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Volume 5 • Issue 9

DECEMBER I-15, 2023

October Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session October 10, 2023, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 9:30 a.m. Chair Rodney Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Kohlnhofer reported the process to revoke the designation of CR V, from T.H. 30 to the South County Line and the South side of CR K, from CSAH 9 to CSAH 13 as a county road and turn it back to Vernon Township has progressed throughout the past year. Discussions were held with Vernon Township Officers and a public hearing was held September 19, 2023. (continued on page 2)

Announcements

• The United Methodist Church

of Dodge Center at 20 First Street

NE offers a dine in and carry out

meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Wednesday of each month.

Christmas in Wasioja

By Cheri Roshon

I would have to say that this is my favorite time of the year. Not for the obvious reasons, like holidays and pageants and all the flurries of activity that come to us this time every year, but for the fact that the busy summer is over, the chores outdoors are finished, and the snow will come to keep us inside to stay warm. Yes, tis the season of relaxation, and the fun begins..... Now is the time to think of those who we love. To be able to think up the special gifts we want to bestow on them, and to dream of the traditional treats that will tickle our tastebuds as Christmas draws near. Hay rides, sleigh rides, sweet treats and gifts..... what a wonderful time of year.

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is also a great time to support local venues like churches, clubs and non profits that need our help, and our donations. Money is always needed to help those in need, and if you don't have any extra, volunteering doesn't cost any more than your time, so there's always something you can do to serve your community. One of the fundraisers coming up is Christmas in Wasioja. The Dodge County Historical Society will be hosting this event on December 10th from 1 to 4:30 pm. The Wasioja Creamery will be festively decorated with 8 trees. There will be tours of the upper level of the Creamery, and refreshments will be served. The address is 20865 602nd Street, Dodge Center.

For those of you who don't have time to spare for Christmas baking, you can still wow your holiday guests with homemade treats. The ladies are baking up cookies and Norwegian Kransekake for your gatherings. The cookies will come in a box of 2 to 3 dozen for \$20.00, and the cakes are \$45.00.



Please call to reserve yours as soon as possible at 507-421-9810 because supplies are limited. *(continued on page 3)*

Christmas in West Concord

Saturday, December 2, will be the annual West Concord Community Christmas Celebration. Start the day out with fresh homemade doughnuts at the American Legion from 7 to 11am. The West Concord Fire Department will be collecting "Toys for Tots" at Centennial Park from 7am to 4pm. Wescon Lanes will have breakfast from 8 to 10:30am.

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Santa in Dodge Center Saturday December 2nd Santa will be at the

Dodge Center City Hall from 1 to 3pm. Kids can have their picture taken with Santa. There will also be hot chocolate available. The Green Shack will have bunnies available to hold and pet. The Girl Scouts will offer cookie decorating and the young ones can write a letter to Santa. The Dodge Center library will sponsor a Christmas ornament making project and you may register for door prizes. Outside there will be horse drawn wagon rides on Main Street.



October Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 1)

During the public hearing it was generally agreed by everyone present that this 3-mile section of CR V and 3-mile section of CR K fits more appropriately at the township level. These roads are within 3 miles of more improved county roads and they do not substantially make connections between other county roads or destinations. These roads do not fit in the county network and are more suited to be township roads. County Highway staff will meet with Township Officers and a list of projects and improvements will be developed. These projects will be completed by the county during the 2- year mandatory transition period. Included in the Board packet was a proposed resolution which revokes CR V, from T.H. 30 to the South County Line and CR K, from CSAH 9 to CSAH 13, as a county road and places it under the jurisdiction of Vernon Township. The Highway Department recommends that the Board pass the proposed resolution.

Ms. Cornelius met with the Board to discuss Transfer Station Bond Professional Services. The Dodge County Transfer Station was awarded \$2.1 million for a new Transfer Station Building, however, in order for the money to be released to the County we must provide the State the total cost of the project; design, bid and construction. Dodge has reached out to several professional service companies for proposals on the project. Included in the Board packet were the three quotes that were received: CBS2, RRT and SEH. Mr. Kohlnhofer was available to answer questions on the project. Motion by Allen seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the Environmental Services Director to sign the Agreement for Professional Services with SEH as recommended for the Transfer Station bond. Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

