeen and keep our regional jail on the forefront. Harris Machine Company began in Oakes, ND and currently has a 3.5-million-dollar payroll. Starting wage for many employees will be \$30.00 an hour or over, starting with 25 employees with the goal of 100 employees and a 7-million-dollar payroll. Their plan includes building improvements to enhance safety for employees. Mr. Tobin remarked on several economic benefits the county and region would gain by Harris Machine Company moving to Aberdeen. The current offer by Harris is \$4,000,000.00. The Aberdeen Development Corporation has given an extra 11 acres to the west of the Hub City building to Harris for future expansion. The company is also committed to an apprenticeship program for the incarcerated if and when a regional jail is established in Aberdeen. Mr. Tobin respectfully requested the County to accept the current bid of \$4,000,000.00 by Harris to purchase the building to reestablish a positive cash flow, bring jobs, and continue to work on the regional jail complex. Mr. Harris requested the ability to

lease the facility for \$1.00 immediately with the intent to close in 90 days to prepare the building for operation. Chairman Sutton inquired with Deputy States Attorney Ross Aldentaler to ensure this process is not breaking any bid process laws. Mr. Aldentaler stated the process would be to reject the current bid from Harris, then work through the process of selling it on a negotiated basis per a SD statute on industrial development.

Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Dennert to table this item until the Consent Calendar and an Executive Session have been completed. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

MINUTES:
 Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve the General Meeting minutes of June 27, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:
 Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve the following claims and payroll: Professional Fees: Angela Lisburg \$164.22; Avera Medial Group Emergency \$22.07; Avera Medical Group Radiology \$971.08; Avera St. Luke's Hospital \$748.97; Blackburn & Stevens, Prof. LLC \$96.30; CGI, LLC \$1,721.88; Darcy L. Lockwood \$33.00; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$357.95; Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. \$560.00; Kennedy Pier Knoff Loftus, LLP \$160.50; Lincoln County Treasurer \$27.50; Lucy Lewno \$170.00; Lumen ED \$465.92; Sanford Clinic Aberdeen \$94.58; Sanford Clinic Radiology-North Center \$235.26; Sanford Health \$746.84; Sargent County Sheriff \$138.00; SD Dept of Transportation \$62.57; SD Veterans Service Officers Association \$200.00; Valerie J. Larson \$33.00; Yankton County Sheriff's Office \$100.00; Yankton County Treasurer \$923.60. Publishing: Groton Daily Independent \$132.73; Midstates Group \$315.00; New Century Press Inc \$45.51. Rentals: Dakota Wood-Grinding Inc \$2,775.00. Repairs & Maintenance: B&B Contracting, Inc \$5,913.28; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$477.90; Graham Tire Inc \$170.93; Hase Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc \$1,078.11; HF Jacobs & Son Const. Inc \$1,460.43; Hoven Auto Repair, Inc \$1,000.00; Interstate Power-systems \$823.00; K&S Plumbing, Inc \$122.45; Lawson Products, Inc \$50.95; Loiseau Construction, Inc \$120,145.60; Midwest Pump & Tank \$2.68. Supplies: Aberdeen Floral LLC \$98.00; Aramark \$123.43; Century Business Products \$19.78; Cole Paper Inc \$5,339.32; Cook's Correctional \$169.14; Crawford Trucks & Equipment \$5,546.67; Dakota Oil \$6,548.64; Farm Power Mfg \$13.00; Fastenal Company \$130.20; FedEx \$34.64; Fox Law Firm, PLLC \$3.85; Geffdog Designs \$1,451.54; Great Western Tire \$13,070.90; Jensen Rock & Sand Inc \$116,967.96; Lar-Jo's Specialties \$387.96; Lawson Products, Inc \$681.91; Lien Transportation Company \$124,523.37; Lucy Lewno \$6.60; McKesson Medical-Surgical Government Solutions \$99.41; Midstates Group \$343.20; Midwest Pump & Tank \$131.27; Pantorium Cleaners Inc \$28.00; Performance Oil \$1,083.63; Pheasantland Industries \$128.41; Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC \$1,046.10; Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, Inc \$833.36; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc \$476.60; Premier Southern Ticket \$824.90; Runnings \$49.98; Share Corporation \$544.80; Stan Houston Equipment Company,

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Inc \$39.95; Uline \$1,098.82. Travel & Conference: Carrie Weisenberger \$24.88; Dale Kurth \$122.04; Darwin Bettmann \$16.50; David North \$114.42; Doug Fjeldheim \$217.26; Drew Dennert \$311.10; Duane Sutton \$316.91; Holiday Inn City Centre Sioux Falls \$900.00; James Meyers \$20.60; Patrick Keatts \$12.34; Sherri Rawstern \$120.00; Stan Beckler \$19.89. Utilities: AT&T Mobility \$183.91; CenturyLink \$284.83; Midcontinent Communications \$249.19; Northwestern Energy \$6,697.13. Machinery & Equipment: LyCox Enterprises Inc \$20,140.00. Payroll: Commission \$4,615.41; Auditor \$11,144.01; Treasurer \$17,517.74; SA \$28,295.44; Maintenance \$8,628.73; Assessor \$16,796.81; Register of Deeds \$9,932.81; VSO \$4,254.09; GIS \$2,643.52; IT \$5,892.04; HR \$4,698.75; Sheriff \$51,494.40; Jail \$61,678.34; Coroner \$613.60; Court Security \$8,107.56; JDC/HD \$30,322.02; Welfare \$2,336.49; Museum \$11,489.03; Parks/Fairgrounds \$7,048.62; Fair \$5,005.95; 4-H \$1,271.18; Weed \$5,322.29; P&Z \$7,269.46; Highway \$49,932.30; Dispatch \$41,469.04; EM \$4,933.61; 24/7 Sobriety \$2,870.24; Landfill \$15,101.20SDRS Pay-out \$19,278.60; Retirement Award \$150.00; FICA \$26,082.12; Medicare \$6,099.88; Health Insurance-Wellmark BCBS \$122,470.94; Dental Insurance-Delta \$8,247.76; Life Insurance-Deborn \$1,027.14; Retirement-SDRS \$79,060.87. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

HR REPORT:
 Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve the following Human Resource Report submitted by Human Resources Director, Allison Tunheim: Acknowledge the resignation of Mathew Coughlin, Brown County Landfill Grounds Worker, part-time; effective June 23, 2023. Request to fill. Acknowledge the resignation of Paige Smit, Brown County 911 Communications Officer, full-time; effective July 6, 2023. Request to fill. As a result of the 911 Communications Council Action meeting, 911 Communications Officers will raise from Grade 13 to Grade 14. Retroactive from January 1, 2023. As a result of the 911 Communications Council Action meeting, Sarah Jesz's pay will be retroactive from January 2023 through April 2023. As a result of the 911 Communications Council Action meeting, Kent Jones' job title will change from 911 Communications Manager to 911 Director. As a result of the 911 Communications Council Action meeting, Sarah Jesz's job title will change from 911 Assistant Manager to 911 Assistant Director. Approve the hiring of Taylor Harmon as Brown County Jail Detention Officer, full-time; starting wage \$20.67/hour-effective July 10, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

CLAIM ASSIGNMENT:
 Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to authorize and approve the Auditor sign the Claim Assignments against individuals to Credit Collections Bureau for the purpose of collecting liens. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

