

Continued from page 1

COUNTY-

project's overall cost to just above \$30,000.

The total cost of the project will be covered by money from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. The county has already received and spent their first payment of \$50,000 from the fund, and is expecting an additional \$50,000 later this year, which will cover the cost of replacing the Warsing Dam bathrooms.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to move forward with the project, and commissioners were happy to know the old bathrooms will finally be getting replaced.

Commissioner Glenda Collier said she hopes the new bathrooms and other updates will provide a nice recreation area should this winter ever end.

"We haven't done anything to those bathrooms. They really need to be updated and redone," said Collier. "The Game and Fish Department put in a fishing dock out there, and there's been numerous improvements. We want to keep that going so people are encouraged to camp out there and take the kids fishing and still have a nice area to do some outdoor activities."

Later in the meeting, commissioners held a bid opening for the Sheyenne shop. However, the commission only opened one envelope and were disappointed to discover the bid inside wasn't proper.

Commissioners then discussed next steps with Interstate Engineering, which may include a pre-engineered steel building. The representative from Interstate Engineering said he would gauge interest and report back to the commission.

In the meantime, the plan to build a new county shop in Sheyenne is on hold.

The next county commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, at 8:30 a.m. in the courthouse.

CITY-

treatment chemicals in 2023, and they have already spent \$34,000 to date. Richter said they anticipate that the total could reach \$130,000 this year, and if so further adjust-

ments will need to be made to rates.

Residents who have concerns about their water quality should reach out to Becki Schumacher at city hall and fill out a complaint card.

Late fees to increase

Increasing the fees for late payment of utility bills was proposed by Schumacher. The current late fee is 1.5 percent per month, which amounts to little more than a dollar in many cases. She said the fees in other N.D. communities range from as low as 1.5 percent to as much as \$17.50 per month.

Schumacher recommended a flat fee of \$5 or \$10 per month, to be applied on the 22nd of the month.

The commission agreed to increase the late fee to \$10 per month. Peterson explained that ordinance changes would be required to change the fee, and then held the first reading of proposed changes to both 18.02.15 (water) and 18.04.07 (wastewater), which were approved. The fee increase will go into effect upon approval of the second readings, which will also take place at the May meeting.

That said, Peterson advised the commission that no ordinance changes were required to allow the city to collect minimum utility fees from residents each month, even if their service is shut off temporarily. The topic was discussed at last month's meeting.

"You can turn (your service) off, but you're still going to get a bill," Peterson said. Therefore, users should expect to continue paying the minimum fees for water, sewer and garbage service even when they are not using them. The minimum bill for a user is about \$70 per month.

Grant funds awarded for new roof

More work will be done on the roof of the Brown Memorial Auditorium, thanks to grant funds obtained by the city. New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation (NRABC) Executive Director Amanda Hegland explained that the building's roof had been leaking throughout the winter, causing issues in the new childcare center. She applied for funds from the North Dakota Regional Workforce Impact Program

(RWIP), and the city qualified for an 80 percent cost-share. One of the priority areas for RWIP was childcare, she noted, which is why the roof project was approved.

The cost of new steel roofing on the north side of the building is estimated at \$92,763, and \$74,211 of that will be covered by grant funds. The city approved an additional \$20,000 from the city's infrastructure improvement fund to cover the remaining cost of the project, which will be completed when weather allows.

City's taxable valuation up nearly 4 percent

City assessor Kristy O'Connor delivered the annual tax equalization report. The issue for 2022 was the sale of vacant residential lots, one of which sold for \$40,000. O'Connor said the average price for that size lot is \$5,000, so valuations could rise further if the trend continues. There were 25 residential sales in 2022, with an average sales price of \$50,700.

"Commercial property continued to be a hot commodity in 2022 and I see it as being a challenge going forward," O'Connor noted. She said she made various corrections to reflect the rapidly changing market. There were eight commercial property sales in 2022 and four commercial building permits approved.