The Environmental Services Director presented for the Board's consideration the October 4, 2023 Planning Commission recommendations. IUP #23-04 - Brooks Ms. Cornelius discussed IUP #23-04 - Brooks. Motion by Allen seconded by Tjosaas to approve of the following action of the Planning and Zoning Commission as reviewed on October 4, 2023 with the reasons, recommendations and conditions as found in the individual permit: IUP #23-04 - Brooks The first public hearing to consider an application for Interim Use Permit #23-04 for a request to establish a dwelling on less than 53 acres. The property is located in the Agricultural District on approximately 30 acres, Section 4, Milton Township. The property owner and applicant is Robert Brooks. RECOMMEN-DATIONS The Environmental Services Staff recommends approval of the Interim Use Permit (I.U.P.) as the request meets the ordinance requirements and criteria. The following conditions are recommended: 1. An Ag Covenant shall be signed and recorded prior to issuance of the Zoning Permit. 2. A Dodge County Zoning Permit shall be obtained before construction. 3. The driveway shall comply with the design standards established in Chapter 17, section 17.2 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. 4. A topographic survey shall be submitted to the Environmental Services Department in order to determine the slope gradient for the location of the proposed dwelling. The applicant shall comply with Chapter 17, section 17.25 Steep Slopes and section 17.11 Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control. Motion Adopted [4 to 1]

Ms. Cornelius reviewed with the Board ZA# 23-06 Closed Landfill District. The second public hearing is to consider an application for Zoning Amendment #23-06 to Chapter 9. To view the proposed language a copy will be available at the Dodge County Finance Office, the Dodge County Environmental Services Office and also on the County web site www.co.dodge.mn.us. / Departments/Environmental Services/Public Hearings. Commissioner Allen offered the following resolution (#2023-41), seconded by Commissioner Toquam: WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature adopted the Landfill Cleanup Act (LCA) (Minn. Stat. 115B.39-115B.45) in 1994, creating the Closed Landfill Program (CLP); and WHEREAS, under the CLP, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is responsible for the cleanup and long-term care of 112 closed, municipal, solid waste landfills throughout the state; and WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 115.B.412, Subd. 4 requires the MPCA to provide LGUs certain information about the landfill and to incorporate this information in to their local land use planning; and WHEREAS, the MPCA provided, in cooperation with Dodge County Environmental Services, A Closed Landfill Use Plan (CLUP) dated February 8th, 2013 and revised April 8th, 2013; and WHEREAS, the purpose of the CLUP, which is to: - protect the integrity of the landfill's remediation and monitoring systems - protect human health and public safety at the landfill - accommodate local government needs and desire for land use at the facility is consistent with Dodge County's goals for the facility; and WHEREAS, Minnesota Statues 115B.412 requires local government units to make their land use plans consistent with the MPCA's plan for the site; and WHEREAS, Dodge County adopted the Closed Landfill Restricted (CLR) Zone on August 12 th. 2015 to address uses within this district in the unincorporated area of the county that would be compatible with the Dodge County Transfer Station and Recycling Center facility operations; and WHEREAS, Dodge County purchased additional land located adjacent to the existing CLR Zoning District in 2017 for the purpose of serving the Dodge County Transfer Station & Recycling Center (DCTSRC) as a land use buffer; and WHERAS, this land was located within the incorporated boundary of the City of Kasson creating split jurisdiction of the buffer property; and WHERAS, split jurisdiction creates issues for operation, management and maintenance of this property as it serves the DCTSRC, the county; and WHEREAS, Dodge County submitted a petition for the detachment of this buffer property to the Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit Office of Administrative Hearings; and WHEREAS, the Order Approving Detachment of the property was approved by the Office of Administrative Hearings on July 19th, 2023; and WHEREAS, per the agreement with the City of Kasson, the land will

be zoned Closed Landfill Restricted and subiect to the land use provisions of Chapter 9 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance; and WHEREAS, the area proposed to be rezoned and regulated under Chapter 9 (Closed Landfill Restricted District) has been surveyed and legally described; and WHEREAS, a summary of the proposed amended Chapter 9 (Closed Landfill Restricted District), Chapter 26 (Effective Date of Zoning Amendments), and Closed Landfill Restricted Zoning District map have been published in the legal newspaper on September 21st, 2023 and posted upon the county website; and WHEREAS, a public hearing on the amendments was held by the Dodge County Planning Commission on October 4th, 2023 and the public hearing was closed; and WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the amended Chapter 9 to the Dodge County Board of Commissioners at the October 4th, 2023 meeting; and WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners adopted the amended Chapters at its October 10th, 2023 meeting. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Dodge County hereby: Amends the language of Chapter 9 (Closed Landfill Restricted District) and Chapter 26 (Effective Date of Zoning Amendments) as adopted on October 10 th, 2023. In addition, the County Board of Commissioners formally amends the Dodge County Zoning Map to reflect the expansion of the Closed Landfill Restricted zoning district to include the detached property. Resolution Adopted