AUDITORS REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR MAY 2023:
 Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Gage to approve the Auditor's Report of Accounts of April 2023 as follows: Total Cash and Checks on Hand \$7,700.00; Total Checking Account Balances \$32,950,763.89; Total Savings Account Balances \$2,725,447.42; Total Certificates of Deposit \$5,479,550.72; Grand Total Cash & Balances \$41,163,462.03. General Fund Cash and Investment Balances by Funds: General Fund \$20,786,014.85; Road & Bridge Fund \$3,355,448.19; Road & Bridge Fund-restricted \$423,243.27; 911 Service \$613,284.68; Emergency & Disaster \$153,787.34; Domestic Abuse \$1,274.76; Teen Court \$250.28; Grant \$32.11; JDAI \$48,317.77; Truancy Court (\$34.43); Richmond Youth Camp \$0.00; 24/7 Sobriety \$21,863.87; ROD M&P \$93,417.17; American Rescue Plan Federal Grant \$0.00; Rural Access Infrastructure \$295,534.81; Tif Debt Service \$449,303.97; Landfill + cash change \$4,228,418.36; Landfill - restricted \$1,400,479.44; Trust and Agency Funds \$9,292,825.59; Grand Total General Fund Cash & Investments \$41,163,462.03. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

PLATS:
 Resolution #22-23
 Commissioner Wiese brought the following resolution: "Be it

resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Ludwig Second Subdivision in the SE 1/4 of Section 33-T124N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #23-23
 Commissioner Wiese brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "Layne Howard First Addition in the S 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 28-T124N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined, is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3 and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution #24-23
 Commissioner Wiese brought the following resolution: "Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, South Dakota, that the plat showing "T. Erickson Addition in the NW 1/4 of Section 29, Township 122 North, Range 62 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota" having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL of 1967, Chapter 11-3, and any amendments thereof." Seconded by Commissioner Gage. All members present voting aye. Resolution adopted.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:
 Moved by Commissioner Dennert, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the following lease agreement: Joel Podoll for lease of Richmond Youth Camp for Wedding on September 23, 2023; Pauer Sound Inc for lease of personal property owned by Brown County on July 22-23, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

FAIR CONTRACT:
 Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign the Agreement for Upside-Down & Backwards Touring, Inc. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOTTERY PERMIT:
 Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to approve and authorize Chairman Sutton to sign application, submitted by Richmond Lake Association for a lottery to be held at Anchors Away on July 22, 2023. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERORMANCE GRANT:
 Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Gage to approve the Commission Chair to sign the 3rd quarter LEMPG Grant Report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Bob Schatz made comments to the Commission board his opinions stating the sale of the Hub City building and regional jail.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to go into Executive Session for Contracts per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chairman declared the executive session closed.

BID FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY - 2914 INDUSTRIAL AVE.
 Moved by Wiese, seconded by Gage to reject the bid of \$3,600,000.00 bid from Harris Machine Company. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Sutton stated as a result of rejecting that bid, the County will begin negotiations with Aberdeen Development Corporation to facilitate a potential sale to Harris Machine Company for the purpose of industrial development, and the jail needs to be top priority and keep moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 Moved by Commissioner Wiese, seconded by Dennert to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Legal per SDCL 1-25-2. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. The Chairman declared the executive session closed with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:
 Moved by Commissioner Fjeldheim, seconded by Wiese to adjourn the Brown County Commission meeting at 10:03 a.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Janel Hettich, Brown County Chief Deputy Auditor
 Published July 12, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$138.80 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22334

Henry Township Weed Notice

HENRY TOWNSHIP
WEED NOTICE
Henry Township owners and tenants of Henry Township are hereby notified and required according to law, to cut all weeds in the road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within said township on or before July 15, 2023 or someone will be hired by the township board and \$250.00 per mile changed to the abutting property.
By order of the township board.
Darlene Sass
Township Clerk
Published July 5 and July 12, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$13.25 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22313

Frederick School June 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

FREDERICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #6-2
Special Board of Education Meeting
June 28, 2023
A special meeting of the Frederick Area Board of Education was called to order on June 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. by President Rich Schlosser. Members present were Jon Ellwein and Alex Hart. Others present were Superintendent/9-12 Principal/Athletic Director Jeff Koster and Business Manager Shauna Severson. The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
Motion 2023-153 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to amend the agenda to include approval of music fund transfer. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
No one was present for public comment.
No conflict of interest disclosures.
Motion 2023-154 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve the addition of a custodial account- Volleyball. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-155 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve an Autism Training stipend of \$800.00 per trainee: Jen Little, Jessica Mardian, Melissa Meidinger and Traci Reineke. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-156 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve a General Fund transfer of \$2011.00 to the Driver's Ed Fund. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-157 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve Resolution 2023-004 - 2022/2023 Budget Supplements. Upon roll call, all present voted Aye. Motion carried.
BE IT RESOLVED, by the school board of the Frederick Area School District that the budget in the General, Capital Outlay, Special Education and Food Service Funds be supplemented as follows:
10 1121 000 111, Middle/JH Programs - Certified Salaries, \$ 16,718.00
10 1121 000 210, Middle/JH Programs - Social Security, \$ 790.00
10 1121 000 220, Middle/JH Programs - Retirement, \$ 409.00
10 1121 000 230, Middle/JH Programs - Health Insurance, \$ 2549.00
10 2128 902 319, Title I Parent Involvement Activities - Prof. Service, \$ 1,200.00
10 2311 000 315, Board of Education - Registration Fees, \$ 150.00
10 2311 000 319, Board of Education - Professional Services, \$ 968.00
10 2311 000 350, Board of Education - Advertising, \$ 950.00
10 2311 000 640, Board of Education - Dues & Fees, \$ 25,424.00
10 2317 000 319, Audit Services, \$ 1,661.00
10 2321 000 113, Office of the Superintendent - Admin Salaries, \$ 1,432.00
10 2569 914 461, Food Services (FFVP), \$ 7,657.00
10 6100 010 111, Male Activities - Salaries, \$ 1,829.00
10 6500 000 114, Activity Transportation, \$ 1,447.00
10 6900 219 411, Combined Activities - Concessions, \$ 10,124.00
General Fund Total, \$ 73,308.00
21 2542 000 323, Security Services - Repairs & Maintenance, \$ 7,484.00
21 2546 000 549, Security Services - Equipment, \$ 34,668.00
21 2559 922 549, Transportation - Equipment ESSER III, \$ 60,772.00