The city approved a total of 20 building permits in 2022 with a value of \$1.4 million. Five properties were removed from the tax rolls, three by demolition and two due to fire.

In 2023, there are 13 properties approved for disabled veteran's property tax credits and another 39 properties that qualify for the homestead credit. A total of \$39,705 in such credits will be reimbursed to the county by the state.

The projected total taxable valuation of the city is \$2,871,825, an increase of 3.66 percent overall. Residential properties account for 68.77 percent of the value and have risen by 1.12 percent. Commercial properties make up 31.23 percent and have risen by 10.27 percent.

In other business:

- The city approved a building permit for Hager

Excavating to build a shop on lots west of 13th Street.

- The first reading of the new lodging tax ordinance was approved. City attorney Travis Peterson said he used the Steele ordinance as a model, which doesn't specify which organization will oversee the funds, as that is yet to be determined. The 1 percent tax on all overnight stays of 30 days or less at hotels, motels and lodges in city limits would go into effect later this year. The required second reading will be held at the next monthly meeting.

The next city commission meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

VALUES-

land values, along with the southern Red River Valley. Both increased over 20 percent.

"Overall, the statewide average cropland value moving into 2023 was \$2,863 per acre," says Parman. "The most expensive farmland in North Dakota remains in the southern Red River Valley region at an average of \$5,494 per acre while the least costly is in the northwestern region at \$1,399 per acre."

The east-central region was over \$3,000 per acre for the first time, coming in at \$3,029.

The upward trend extended to cropland rent values as well. Cropland rents were up across the board, with the largest increase occurring in the east-central region at 11.88 percent.

The smallest increase in cropland rent, 3.25 percent, occurred in the southwestern region. The statewide average cash rent on cropland was \$79.90 per acre.

"Overall, 2023 marks the second largest increase in land prices in North Dakota in a row," says Parman. "However, despite the increase in rents accompanying land price increases, the disparity between cash rents and land prices continues to grow wider. The capitalization rates (cap rate) with respect to farmland in North Dakota has been declining for decades."

Parman explained that the cap rate in North Dakota, which is the cash rent divided by the market value of farmland, is around 2.65 percent, the lowest it has been in more than 40 years.

Dakota Recreation Report

by Patricia Stockdill



Outdoor notes:

- *New fishing licenses are now required.
- *Paddlefish tags available online from the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. (gf.nd.gov).
- *Permanent ice houses can still be used but can't be left unattended on lakes.
- *Be mindful of parking when accessing area lakes; not blocking roadways or snow removal operations.
- *Reminder that it's illegal to chase, harass, or pursue any wildlife species with motorized vehicle.
- *Ice is never completely safe. Avoid areas with vegetation, moving water, pressure ridges, and springs. Check conditions as you go along on the ice and don't move around at night.

*April 15: Central Dakota Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet, Gladstone Inn, Jamestown.

Fishing:

*Devils Lake elevation, April 4: 1,449.52 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

*Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.44 MSL.

*Lake Sakakawea elevation: 1,824.73 MSL; 15,900 cubic feet per second average (CFS) Garrison Dam daily releases.

*N.D. Game & Fish Dept. Dist. game wardens: No reports from east-central area lakes or Devils Lake. Little activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea.

*Devils Lake, Ed's Bait Shop, Devils Lake: Lots of slush on the lake yet.

*Devils Lake, Lakeview Lodge, Minnewaukan: Limited activity with poor access yet and difficulty in moving around on the ice with so much slush and snow.

*Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Weather and access permitting, angler finding nice perch success on the east end of Devils Lake. Beware of slushy conditions and moving around on the lake remains difficult.

*Foster County area lakes, Dry Dock, Carrington: Little activity. Minnows still hard to get from suppliers.

*Jamestown Reservoir, Pioneer Bait & Tackle, Jamestown: Little to no activity with ongoing weather issues.