Brandon Servantez, Veteran Services Officer Purchase Veteran Services Vehicle Mr. Servantez presented for the Board's consideration a request to purchase a new vehicle for Veteran Services. The current Ford Flex has 140k+ miles on it at this time. The Veteran Services Director reported he has enough in his budget this year to purchase a new 2024 Chevrolet Blazer. Included in the Board packet was a copy of the cost of the vehicle on the State Contract. Mr. Servantez reported this vehicle should be ready by late 2023 to early 2024. Motion by Allen seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the Veteran Services Director to purchase a new 2024 Chevrolet Blazer off of the State Contract at a cost of approximately \$38,742.54 as requested. Motion Adopted

Ms. Reich informed the Board that a Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) serves as a designated source of funding dedicated to addressing the affordable and workforce housing needs within the local community. On June 13, 2023 the Dodge County Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing the LHTF. In addition, the Board passed a resolution to allocate 90% of the County's Local Homeless Prevention Aid (LHPA) funds to seed the LHTF, with the remaining 10% of LHPA allocated for hotel shelter vouchers to assist individuals in Dodge County who are experiencing homelessness. Since June, they have become aware of an additional funding source established by the 2023 Legislature known as the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid. This annual allocation to counties has two components: 1. Base aid 2. Cost-burdened household aid A cost-burdened household is defined as one in which the gross rent or home ownership expenses constitute 30% or more of the household's income. Statewide Affordable Housing Aid assists local governments in both the preservation and creation of affordable housing with a goal of preventing families from facing housing instability and assisting those currently experiencing homelessness to find suitable housing solutions. Statewide Affordable Housing Aid begins in 2023 and will be disbursed to counties through a single payment from the MN Department of Revenue on December 26, 2023. Beginning in 2024, counties will receive their aid in two equal installments, with the first half issued on July 20 and the second half on December 26. Statewide Affordable Housing Aid must be spent by December 31 of the fourth year after it was received. Transfers to a LHTF are considered expended. Funds transferred to a LHTF must be allocated to a project that aligns with affordability criteria. Dodge County's certified Statewide Affordable Housing Aid allocation for both 2023 and 2024 is set at \$93,433 per year. Ms. Reich informed the Board that she would like to have one Dodge County Commissioner appointed to the Local Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee that they are trying to develop. The County Administrator reported this item wasn't on the agenda so he will bring it back for action in two weeks. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Kenworthy to approve and authorize the appropriation of 100% of the County's Statewide Affordable Housing Aid to the Local Housing Trust Fund as requested. Motion Adopted

Ms. Kramer reviewed bills with the Board. Motion by Toquam seconded by Allen to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance: 01 Revenue Fund \$ 213,289.64 13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 26,030.39 16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 127,081.54 19 Eda-Hra-Dodge County \$ 7,240.50 Total \$ 373,642.07 Motion Adopted

Ms. Kramer reported that as members of the Insurance Committee for 2024 and due to an increase in premiums and an increase in deductibles, the Insurance Committee is rec-

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October Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 2)

ommending a \$1,210/month (\$90 increase)/\$2,486 (\$228 increase) contribution from the County towards the Cafeteria plan. The monthly breakdown from current to proposed was included in the Board packet. The county will have a 2% decrease in dental premiums due to a change in provider, we will be going from Delta Dental to MetLife. There were no increases in Life, LTD, or Vision

Christmas in Wasioja

(continued from page 1)

There will also be an evening Christmas service at the 1858 Wasioja Church at 6:pm. Light refreshments will be served. The Historical Society thanks you all for the generous donations you have given over the years, and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! rates. Motion by Allen seconded by Toquam to approve and authorize a \$1,210/month (\$90 increase)/\$2,486 (\$228 increase) contribution from the County towards the Cafeteria plan for 2024 as recommended by the Insurance Committee. The County Administrator recognized the work of Ms. Kramer on the cafeteria plan recommendation. Mr. Elmquist reported there is a considerable amount of work that goes into researching the various insurance options available to the county. Ms. Kramer took this task on at the last minute and the work she did was greatly appreciated. Motion Adopted