21 8110 404 690, Transfers Out - General, \$ 101,810.00
Capital Outlay Total, \$ 204,734.00
22 1226 000 112, Early Childhood Programs - Para Salaries, \$ 423.00
22 2171 000 319, Physical Therapy, \$ 912.00
22 2172 000 319, Occupational Therapy, \$ 6,153.00
22 2529 000 640, Fiscal Services - Dues & Fees, \$ 2,262.00
Special Education Total, \$ 9,750.00
51 2569 922 114, Food Service - Classified Salaries ESSER II, \$ 800.00
51 2569 000 120, Food Service - Sub Salaries, \$ 186.00
51 2569 000 319, Food Service - Professional Services, \$ 723.00
Special Education Total, \$ 1,709.00
Motion 2023-158 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve Resolution 2023-005 - 2022/2023 Contingency Transfers. Upon roll call, all present voted Aye. Motion carried.
BE IT RESOLVED, by the school board of the Frederick Area School District that the contingency budget amount be transferred to the following budget line items:
21 1111 923 422, Elementary - Instructional Software, \$4,656.00
21 2410 000 472, Office of the Principal - Computer Software, \$243.00
21 2529 000 640, Fiscal Services, - Dues & Fees, \$3,024.00
21 2542 000 323, Care & Upkeep of Building - Repairs, \$16,402.00
21 2542 000 479, Care & Upkeep of Building - Non Cap Equip, \$1,200.00
21 2542 000 549, Care & Upkeep of Building - Equipment, \$7,245.00
21 2549 000 549, Operation & Maintenance - Equipment, \$6,877.00
21 2559 000 479, Transportation - Non Cap Equipment, \$3,236.00
21 2569 000 472, Food Services- Computer Software, \$1,831.00
21 6100 010 479, Male Activities, - Equipment, \$2,933.00
21 6200 000 479, Female Activities - Non Cap Equipment, \$1,270.00
21 6900 000 549, Combined Activities - Equipment, \$1,083.00
Total Contingency Transfers: \$50,000.00
Motion 2023-159 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to approve FY23 district bills. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Bills approved: General Fund: Aberdeen Awards-VB awards, 90.00; Agtegra-Fuel, 563.99; Beef Logic-grant not fulfilled, 190.16; Brown Co. Landfill-waste, 62.74; FASD Imprest Fund-misc., 448.25; Flamingo Hotel-National Principal Conference, 1,128.44; GDI News-publishing, 36.98; Hamlin School District-region golf share, 25.22; MDU-utilities, 2,561.76. Special Education Fund: Caseys-fuel autism training, 34.04; Holiday-fuel autism training, 65.29; LaQuinta Inn-autism training travel, 1,763.40; Loves-fuel autism training, 71.68. Food Service Fund: Gunther, Ashley-summer deduction overpayment, 45.08; Schwan Electric-kitchen electric work, 722.86. Custodial Fund: Best Western Plus-track, 833.00; BSN Sports-FB, 725.46; First National Bank-BBB, 2,350.00; Kesslers-teacher slush, 49.29; Ramada-track, 375.00; Valley City State University-FB, 760.00. Imprest Fund: Dickey County Sheriff-fingerprints, 5.00; Division of Criminal Investigation-background; First National Bank-autism training meals (4), 400.00.
Motion 2023-160 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve a Custodial Fund interest transfer of \$14.73 To the General Fund. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-161 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to declare surplus: iPad, pencil sharpener, Promethean Panels, TVs, laptops at no value. The list of surplus property is available in the office of the business manager. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-162 Motion by Ellwein, second by Hart to approve a General Fund transfer of \$6,705.14 to the Custodial Fund for the Music Trip account. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
Motion 2023-163 Motion by Hart, second by Ellwein to adjourn at 10:12 a.m. All voted aye, Motion carried.
Rich Schlosser, President
Shauna Severson, Business Manager
Published July 5, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$70.36 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22330

Groton City July 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023
The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at 120 N Main Street for their first monthly meeting with the following members present: Bahr, Wells, Wambach, Babcock, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Douglas Heinrich, Todd Gay, Dwight Zerr, Paul Kosel, Topper Tastad, and Elizabeth Varin.
Moved by Wambach and seconded by Babcock to approve the agenda with the addition of library discussion during department reports. All members present voted aye.
Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.
Department reports were reviewed, and updates were provided to council regarding the Wage Memorial Library.
Dwight Zerr and Todd Gay exited the meeting.
No discussion took place regarding the Groton Municipal Airport due to the absence of Darrell Hillestad.
No discussion took place initially regarding the park bathrooms; however, discussion did take place later in the meeting regarding the results of the Facebook poll.
Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wambach to approve the Groton Historical Jail Addition, a Replat of Lot 7, Block 3, Original Plat of Groton. All members present voted aye.
Moved by Babcock and seconded by Wells to table the approval to transfer ownership of the jailhouse property to Groton Historical Society. All members present voted aye.
Topper Tastad and Paul Kosel exited the meeting.
Moved by Bahr and seconded by Wambach to approve the temporary use agreement for the City Park sound system. All members present voted aye.
Moved by Wells and seconded by Babcock to appoint The Groton Independent as the official newspaper and Dacotah Bank as the official bank for the City of Groton. All members present voted aye.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Bahr and seconded by Wambach. All members present voted aye.
Moved by Wambach and seconded by Bahr to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.
Payroll, \$43,405.18, Employee salaries; Executive, \$685.43; Administrative, \$4,427.86; Public Safety, \$9,248.01; Public Works, \$12,932.33; Culture & Recreation, \$16,111.55; Aaron Severson, \$450.00, U12 baseball tournament umpire pay; Seth Erickson, \$450.00, U10 baseball tournament umpire pay; Dacotah Bank, \$8,945.23, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dakotahland FCU, \$730.00, Employee savings; Dacotah Bank, \$622.90, HSA contributions; Greg's Repair, \$478.58, New tires and tire repair for Tahoe - PD; Verizon Wireless, \$40.01, Wireless router for camera - Rubble Site; Stacy Mayou, \$1,245.96, Med flex; Terry Herron, \$799.84, Med flex; Allied Benefit Systems, \$10,978.48, Employee insurance; Aflac, \$336.62, Employee insurance; Guardian Insurance, \$38.49, Employee insurance; Employer's Mutual Insurance, \$82.70, Employee insurance; Colonial Life, \$69.40, Employee insurance; USA Softball Hall of Fame Classic, \$100.00, U10 softball tournament entry fee; Dacotah Bank, \$3,343.35, Withholding/SS/Medicare; Dacotah Bank, \$50.00, HSA contributions; Groton Daily Independent, \$342.48, Publishing fees; Bahr's Jungle Lanes & Lounge, \$53.47, Pizza for baseball groundskeepers - Baseball; Border States