*Jamestown Reservoir, Sooper Stop, Jamestown: Weather and snow limiting activity throughout area lakes.

*Lake Ashtabula, The Hungry Pelican at the Crossing, Luverne: Little activity.

*Lake Ashtabula, Bayshore, Valley City: No new reports with no activity on the lake.

*Lake Sakakawea, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Somewhat improving walleye activity around Steinke Bay on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Lake Audubon remains slow.

*Lakes Audubon & Sakakawea, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Look for pike activity around back bays on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try 6 to 12 feet around Steinke, Centennial, Garrison, Douglas bays. No walleye reports.

*Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon/Missouri River, Scott's Bait and Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea remain quiet with little activity.

*Lonetree WMA area lakes, Harvey: No new reports.

Numbers to know:

*N.D. Game and Fish Department, main Bismarck office: (701) 328-6300, website: (<http://gf.nd.gov>).

*N.D. Game and Fish Department, Devils Lake office: (701) 662-3617.

*N.D. Game & Fish Department, Jamestown office: (701) 253-6480.

*Report All Poachers: (701) 328-9921.

Public Notice

SHEYENNE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 6, 2023

Mayor Hanson called the regular meeting to order with Thumb absent. Minutes of February 6, 2023 meeting were read and approved. Motion Hoffner, second Ames, motion carried.

B. Rieger, Facilities Operator-absent.

Osby Hall now has the new furnace installed and operational. Motion Hoffner, second Labrenz, motion carried to approve liquor license for Karen's Place for March 17-19 at Open Season Lodge for a pool tournament. City of Sheyenne received a payment from Operation Prairie Dog.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept Treasurer's Report Ames, second Labrenz, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next regular meeting to be held April 3rd at 6:00 pm.

GENERAL FUND:

MDU.....	369.39
NDC.....	44.12
Eddy County Auditor.....	2,483.00
Double M Sanitation.....	3,485.00
WSI.....	301.90
Sherman Plumbing.....	6,375.00
Transcript.....	36.72
IRS.....	275.40
Jacobson.....	507.93
WATER & SEWER:	
MDU.....	277.86
NDC.....	42.17
Northern Plains.....	44.25
City of Fargo.....	14.00
Sanitation Products.....	18,052.29
Bank of ND.....	687.50
USPO.....	255.80
Rieger.....	575.66
Jacobson.....	507.92

Published April 10, 2023

MINUTES OF EDDY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE MARCH 7, 2023, 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson. Also present were Commissioner Glenda Collier, Commissioner James Allmaras, States Attorney Ashley Lies, and Nathan Price, New Rockford Transcript.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by James Allmaras. The motion carried.

James Allmaras made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023, meeting. Glenda Collier seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

After review of the financials and expenditure and revenue budgets for the month of February 2023, a motion was made by