Mr. Elmquist presented the Personnel Agenda for the Board's consideration. Motion by Allen seconded by Kenworthy to approve the following personnel actions: A. Administration A.1 Duane Archer - Custodian Step increase from A13 step 3 \$21.17 to A13 step 2 \$21.97. Effective Date: 10/16/23 A.2 Lisa Hager - Employee Relations Director Step increase from D61 step 6 \$48.34 to D61 step 5 \$49.79. Effective Date: 9/02/23 B. Environmental Services B.1 Catherine Grondin - Zoning Administrator Step increase from C43 step 8 \$36.23 to C43 step 7 \$37.89. Effective Date: 10/11/23 C. Sheriff's Office C.1 Kevin Haugen - Transport Officer No longer employed. Effective Date: 10/02/23 C.2 Transport Officer On-Call Authorization to fill vacancy. Effective Date: 10/10/23 Motion Adopted

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session October 24, 2023, in the

Christmas in West Concord

(continued from page 1)

At the Bell Tower starting at 8am you can have coffee and cocoa with the council, and check out the Festival of the Trees and the Cardinal Club fundraiser for the parks. Caseys has free coffee and door prizes from 8am to 2pm. Boe Auto Center has open house with coffee and cookies and the Dollar General has door prizes and candy for the kids all day.

Heritage Bank will have Santa from 9am to noon, a Lions child vision check and a coloring contest as well. The library has craft activities for kids and at city hall the WC police Department will host cookies with the cops. The silent auction will be held at City Hall with bidding ending at 2:30pm. At 10am the library will host Kids Snowplow safety.

The West Concord Historical Society will

have a Craft Fair from 9am to 2:30pm with lunch served from 11am to 1pm with live music.

Cookies with the cows will be held at Gochnauer Dairy farm with hot beverages from 11am to 2pm. The West Concord muni will have Bloody Mary's from 11am to 3pm. There will be a Festive Bar and music from 7 to 11pm. The Wescon Lanes will have lunch specials and free bowling from 11am to 3pm.

There will be a program with tree lighting, bell ringing, candle lighting, live nativity and Christmas drawing starting at 4pm at the Bell Tower. A concert with organ, piano, harp and vocal music will follow. From 5:30 to 7pm the West Concord EDA will have a free supper featuring spaghetti, French bread, salad, dessert and beverage.



Steel, Farm Machinery, Car Bodies, Aluminum, Copper, Batteries, Appliances, E-Scrap

55976 State Hwy. 56, West Concord Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm • June-October Open Saturdays 9:00 to 11:30am 507-527-2408 I www.ldrecycling.com County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

Ms. Cole discussed with the Board a request to approve a FY2023 Greater Minnesota grant match. Dodge County is applying for the MPCA FY2023 Greater MN Recycling and Composting Grant to complete construction of the Dodge County Renovation ReUse building. This grant requires 25% match and the amount being applied for is \$250,000. The Waste Management Administrator recommended that the Board approve the proposed resolution to permit Lauren Cornelius to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Dodge County. Commissioner Peterson wanted to know where the matching funds were coming from and questioned whether or not Environmental Services had this money in their budget. Ms. Cole informed the Board that they were hopeful that the money for the matching funds could be added to their fund balance. It was determined that this was an un-budgeted item and the Waste Management Administrator was informed that the preliminary budget for 2024 has already been set. Brief discussion took place regarding what equipment had been budget for and what purchases might have to be delayed a year in order for Environmental Services to be able to come up with the funds for the 25%

match. The Board informed Ms. Cole that Environmental Services needs to understand that if this request is approved and they are awarded the grant that they will have to take the funds for the match out of their budget which means they will not have the funds to purchase all of the equipment that they had planned to purchase for 2024. Commissioner Toquam wanted to know how long they would have to spend the grant money. The Waste Management Administrator stated they will have three years to spend the grant money. The Board concluded that they would potentially be able to spread the cost of the match out over a three-year period, which would make it more feasible. Commissioner Allen offered the following resolution (#2023-42), seconded by Commissioner Toquam: WHEREAS, Dodge County Environmental Services has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY2023 Greater MN Recycling and Composting Grant Program, and WHEREAS, if MPCA funding is received, Dodge County Environmental Services is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application.