Industries, Inc., \$1,020.50, (3) cable spreaders, connectors - Electric; Railroad Management Co, LLC., \$344.67, License fee for power line crossing - #305566 - Electric; Eric Moody, \$100.00, Reimbursement for U8 baseball tournament entry fee; Lien Transportation Company, \$6,737.37, Hot mix - Streets; SD Department of Health, \$120.00, Water & Swimming Pool testing; Paul Kosel, \$45.50, Reimbursement for pool sample postage; employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; Landon Johnson, \$40.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; Brandon Abeln, \$40.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; Kellie Locke, \$40.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; April Abeln, \$40.00, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; Douglas Heinrich, \$282.35, Employee cell phone reimbursement - May/June 2023; mileage reimbursement - Budget Training in Sioux Falls; Banyon Data Systems, \$990.00, Payroll timecard entry & UB Meter Device annual support fee - City Hall; Ladner Electric, \$543.37, New home electric supplies - Electric; Angerhofer Concrete Products, Inc., \$35.00, 2 sandblasted bricks w/ names - Swimming Pool; SD Supplemental Retirement, \$290.00, Supplemental retirement; Geffdog Designs, \$252.00, Pickleball court signs (no skateboarding, etc.), baseball field banner; Glenn Bitz, \$150.00, Window cleaning service - City Hall; J's Superior Cleaning, \$240.00, Commercial cleaning services - June 2023 - City Hall; NW Energy, \$633.88, Natural gas service - Swimming Pool & PD; Irby, Inc., \$334.00, Cable grip - Electric; Aramark, \$58.03, Rug rent - City Hall; Dollar General, \$482.65, Bottled water, cleaning supplies, tissues, clock, paper towels, garbage bags, bandages, soap, flashlight, batteries, creamer, napkins, fan, markers, snacks, baking soda, potting soil, toilet paper - Multiple Departments; Eide Bailly, LLP, \$15,000.00, Progress billing - 2020/2021 audit - City Hall; USPS, \$146.00, PO box annual service fee - City Hall; Farmers Union Co-op Assoc., \$634.26, Unleaded gasoline - Ballpark and Cemetery; Diesel Machinery, Inc., \$2,850.00, Rental of Bomag Roller - 6/12/23 to 7/2/23 - Streets; WEB Water, \$31,848.48, Water services - June 2023; AutoZone, Inc., \$171.78, Starter, air filter - Shop; S&S Lumber Company, \$947.22, Copper tee, bolts, washers, nuts, super glue, paint, brushes, liners, flanged tail piece, trowel, garden hose end, stain finish, field marker, concrete mix, spray foam, LED light bulb, pump sprayers, spray paint, toggle switch, trimmer line, stop leak, connectors, snap pins, wire terminals, vinyl hose, gloves, fuel line hose, filters, marking paint, screwdrivers, spray nozzles, hose clamp - Multiple Departments; Watertown Baseball Association, \$150.00, U10 baseball tournament fee refund; Flihes Sales & Service, \$3,900.88, Bagger collection system, deck kit, and new blades for Bobcat mower - Parks; Vermeer High Plains, \$176.57, 3" T handle - Electric; Drew Johnson, \$1,750.00, Legal services - June 2023;
Reminder: The Lions Club is sponsoring the 7th Annual Summer Fest from 9:00am to 4:00pm on July 9, 2023, at Groton City Park!
Adjournment into executive session did not take place due to there being no personnel or legal matters to discuss.
Moved by Wells and seconded by Bahr to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. All members present voted aye.
Scott Hanlon, Mayor
Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer
Published July 12, 2023, at the total approximate cost of \$138.80 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 22334

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Mayor Scott Hanlon chats with his car show buddies at Summer Fest held Sunday in Groton. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

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MEMBER FDIC
Groton Independent ♦ Wed., July 12, 2023 ♦ 5

STIP PUBLIC MEETINGS
S.D. Dept. of Transportation has developed a Tentative 2024-2027 Four-Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Tentative STIP includes all the state sponsored transportation projects for this time period. Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be conducted on the following dates to receive public comment on the tentative program.
July 11, 2023 - AmericInn - Aberdeen 7:00 PM (CDT)
July 12, 2023 - Southeast Technical Institute, Sullivan Health Center - Sioux Falls 7:00 PM (CDT)
July 13, 2023 - Ramkota Inn - Rapid City 7:00 PM (MDT)
July 19, 2023 - Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center - Fort Pierre 7:00 PM (CDT)
Meetings will be in-person and virtual. For more information and how to participate virtually, please visit <https://dot.sd.gov/projects-studies/planning/tentative-statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>.
Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting.

Watertown beats Groton Jr. Legion

Groton Jr. Legion watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 12-6 loss to Watertown JR Legion on Wednesday. Watertown JR Legion scored on a single by Talan Jurgens in the first inning, a sacrifice fly by Blake Davis in the second inning, a single by Mitch Olson in the second inning, and a fielder's choice by Markus Pitkin in the second inning.

Groton Jr. Legion collected one hit and Watertown JR Legion had 11 in the high-scoring affair.

In the first inning, Watertown JR Legion got their offense started when Jurgens singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Legion put up three runs in the sixth inning. Groton Jr. Legion big bats were led by Brevin Flihs and Braxton Imrie, who all drove in runs.

Watertown JR Legion scored four runs in the second inning. Watertown JR Legion's big inning was driven by a single by Olson, a sac fly by Davis, and a fielder's choice by Pitkin.

Jackson Espland pitched Watertown JR Legion to victory. Espland went two innings, allowing zero runs on zero hits and walking zero.

Korbin Kucker took the loss for Groton Jr. Legion. The righthander lasted two innings, allowing three hits and five runs while striking out one.

Colby Dunker led Groton Jr. Legion with one hit in three at bats.

Watertown JR Legion tallied 11 hits on the day. Olson, Max Dylla, Jurgens, and Pitkin each managed multiple hits for Watertown JR Legion. Olson went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Watertown JR Legion in hits. Jurgens led Watertown JR Legion with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with ten stolen bases.

Groton Jr. Legion Takes a Tough Blow From Watertown JR Legion

It was a tough day on Thursday for Groton Jr. Legion, who lost 10-0 to Watertown JR Legion

One bright spot for Groton Jr. Legion was a single by Braxton Imrie in the first inning.

Max Dylla led the Watertown JR Legion to victory on the mound. The pitcher surrendered zero runs on three hits over four innings, striking out five and walking one.

Caden Mcinerney took the loss for Groton Jr. Legion. Mcinerney surrendered three runs on three hits over two innings, walking zero.

Korbin Kucker led Groton Jr. Legion with two hits in two at bats.

Jackson Espland went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Watertown JR Legion in hits. Watertown JR Legion was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Cole Hansen made the most plays with five.

Groton Jr. Teeners Goes Down on Final Play Against W.I.N.

Groton Jr. Teeners fell to Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern 13-12 on Wednesday on the final play of the game. The game was tied at 12 with Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern batting in the bottom of the seventh when Brayden singled on a 1-2 count, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners fell behind by seven runs in the fifth inning, but then tried to fight back. Groton Jr. Teeners scored six runs in the failed comeback on a double by Karson Zak, a single by Shaydon Wood, a single by Alex Abeln, an error, and a single by Easton Weber.

In the first inning, Groton Jr. Teeners got their offense started. Ryder Schelle doubled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern scored eight runs in the fifth inning. The offensive firepower by Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern was led by Gage, Easton, Bekket, Lincoln B, Brayden, and Lincoln K, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Logan was credited with the victory for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. undefined went one inning, allowing two runs on two hits, striking out two and walking zero. Gage threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Ethan Kroll toed the rubber for Groton jr. Teeners 14U. The pitcher allowed eight hits and nine runs over four and a third innings, striking out three. Weber threw two and a third innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Brayden started the game for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. The ace lasted four innings, allowing seven hits and five runs while striking out four

Groton Jr. Teeners totaled 15 hits. Abeln, Weber, Schelle, Zak, and Gavin Kroll each managed multiple hits for Groton jr. Teeners 14U. Abeln led Groton Jr. Teeners with three hits in five at bats.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern collected ten hits. Logan and K each racked up multiple hits for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern.

Groton Jr. Teeners Fall Short to W.I.N.

Groton Jr. Teeners opened up scoring in the first inning. Groton Jr. Teeners scored one run on a stolen base.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern evened things up at two in the bottom of the first inning when Noah singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern pulled away for good with two runs in the third inning. In the third Alec singled on a 2-0 count, scoring one run and Noah singled on a 0-2 count, scoring one run.

Lincoln K took the win for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. K lasted five innings, allowing one hit and three runs while striking out 12.

Braeden Flihs took the loss for Groton jr. Teeners 14U. The righty surrendered two runs on three hits over two innings, striking out two and walking zero.