James Allmaras to approve both the financials and budgets. The motion was seconded by Glenda Collier, and the motion carried.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the following bills, and it was seconded by James Allmaras. Roll call vote: Collier, Allmaras, and Gehrtz voted aye. Kathy Anderson.....17.91 Natalie Becker.....200.00 CenDak Coop.....9,784.93 Info Tech Dept.....828.15 ND Telephone Co.....860.45 North Dakota One Call.....14.60 Linderman Const. Inc.....1,700.00 Quill Corp.....64.28 Rockin Fitness.....500.00 David & Tasha Skogen.....100.00 Transcript Publishing.....358.50 Lucas Weisenburger.....100.00 Payroll.....61,723.22 AT&T Mobility.....630.32 Cardmember Service.....1,024.25 Central Plains Water.....56.00 City of Sheyenne.....110.10 MDU.....2,547.79 NDACTVSO.....50.00 ND Telephone Co.....646.50 Nodak Electric Coop.....71.86 Otter Tail Power Co.....1,762.76 EFTPS.....19,875.47 Afiac.....109.84 NDPERS.....14,282.61 Colonial Life.....461.25 Ameritas Life.....266.30 Bank Forward.....27.20 Cash and Carry.....204.17 Central Business Sys.....1,015.52 Central City H2O.....124.25 CenDak Coop.....11,216.23 Cenex Fleetcard.....325.21 Com Ambulance of NR.....175.00 City of Sheyenne.....33,352.43 City of NR.....365,061.20 NR City Park Dist.....40,170.99 Dakota Dust-Tex.....159.75 Do It Best.....433.65 Eddy Co Cncl Aging.....27,453.75 Eddy County Treas.....3,888.19 Tolna Fire Protect Dist...1,365.30 Warwick Fire Pro Dist...1,797.25 NR Fire Pro Dist.....11,149.24 Garrison Div Cons.....7,249.54 Historical Society.....1,747.39 Innov. Office Solutions.....114.82 Lake Region Law En.....3,960.00 Leaf.....115.00 Linderman Construction.....234.00 Linde Gas Equipment.....87.49 Melinda Martin.....189.79 Meehan Machine.....331.04 Micks 281 Service.....861.21 NDACo Resources.....1,365.00 NDACTVSO.....120.00 ND Recorders Asso.....200.00 NDSDA.....400.00 Napa Auto Parts.....786.42 NR Utility Services.....212.73 Northern Plains Electric...283.00 Northern Safety Tech.....5,067.02 Oak Creek Drain.....843.98 Otter Tail Power Co.....46.91 Perleberg C-Store.....230.38 Pitway Bowes Global.....201.00

Quill Corporation.....	131.98
RDO Equipment Co.....	601.91
Scott Reis.....	420.00
Dakota Prairie Schl.....	20,199.00
NR-S School.....	574,863.63
Midkota School.....	59,067.47
Warwick School.....	31,168.10
Jim Sherman.....	6,200.00
Julie Shrock.....	468.52
Soil Conservation.....	22,138.13
State Treasurer.....	6,989.62
Transcript Publishing.....	1,546.92
Township Payouts.....	92,592.63
Todd Weber.....	223.62

OLD BUSINESS:

Lisa Thompson, Emergency Manager, went through the revised quotes received from Electro Watchman, Inc. and Viking Electric for a wireless fire alarm system. The wireless system will be lower in total cost and will cause less damage to the Courthouse walls and ceilings than the previous wired quote. Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the wireless fire alarm system quotes with the addition of exit signs. James Allmaras seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Lisa reminded the Commissioners of the Steering Committee meetings for the Eddy and Wells County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan required for FEMA funding. There will be three meetings held every two weeks, with the first one starting at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at the Festival Hall on the Wells County Fairgrounds in Fessenden, ND.

Todd Weber, Road Superintendent, informed the Commissioners that the Advertisement for Bids for the new County shop in Sheyenne will be advertised in the next two editions of the New Rockford Transcript. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 A.M. on April 4, 2023. All properly submitted bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

The removal of the structure located on 6th Street North that crosses the James River in New Rockford, known as Hanson Bridge, and the replacement of the bridge on the township road on 64th Avenue Northeast, known as Klump Bridge, submitted to the NDDOT for 100% Federal Highway Bill (IIJA) funding were approved. Both projects will be required to follow the NDDOT federal aid process for all steps and will bid through the NDDOT in 2024. The rehabilitation of the Munster Bridge on County Road 12 is waiting on approval of the environmental review and so may not be started until 2024. Interstate Engineering, Inc. will be doing some estimates for repair

of the Brantford Highway. The Prairie Dog funding the County received will be used on this project.

Ashley Lies, States Attorney, gave an update. She informed the Commissioners of her research into using the Munster Road for drag racing. ND Century Code restricts drag racing on publicly owned areas, and the federal government will not provide funding if the property is used for that reason. The Commissioners agreed that based on those findings, they cannot approve the request from the Jamestown Drag Racing Association to use a County road for drag racing.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners, along with Ashley Lies, States Attorney, reviewed the agreement with Lake Region Law Enforcement Center for the Computer Aided Dispatch System, Software License and Service. Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the agreement, and it was seconded by James Allmaras. Roll call vote: Collier, Allmaras, and Gehrtz voted aye.