and WHEREAS, MPCA requires that Dodge County Environmental Services enter into a grant agreement with the MPCPAshat

Model Railroad Open House December 9-10 in Grand Meadow



The Railrunners Model Railroad Club will hold an open house at their club layout in the Grand Meadow Business Center in Grand Meadow, MN, on Saturday and Sunday, December 9-10. The times will be 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and 10 am to 2 pm Sunday. The event is free, and is a great opportunity for families as we approach the Christmas season. Small children need to be accompanied by parents, grandparents, or another adult. The Grand Meadow Business Center, located at 209 2nd Avenue NE, is next to the city park.

Models operated are authentic replicas of prototype trains that have operated primarily in the United States. Many of the models make railroad diesel or steam sounds, and have train horns or whistles, bells, and even sounds of brakes being released or applied. The layout is an HO scale layout that fills a classroom of the former school in Grand Meadow. Enter the building by either the north or south door and go to Room 119 in the second hall. Members of the club will be available to answer questions about the layout and to demonstrate train operation

Club members from Dodge Center, Rochester, and other area cities typically meet on Wednesday mornings for train operating sessions and to work on the layout, but often will be found there at other times as well. Visitors are not limited to the day of open house but may stop in any time the club is open. New members are always welcome. Information about the club and applications for membership will be available at the open house.

Community

- DODGE CENTER MESSENGER -

October Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

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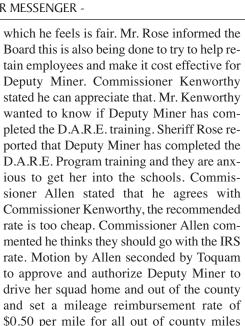
identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereby agree to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grant agreement and authorizes and directs the Environmental Services Director to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

Ms. Kramer reviewed bills with the Board. Motion by Kenworthy seconded by Tjosaas to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance: 01 Revenue Fund \$ 71,866.54 13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 70,029.52 16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 21,132.34 80 Agency Fund \$ 9,046.21 Total \$ 172,074.61 Motion Adopted

Mr. Elmquist reminded the Board that this appointment to the Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) was referenced at the last County Board Meeting by Tara Reich, Interim Executive Director for MnPrairie. The recommendation is to appoint a Dodge County Commissioner to the LHTF committee. Commissioner Peterson reported that he would be willing to be appointed to this committee if someone was willing to take over his Mn-Prairie Service Delivery Authority appointment next year. Brief discussion took place regarding which Commissioners will be up for re-election, who would not be running again and who would be available for the appointment to the MnPrairie Committee. It was determined that Commissioner Toquam would likely be the only person left to be appointed to the MnPrairie Committee. Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to appoint Commissioner Peterson to the Local Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee.

Mr. Elmquist presented the Personnel Agenda for the Board's consideration. Motion by Allen seconded by Kenworthy to approve the following personnel actions: A. Sheriff's Office A.1 Darryl Clements -Deputy Sheriff No longer employed. Effective Date: 10/31/23 A.2 Deputy Sheriff Authorization to fill vacancy. Effective Date: 10/24/23 A.3 Justin Classon - Deputy Sheriff Step increase from C41 step 6 \$33.97 to C41 step 7 \$34.65. Effective Date: 9/16/23 A.4 Mike Lee - Jury Attendant Authorization to employ at A12 step 11 \$16.68 to fill approved vacancy. Effective Date: TBD B. Land Records B.1 Matt Naatz - Property Appraiser Step increase from C41 step 5 \$32.34 to C41 step 4 \$33.31. Effective Date: 11/02/23 C. Band and Grade Adjustment Approval of recommended changes in Band and Grade assignment. Band and Grade review completed by Tessia Melvin with DDA. From To Employee Relations Director D61 D62 Finance Director D62 D63 Information Systems Director C43 D62 Effective Date: 12/1/23 Motion Adopted