Karson Zak started the game for Groton jr. Teeners 14U. The pitcher surrendered two runs on three hits over two innings, striking out two and walking one

Easton Weber went 1-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners in hits. Tristin McGannon led Groton Jr. Teeners with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with six stolen bases.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern racked up six hits on the day. Noah and Logan all collected multiple hits for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern didn't commit a single error in the field. Lincoln B had the most chances in the field with 13.

Groton Legion Goes Down On Final Play Against Gregory Legion

A walk-off left Groton Legion Post 39 on the wrong end of a 6-5 defeat to Gregory Legion on Saturday at the Clark Tournament. The game was tied at five in the bottom of the seventh when Tate Larson induced Brogan Glover to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored.

Groton Legion Post 39 lost despite out-hitting Gregory Legion 10 to nine. Brevin Flihs, Ryan Groeblichhoff, and Logan Ringgingberg each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39.

Gregory Legion were the first to get on the board in the first when Rylan Peck singled, scoring one run.

Gregory Legion added one run in the third. Kade Braun singled, making the score 2-0.

Groton Legion Post 39 tied the game up in the top of the seventh thanks to two singles. Groton Legion Post 39 tied the game at five on a single by Flihs.

Brogan Glover earned the win for Gregory Legion. They surrendered 10 hits and five runs over seven innings, striking out three and walking two. Larson took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher went six and one-third innings, giving up six runs (five earned) on nine hits, striking out two and walking five.

Groton Legion Post 39 piled up 10 hits in the game. Flihs led Groton Legion Post 39 with two runs batted in. The leadoff hitter went 2-for-3 on the day. Groton Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game. Groton Legion Post 39 were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Braxton Imrie made the most plays with six.

Gregory Legion amassed nine hits in the game. Kade Braun and Colt Keiser each collected two hits for Gregory Legion. Kade Braun provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Gregory Legion with two runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-4 on the day. Brogan Glover stole two bases. Gregory Legion stole five bases in the game. Gregory Legion turned two double plays in the game.

Groton Legion Post 39 Beats Wood

Groton Legion Post 39 were victorious against Wood Post, 19 4-0 on Friday.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the bottom of the second inning after Braxton Imrie singled, Brevin Flihs singled, and Bradin Althoff was struck by a pitch, each scoring one run.

Ryan Groeblichhoff earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. They allowed two hits and zero runs over seven innings, striking out four and walking none. Anthony Hanson stepped on the bump first for Post 19. They allowed five hits and four runs (three earned) over six innings, striking out nine and walking three.

Imrie, Flihs, Colby Dunker, Althoff, and Logan Ringgingberg each collected one hit for Groton Legion Post 39. Imrie, Flihs, and Althoff each drove in one run for Groton Legion Post 39.

Garrett Hebl went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Post 19 in hits.

Game Goes Down To The Wire As Groton Legion Loses To Baltic On Final Play

Groton Legion Post 39 fell to Baltic Legion Post 175 10-9 on Friday on the final play of the game. The game was tied at nine in the bottom of the eighth when Beau Keith drew a walk, scoring one run.

Despite the loss, Groton Legion Post 39 did collect eight hits in the high-scoring affair. Unfortunately, Baltic Legion Post 175 had nine hits on the way to victory.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Bradin Althoff doubled, Tate Larson singled, and Logan Ringgingberg grounded out, each scoring one run.

Keith hit a solo home run to right field in the bottom of the first for the Baltic Legion Post 175.

Groton Legion Post 39 added one run in the third. Althoff grounded out, making the score 4-1.

Baltic Legion Post 175 scored five runs on three hits in the bottom of the fifth inning. An error scored one run, Gunner Schultz doubled, scoring two runs, and Keith homered to right field, scoring two runs.

Jose Valadez homered to left field, which helped Baltic Legion Post 175 tie the game at seven in the bottom of the sixth.

In the top of the eighth, Groton Legion Post 39 broke up the tie when Althoff doubled, scoring one run. Then a single by Colby Dunker followed to extend the lead to 9-7.

Baltic Legion Post 175 captured the lead, 10-9, in the bottom of the eighth after , Schultz walked, and Keith walked, each scoring one run.

Riley Schultz earned the win for Baltic Legion Post 175. The starting pitcher allowed six hits and eight runs (six earned) over seven and two-thirds innings, striking out 10 and walking one. Korbin Kucker took

the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The righty went three innings, surrendering three runs (one earned) on two hits, striking out one and walking three. Cole Simon stepped on the hill first for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed six hits and six runs (one earned) over four and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking one.

Brevin Flihs, Dunker, and Althoff each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Althoff provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Legion Post 39 with four runs batted in. The 3-hole hitter went 2-for-4 on the day.

Baltic Legion Post 175 collected nine hits in the game. Keith, Valadez, and Riley Dobbins each collected two hits for Baltic Legion Post 175. Keith drove the middle of the lineup, leading Baltic Legion Post 175 with four runs batted in. The outfielder went 2-for-3 on the day. Keith led Baltic Legion Post 175 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game. Rikker Rogers stole two bases.

Krause's Walk-off Gives Groton Jr. Teeners Victory Over W.I.N.

A walk-off single led Groton Jr. Teeners past Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern 7-6 on Tuesday. The game was tied at six with Groton Jr. Teeners batting in the bottom of the eighth when Lincoln Krause singled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners earned the victory despite allowing Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern to score four runs in the second inning. The offensive onslaught by Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern was led by Austin Nash and Logan Fischbach, all knocking in runs in the inning.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern got things started in the first inning when Alec Mikkelson doubled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners knotted the game up at six in the bottom of the sixth inning, when TC Schuster drew a walk, scoring one run.

After Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern scored four runs in the top of the second, Groton Jr. Teeners answered with four of their own. Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern scored when Nash singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run and Fischbach doubled on a 2-2 count, scoring three runs. Groton Jr. Teeners then answered when Schuster singled on a 0-1 count, scoring one run, Karson Zak drew a walk, scoring one run, Krause drew a walk, scoring one run, and Alex Abeln grounded out, scoring one run.

Schuster was the winning pitcher for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The pitcher allowed zero hits and zero runs over one-third of an inning, walking zero. Abeln threw two and a third innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Fischbach took the loss for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. The pitcher allowed one hit and one run over one inning, striking out one.

Ryder Schelle started the game for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Schelle surrendered six runs on nine hits over five and a third innings, striking out two. Lincoln Kroll started the game for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. The bulldog lasted one inning, allowing three hits and four runs while striking out two.

Groton Jr. Teeners collected 11 hits on the day. Krause and Abeln each collected multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Krause led Groton Jr. Teeners with four hits in five at bats. Groton Jr. Teeners didn't commit a single error in the field. Krause had seven chances in the field, the most on the team.

Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern saw the ball well today, racking up nine hits in the game. Parker Wood, Fischbach, and Nash all collected multiple hits for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern. Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Kroll made the most plays with seven.

Groton Locke Electric Stays Scrappy In Loss To Northville

Despite a 6-run deficit in the sixth inning, Groton Locke Electric almost came all the way back, eventually falling 6-5 to Northville on Sunday. Groton Locke Electric tallied five runs in the failed comeback. Spencer Knecht, Conner Thaler, Dylan Frey, and Garret Knebel fueled the rally with RBIs.

Groton Locke Electric lost despite out-hitting Northville 11 to five.

Groton Locke Electric tallied three runs in the seventh inning. Groton Locke Electric big bats were led by Knecht and Thaler, all knocking in runs in the inning.