Glenda Collier made a motion to appoint Inila Bulhead to the Eddy County Housing Board for a 3-year term starting April 1, 2023. James Allmaras seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 9:24 A.M.

The next regular meeting will be April 4, 2023, at 8:30 A.M.

Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson, Patty Williams, Auditor

Published April 10, 2023.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PERFORM PRELIMINARY AND DESIGN ENGINEERING March 21, 2023 FOR PROJECT:

BRJ-0014(050) PCN 23971 Structure Replacement & Structure Removal Eddy County, ND

Project Overview: Bridge #14-104-11.0; on township road (64th Ave NE) 3 miles west of New Rockford is scheduled for replacement, and structure #14-108-12.0 which is located on 6th St N, crossing the James River in New Rockford ND is scheduled for removal. The existing bridge that is to be replaced has no existing railings or guardrails and the substructure is in poor con-

dition. The existing bridge that is to be removed is located in the City of New Rockford ND and has been abandoned since 1996.

Eddy County is requesting the services of qualified engineering firms to perform environmental studies, preliminary and design engineering, and associated services to move this project to a bid letting. All services will be performed in accordance with NDDOT design procedures, and the project will be let through the NDDOT.

Preliminary and Design Services: Perform Project Management, Project Administration, Field/Ground Surveying, Wetland and Cultural Surveys, Draft and Final DCE, Permitting, Preliminary and Final Construction Plan and Special Provisions, and Preliminary and Final Cost Estimates. Additional services, if required, may be negotiated and supplemental agreements issued based on the consultant's performance, the consultant's proposal, and available funding. The new bridge will be required to be load rated in accordance with the NDDOT Load Rating Manual and the load rating summary and ASSH-TOWare BrR model submitted to NDDOT for approval.

Firms are invited to submit a proposal for the project listed above. The proposals shall provide the following information:

- Past Performance
- Ability of professional personnel
- Willingness to meet time and budget requirements
- Office Location
- Recent, current, and projected workloads of the persons and/or firms
- Related experience on similar projects
- Recent and current work for the County
- Project understanding, issues, & approach

The proposal pages shall be numbered and must be limited to 10 pages in length. Proposals that exceed the 10-page length requirement will not be considered. The cover letter will not be counted as one of the 10 pages. The proposal should list the personnel who will be assigned to work on the project, including titles, education, and work experience. Eddy County will only consider proposals received prior to 12:00 PM CST, April 14th, 2023. Late proposals will be deemed unresponsive.

The consultant's proposal may include an appendix. Resumes, references, a statement of qualifications and other materials out-

lining experience may be included in an appendix. The appendix will not be considered as a part of the 10-page proposal. Each proposal will be evaluated by a selection committee.

Eddy County will conduct interviews. The County will interview up to three (3) of the most qualified engineering firms based on whose proposals most clearly meet the RFP requirements. Fees shall be negotiated with the successful firm. If the fee cannot be agreed upon, the County reserves the right to terminate negotiations, and then negotiate with the second and third ranked firms in order, if necessary, until a satisfactory contract has been negotiated.

All costs associated with the proposal shall be borne by the proposer. The County reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to not award contracts for any and/or all projects. Engineering firms interested in performing the work shall submit seven (7) hard bound copies and an electronic pdf file of their proposals to:

Eddy County Auditor
524 Central Avenue
New Rockford, ND 58356
701-947-2434
pawilliams@nd.gov

Title VI assures that no person or group of persons may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs or activities administered by the Department. For information regarding the Title VI Program see the NDDOT website at: <http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/civil-rights/titlevi.htm>

Published March 27, April 3 and 10, 2023

Public Notices

"Because the public has the right to know"