Sheriff Rose informed the Board that they have a Deputy who has purchased a home that is outside of the county and in Brownsdale. The Sheriff's Office is asking for Board approval to allow the Deputy to continue to take their squad home while paying the mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.24 per mile, which was previously set at the January 10, 2023 County Board meeting. Included in the Board packet was a mileage worksheet which would be submitted to Finance to initiate a payroll deduction for this Deputy. Commissioner Kenworthy stated it's great that Deputy Miner is a lot closer than she was the last time, but \$0.24 per mile reimbursement is a struggle for him with the gas prices where they are. Mr. Kenworthy commented this reimbursement amount seems really cheap. Commissioner Kenworthy recommended that they do half the cost of the federal rate for the mileage reimbursement rate. Sheriff Rose reported that they are trying to cover the hard costs, so this is how it's been handled in the past and why the rate was set at the \$0.24 per mile. Sheriff Rose noted they are competing with other counties who don't charge Deputies for taking their squad out of the county and this is what has been offered,



driven. Motion Adopted [3 to 2]

December 1-15, 2023

New Deputy Wage Discussion Scott Rose reported that they have one full-time road opening with possibly one or more on the horizon. Dodge County is currently the lowest starting and lowest top paying county in southeast Minnesota. In order to attract quality applicants, the Sheriff's Office would like to skip steps 1-3 and start offering openings at step 4 for qualified applicants for patrol. This will allow them to be competitive in a market where nearly everyone has openings. In order to be fair to all of their recent hires, and to help retain them, Sheriff Rose is requesting the new hires also be moved to step 4 as well. Sheriff Rose informed the Board that he would like to put together a plan and MOU to be discussed in a closed session at the next meeting.