Maxfield was the winning pitcher for Northville. The bulldog surrendered five runs on 11 hits over nine innings, striking out ten.

Chandler Larson took the loss for Groton Locke Electric. The pitcher surrendered two runs on four hits over five innings, striking out five.

Groton Locke Electric had 11 hits in the game. Johnny Celedonio, Thaler, Knecht, and Wyatt Locke all managed multiple hits for Groton Locke Electric. Celedonio went 3-for-5 at the plate to lead Groton Locke Electric in hits.

Northville totaled five hits. Heyne and Josh all had multiple hits for Northville. Northville didn't commit a single error in the field. Heyne had nine chances in the field, the most on the team.

SD Claremont Post 262 Legion Bests Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion In Close Game

Both teams were strong on the hill on Tuesday, but SD Claremont Post 262 Legion was just a little bit stronger at the plate in a victory over Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion on Tuesday. Gavin Englund started the game for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion and recorded 12 outs.

A single by Jarrett Erdmann in the second inning was a positive for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Rennan Bruns was the winning pitcher for SD Claremont Post 262 Legion. The fireballer lasted three and two-thirds innings, allowing two hits and zero runs while striking out three. Colby Dauwen and Grant Cutler entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Englund took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher lasted four innings, allowing four hits and three runs while striking out six.

Nicholas Morris and Erdmann each managed one hit to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Dauwen went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead SD Claremont Post 262 Legion in hits.

Groton Legion Post 39 Win In Fashion, Walk It Off Versus Claremont Post 262

Groton Legion Post 39 took Monday's game in dramatic fashion, with a 9-8 walk-off victory over SD Claremont Post 262 Legion at Groton. The game was tied at eight in the bottom of the seventh when Tate Larson singled, scoring one run.

Both offenses were strong at the plate as Groton Legion Post 39 collected 12 hits and SD Claremont Post 262 Legion eight in the high-scoring affair.

SD Claremont Post 262 Legion opened the scoring in the first after Jack Podoll drew a walk, scoring one run.

Bradin Althoff singled after a 6-pitch at-bat, which helped Groton Legion Post 39 tie the game at one in the bottom of the first.

SD Claremont Post 262 Legion flipped the game on its head in the top of the second, scoring five runs on three hits to take a 6-1 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Colby Dauwen that drove in two.

Groton Legion Post 39 made the score 9-8 in the bottom of the seventh after Kaleb Hoover singled, scoring one run, Althoff doubled, scoring two runs, and Larson singled, scoring one run.

Logan Ringgingberg earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher allowed two hits and one run (zero earned) over two innings, striking out three and walking two. Brevin Flihs pitched four innings in relief for Groton Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher gave up five hits and four runs (two earned) while, striking out six and walking two. Kassen Keough took the loss for SD Claremont Post 262 Legion. The reliever went two-thirds of an inning, giving up four runs on four hits, striking out none and walking one. Colby Dunker stepped on the mound first for Groton Legion Post 39. They surrendered one hit and three runs over one inning, striking out one and walking five. Jesse Keough stepped on the mound first for SD Claremont Post 262 Legion. They allowed eight hits and five runs (one earned) over six innings, striking out two and walking four.

Groton Legion Post 39 piled up 12 hits in the game. Althoff led Groton Legion Post 39 with three hits in three at bats. Dunker and Althoff each drove in three runs for Groton Legion Post 39. Cade Larson and Larson each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game.

Will Cutler led SD Claremont Post 262 Legion with two hits in three at bats. Dauwen drove the middle of the lineup, leading SD Claremont Post 262 Legion with three runs batted in. They went 1-for-4 on the day. Ben Gustafson led SD Claremont Post 262 Legion with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game. SD Claremont Post 262 Legion stole five bases in the game. SD Claremont Post 262 Legion turned one double play in the game.

Groton Jr. Teeners Defeats Selby in Blow Out Victory

Groton Jr. Teeners knocked in seven runs in the fourth on its way to an 11-1 victory over Post 100 14U on Monday. Ryder Schelle, Easton Weber, Ethan Kroll, Alex Abeln, and Schelle all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Groton Jr. Teeners tallied seven runs in the fourth inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U's big inning was driven by a walk by Schelle, a triple by Schelle, a single by Abeln, by Kroll, and a double by Weber.

Abeln earned the victory on the hill for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The pitcher lasted five innings, allowing two hits and one run while striking out five.

Kaden Russell took the loss for Post 100 14U. The righthander surrendered one run on three hits over one and one-third innings, striking out one.

Xavier Ritter started the game for Post 100 14U. The pitcher allowed 13 hits and ten runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out two.

Groton Jr. Teeners totaled 16 hits in the game. Abeln, TC Schuster, Lincoln Krause, Weber, Schelle, and Braeden Flihs all collected multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Abeln led Groton Jr. Teeners with four hits in five at bats. Groton Jr. Teeners didn't commit a single error in the field. Krause had the most chances in the field with five.

Region 6B Baseball Tournament

The Region 6B American Legion Baseball Tournament is set for July 18-21 in Northville. First round pairings have FH Hitman vs. Clark/Wilow Lake at 10 a.m.; Redfield vs. Mobridge at 1 p.m.; the winner of Hitman/Clark vs. W.I.N. at 5 p.m. and the winner of Redfield/Mobridge vs. Groton at 7:30 p.m.

State aid drop, local fund shortfall a “double-edged sword” for Groton Area School District

by Elizabeth Varin

A drop in revenue for the Groton Area School District budget has brought up concerns the district may have to face in the coming year. The school board reviewed the district’s proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year, which show some areas with significant changes from the preliminary budget presented in May.

After reviewing state aid calculations, the budget revision includes a drop in state aid from a possible \$314,100 down to \$160,000, said Business Manager Becky Hubsch. Revenue from local sources like utility taxes and other state sources like the bank franchise tax are also estimated to fall. It’s a “double-edged sword,” she said.

That drop in revenue will require the district to transfer an estimated \$700,000 from capital outlay funds to make up for the deficit.

“We weren’t comfortable with where that (revenue decrease) was going to leave the general fund, so we have to do something there,” said Superintendent Joe Schwan. “Really the only immediate option is to increase that amount.

“...If you look at where that leads you at the end of FY24, regardless of what happens with the state aid we have some serious discussions in front of us,” he continued. “There’s only two ways to address it. ... You opt out of the general fund property tax freeze or you reduce expenditures. Or a combination of those two things.

“It’s an issue we have to address,” he said. “What are we going to do? What are we going to use the money for?”

One nice thing is that the district has this information now instead of in November when the state makes its first payment to school districts, Hubsch said.

There may also be some items in the budget that the district won’t have to pay for.

The budget accounts for open positions at the district, Hubsch said.

“We have to keep a line item in there for those things just in case it happens,” she said.

The district is looking at a 2.6 percent increase in general fund expenditures, Hubsch said. Much of that, though, is increases in things like transportation costs and insurance price increases.

An expenditure increase like that isn’t out of line when you consider inflation has shot up in some areas by almost eight percent, Schwan said. He harkened back to a message from previous Business Manager Mike Weber.

“Mike’s always said, and I totally agree with it, ‘you have to protect your general fund balance,’” Schwan continued.

“The fact of the matter is the revenue hasn’t kept up, but it still creates a problem for us that we’ll have to address one way or another,” Schwan said. “That’s the work for the fall. We’ve got to get some answers before January and February.”

While it would be nice to use that \$700,000 for capital projects, it definitely needs to be used on the general fund for now, said board member Tigh Flihs.

Land for sale

The school board will open bids in August for a piece of land in Day County that used to house a school.

The one-acre plot is the former Oak Gulch School District school. Oak Gulf Township is located between Conde and the former town of Lily. “Is it just farmland?” asked Grant Rix.

It’s pasture, answered Superintendent Schwan.

“Oh geez!” Rix said.

Schwan said he didn’t see any problem with selling the site.

“There’s really nothing that can be done with that acre of property,” he said.

However, he added, because it’s public property, it has to go through either a bid process or a public auction.

The district probably wouldn’t find an auctioneer willing to sell just one acre of land, Tigh Flihs said.

Schwan suggested accepting bids and opening them at the August meeting.

“We have to go through the legal channels to protect our butts,” said Marty Weismantel before making the motion to accept sealed bids for the property.

New look for school board

New board member Heather Lerseth-Flihs and incumbent Grant Rix were sworn in as board members during the annual reorganization portion of the meeting.

Board President Deb Gengerke welcomed Lerseth-Flihs, as well as new Business Manager Becky Hubsch and Middle School/High School Principal Shelby Edwards. However, she added, it is the end of an era after the exit of outgoing board member Steve Smith, former Business Manager Mike Weber and former Middle School/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke.

Together, she said, those three have more than 60 years of service to the Groton Area School District.

“You might not have agreed with their decisions, but they worked the best they could to provide services for the district,” she said.

Gengerke was reappointed to serve as president of the board, with Marty Weismantel will continue as vice president of the board.

The board also appointed members to various ad hoc committees. Tigh Flihs and TJ Harder will continue on the buildings, grounds and transportation committee. Kara Pharis and Lerseth-Flihs were appointed to the personnel, policy and curriculum committee. Gengerke, Weismantel and Grant Rix were appointed to the negotiations committee.

Rix was also re-appointed as the North Central Special Education Cooperative governing board representative.

In other action:

- Rates for before- and after-school care at Groton Area Elementary School are rising. Rates are currently \$2.75 per hour, but those rates will rise to \$3 per hour starting at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. That rate hasn’t increased since 2013, said Superintendent Schwan. There is a need for an increase based on salaries increasing and other child care rates rising.

- School lunch rates will stay the same for the 2023-2024 school year. For junior kindergarten through fifth grade, breakfast costs \$2.50 and lunch costs \$3.25. In sixth through 12th grade, breakfast costs \$3 and lunch costs \$3.75. For adults, breakfast is \$3.25 and lunch is \$4.50. The price for a second milk is 50 cents.

- Tickets for games and other activities will remain the same for the 2023-2024 school year. Adult admission is



Heather Lerseth-Flihs (above) and Grant Rix (below) signed their oath of office as they were installed on the Groton Area School Board. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



New business manager Becky Hubsch oversees the election of the school board officers. Deb Gengerke was re-elected as president and Marty Weismantel was re-elected as vice-president. Pictured going clockwise are Hubsch, Superintendent Joe Schwan, Weismantel, Elementary Principal Brett Schwan, Heather Lerseth-Flihs and Gengerke. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

School Board
Continued from previous page

\$5 per game and \$6 for a double header. Adult 10-punch tickets cost \$45. All-activities passes for adults remains at \$75. Student admission for those in grades one through 12 are \$4 each. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase activity tickets. Activity tickets for those in grades one through five are \$25, and those for grades six through 12th are \$30.

- The school board approved hiring Jesse Zak and Ryan Olson as boys soccer coaches for the 2023 at 3.5 percent of base salary. Mike Imrie will serve as volunteer assistant boys soccer coach for the 2023 season.

- Newly-hired sixth grade teacher and junior high track and field coach Brooke Malsom will serve another roll during the 2023-2024 school year. The former Valley City State University track and field athlete will also fill the head cross country coach shoes for the 2023 season. The position opened up in June after former head coach Adam Franken submitted his resignation to the district.

- The board accepted the resignation of Teri Foertsch, kindergarten paraprofessional, for the 2023-2024 school year.

- The board also approved having Dalton Locke serve as volunteer assistant football coach for the 2023 season.

- Projects are continuing at the school district. Superintendent Schwan told the board the health science lab renovation project is nearing completion. However, new interior wood doors have still not arrived. The high school arena air conditioning project is also on schedule, with testing expected the last week of July or the first week of August. Roofing work could begin this week at the elementary school. The project has been delayed due to weather and forecasts of rain.

- The FFA program received a boost recently as the district received a \$5,000 check from the Bayer Fund through the America's Farmers Grow Communities program on behalf of Barb Paepke. Superintendent Schwan thanked both Barb and Tom Paepke for their support of the school district and the students.

- The district is still missing positions at the elementary and middle/high school. Openings include a high school agriculture education instructor/FFA advisor, K-12 vocal music teacher, middle school/high school special education paraprofessional, kindergarten paraprofessional, substitute teachers and a junior high wrestling coach.

- Substitute teachers and substitute bus drivers will make the same per day as they did last school year. Substitute teachers will receive \$130 per day, and substitute bus drivers will receive \$90 per day.

- The board set board member salaries for the upcoming school year. Board members will receive \$50 per meeting, with the chairman receiving \$75 per meeting. Mileage will be calculated as it is applicable. The rates stayed the same as last year, though discussion waivered about the rate. "Do we have to have salaries?" said board President Deb Gengerke. "I just want it out there."

- Groton Area School buses and vans will continue to utilize MJ's Sinclair – Fuel Stop for gas and diesel. The board approved a bid that includes \$3.17 per gallon for No. 2 diesel, \$3.76 for No. 1 diesel, \$2.115 per gallon for E-85, \$3.0054 per gallon for ethanol and \$3.3624 per gallon for unleaded gasoline.

- The board designated the Groton Independent as its official newspaper for the 2023 fiscal year. Two bids were submitted and opened at Monday's meeting. The quote for the Reporter & Farmer, based in Webster, included 32.27 cents per line for legal notices, 40 cents per word for classified ads with an \$8 minimum charge, and \$8.15 per column inch for display advertising. The Groton Independent advertising quote was 31.95 cents per line for legal notices, 10 cents per word for classified advertisement with a \$3 minimum charge, and \$5 per column inch for local open display ads.

- The district is looking to implement a new time management system. Business Manager Hubsch gave an overview of the new system that could help district staff see how much leave time they have, allow for an open line of communication between staff and administrators and save time. "I think it's just going to help us be a little more efficient this year," Hubsch said.

The Life of Ryan Spencer

Ryan Taylor Spencer, 37, of Lind, WA, passed away on March 26, 2023.

Ryan was born March 17, 1986, in Everett, Washington, to Larry Spencer and Robin Slattum.

Ryan was a hard worker and would give the shirt off his back if you needed it. He owned his own roofing business in Lind Washington, and many of the buildings around the area have benefited from his roofing skills and professionalism. He always has a smile on his face and a "live for the moment" attitude.

Ryan married the love of his life in 2013, and they have 2 boys together, Ryan (Bubba) and Carson.

Ryan loved nature, woodworking, camping, and rocking out. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Ryan used his time productively to focus on his family, hobbies, and work projects. Ryan lived with his grandparents (Richard and Phyllis Spencer) in Houghton, SD, and attended Groton School until 2002 before moving back to Washington.



Ryan is survived by his wife Sierra; his sons Ryan and Carson; 3 brothers, Phillip Spencer(Rhonda), Nicholas Spencer(Sarah), and Willie Spencer(Riley) and his sister Makayla Louthain along with many cousins, nieces and a nephew.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held on Saturday, July 15th, 2023, at the Birdhouse located in Wylie Park at 6 pm.

If you would like to send a card to the family, please mail them to Kandi Wiseman at 405 E 8th Ave Groton, SD 57445



This Monday morning sunrise photo was taken by Mike Scott.



Steve Dresbach and Bruce Babcock wait for the beginning opening ceremony of Summer Fest. (Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)

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EARTHTALK™

Dear EarthTalk: Is putting out birdhouses and/or bird feeders good or bad for the local ecosystem?

-- Mary B., Bowie, MD

While putting up a bird house or bird feeder is a great way to attract birds to your property, the jury is out as to whether such attractions help or harm local biodiversity and overall ecosystem health.

On the plus side, birdhouses provide much-needed shelter for birds, especially in areas where natural nesting sites are scarce. They can also help to attract birds to your yard, which can be a fun and educational experience for children and adults alike. Bird feeders can provide a valuable source of food for birds, especially during the winter months when natural food sources are scarce. This can help to boost bird populations and reduce the risk of starvation.

However, there are also some potential downsides to providing artificial nesting and feeding sites for birds. One concern is that it can lead to overpopulation of certain bird species. When birds have an abundance of food and nesting sites, they can reproduce more quickly, which can lead to an overpopulation of their species. This can have negative consequences for the ecosystem, such as competition for food and habitat with other species.

And while hosting a birdhouse or feeder may be fun and educational, the birds you would attract aren't the ones struggling in regard to conservation status. "The species most in trouble are seabirds, shorebirds and tropical forest dwellers," reports Emma Greig of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "This means that although feeding birds may not be harmful to the species that use feeders the most, it also isn't helpful to the species that most need our help."

Another concern is that bird feeders can attract pests and diseases. Birds can carry diseases that can be harmful to humans, such as salmonella. They can also attract rodents, such as mice and rats, which can also carry diseases. Finally, bird feeders sometimes attract predators, such as cats, raccoons and hawks, which can prey on the birds that are attracted to the feeders, which can reduce the bird population.

Overall, whether or not putting out birdhouses and bird feeders is good or bad for the local ecosystem depends on a number of factors, such as the type of birds that are being attracted, the location of the feeders, and the overall health of the ecosystem. If you are considering putting out birdhouses or bird feeders, it's important to do your research and make sure that you are doing it in a way that is beneficial to the birds and the environment.

For starters, choose the right type of birdhouse for the birds you want to attract, and place it in a safe and sheltered location. Also make sure it is somewhere you can access it safely as it can use regular cleanings to prevent the spread of disease. And be sure to not overfeed the birds, as you don't want to make them dependent on your handouts for sustenance. Monitor the bird population and remove any feeders if they are attracting pests or predators or causing other problems.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



If you think you are doing Mother Nature a favor by putting up a bird feeder or bird house, think again. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Stonewall Drink Mixers **\$2.00 OFF**

Flavor of the Week
Red White & Blueberry **\$3.49-\$4.49**

APP DEAL OF THE WEEK

Kellogg's
Original Club Crackers
13.7 Oz. Box **99¢**
W/ \$10 PURCHASE & KEN'S APP
Requires \$10 additional purchase and use of Ken's App

Meat

Pork Baby Back Ribs
Per Lb. **\$2.59**
SAVE \$1.30 Per Lb.

Dairy

Ken's 2% or 1% Milk
1 Gallon Jug **\$3.49**

Frozen

Roma 12" Pizza
3/\$10

Liquor

Sunny D Vodka Seltzer
4 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans **\$8.99**

Household

Fiora Bath Tissue
12 Double Roll Pkg. **\$4.99**

Bakery

Ken's Bakery Fresh White Hot Dog Buns
8 Ct. **\$1.99**

Deli

Cheese of the Week! Asiago Wedge
5 Oz. **\$3.99**

Food Court Now Open!!
Wednesday thru Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm
Quick Lunch Meals!

Aberdeen Smittly's BASEBALL

Ken's Groceries To Go!
Order Your Groceries and Have Them Delivered!

PRICES GOOD AT ALL KEN'S LOCATIONS: JULY 9TH THRU JULY 15TH

USDA Choice Demkota Boneless Top Sirloin Steak
Per Lb. **\$8.99**
SAVE \$1.00 Per Lb.

Fresh Cantaloupe
Each **\$2.99**

USDA Choice Demkota Bread and Butter Roast
Per Lb. **\$4.59**
SAVE 90¢ Per Lb.

Red Gold Squeeze Ketchup
32 Oz. Bottles **2/\$4**

Prego Pasta Sauce
23-24 Oz. Jars **2/\$4**

Gatorade All-Stars Drinks
6 Pk. 12 Oz. Bottles **\$3.99**

Best Choice Coffee Single Serve 12 Ct. or Creamer
10.2-22 Oz. **\$3.49**
Sale Price \$4.99 - \$1.50 Digital Coupon Net Price

Best Choice Granulated Sugar
10 Lb. Bag **\$5.99**

Ken's Groceries To Go!
Order Your Groceries and Have Them Delivered!

"Paging Doctor Hollywood"



Based on Science, Built on Trust

Jill Kruse, DO

From Dr. Marcus Welby and Dr. Meredith Grey to "Hawkeye" Pierce and Doo-gie Howser, MD, there have been a multitude of television doctors. You likely spend more time watching them than you do with your own physician. Television shows the life of a doctor as exciting, dramatic and glamorous; however, real life is often much different.

On television doctors can solve every medical mystery within the span of a single show. Rare diseases or unusual presentations are no match for the intellect or dedication of the Hollywood doctor. Experimental treatments or lifesaving surgeries are all done with minimal interference. Television doctors rarely deal with hospital policies, evidence based medical care standards, or insurance companies. They also seem to have ample extra time between patients.

In the real world, things are not as simple and straightforward as they are on television. Multiple diseases have similar symptoms and specialized lab tests can take days or weeks to get results. Unfortunately insurance companies often dictate what tests can be done, such as a CT or MRI. They may also refuse to cover a hospital stay or a new medication, requiring older or cheaper options first. Doctors are required to spend a significant amount of time charting to justify tests or treatments for insurance companies. Unfortunately these activities do not make "must see TV" and take significantly more time than what is actually spent with patients.

On television, almost everyone gets better. A patient is just a problem that is solved and forgotten by the next episode, likely never seen again. In real life, many people live with chronic conditions that cannot be fixed or resolved. Real patients are not problems to be solved, but important partners with their doctors in order to live a healthier lifestyle. This takes trust; something that is gained slowly over years, and can be broken faster than a commercial break.

While not as dramatic as television's life and death surgeries, routine health care in the clinic is just as important. Television rarely shows a family medicine doctor doing a routine physical or a follow up visit for high blood pressure or diabetes. There is very little drama in adjusting a medication dose in the clinic. However, these visits will keep you from experiencing television worthy complications down the road.

You can look for a doctor as funny as Patch Adams, as smart as House, or as good looking as McDreamy. However, what is important is that you find a doctor that you communicate well with and trust. An annual physical and routine health care may seem boring and unnecessary, but it can help prevent some real life health care problems. Save the drama for your television.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook and SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.