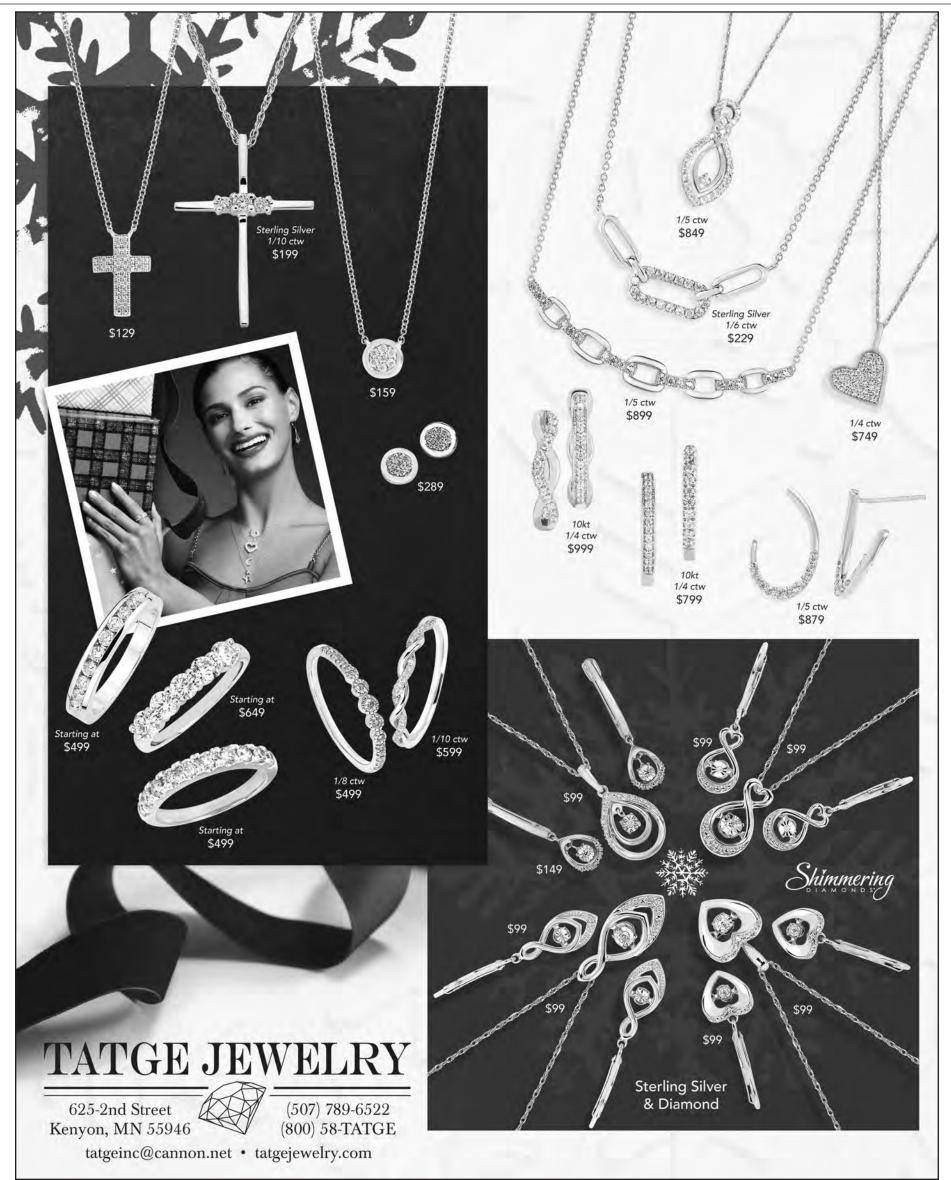












a high schooler the boys each had a semester

of home ec just for guys. I still have the apron we each sewed during the class. I went to

Leuthold's in Kasson and picked out the ma-

terial. It was a blue fabric with a nautical

theme. Later in the year we made a meal and

invited our mothers in to serve them lunch.

One thing that I have heard from a number

of WCHS alumni is that they would love to

have some of the holiday recipes they recall

from Ms. Wolf's class. I contacted Clinette

and she was so kind as to send a few of the

recipes she had.

Sweet Holiday Recipes from Clinette Wolf

Many of us who attended West Concord High School remember the home economics class. I believe the girls all were enrolled in a number of the subjects and by the time I was

Peanut Brittle

1 cup white sugar 1/2 cup white syrup 1/8 tsp salt - mix and cook 4 minutes in high Add 1 cup raw peanuts - cook 4 minutes on high Then add 1 tsp butter 1/2 tsp vanilla 1 tsp soda Put in buttered 9" x 13" cake pan

Peanut Clusters

3/4 cup creamy peanut butter(1) 12 ounce bag semi-sweet chocolate chips1 cup whole dry roasted peanuts

Melt peanut butter and chips, stir in nuts. Chill and refrigerate.

E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to The Messenger hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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Sugared Nuts

Serves 24-30

- 2 cups sugar 1/2 cup water
- 5 tablespoons White Karo Syrup
- 8 large marshmallows
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 quart walnuts
- Food coloring

Mix sugar, water and syrup, cook to little more than soft ball stage, 240 degrees.

Add marshmallows, stir in until melted. Add vanilla and food coloring and nuts. Stir until it begins to sugar. Pour out onto wax paper lined tray and separate with fork. Allow to cool.

Caramels

2 cups brown sugar 2 cups white sugar 3/4 lbs butter 16 oz. white Karo syrup 1 cup Eagle brand condensed milk Dash of salt

Cook over low heat to 248 degrees. Remove from heat and stir in 2 tsp vanilla. Put in buttered pan. Let cool until thick enough to cut into bite size pieces and wrap in wax paper squares. Makes 3 lbs.

West Concord Community Christmas Celebration Saturday, December 2, 2023 American Legion--Fresh Homemade Doughnuts - 11 a.m Centennial Park--"Toys for Tots" Collection by WC Fire Department 7-4 p.m. 8 - 10:30 a.m. Wescon Lanes-Breakfast Bell Tower--"Coffee & Cocoa with the Council" 8 - 11 a.m. 8 - 11 a.m. Bell Tower-- Festival of the Trees (two sessions) From 8-11 & 3-7 ~ Ad Bids Close at 4 p.m 8 - 11 a.m. Bell Tower-- Cardinal Club Fundraiser for the Parks (Limited-Edition Christmas On 8-2 p.m. Casey's--Free Coffee, Register for Door Prizes Mayor's 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Dollar General- Register for Door Prizes, Candy Available for Kids Medallion Hunt!

9 - 11 a.m. Boe Auto Center--Open House with Coffee & Cookies At the Bell Tower 2 Sessions-9-11 a.m. Heritage Bank-Lions Child Vision Checks One from 8-11 a.m. One from 3-7 p.m. Heritage Bank--Santa Claus, Coloring Contest, Sharing Tree 9 - 12 Noon (Each child will receive a book provided by the Cardinal Club, and 2-Prizes \$80 Value Goodie Bag- by Cardinal Club, Friends of WC & Historical Society) Each 9 - 12 Noon Public Library-Craft Activities for Children See additional poste more mfon 9 - 12 Noon City Hall--"Cookies with the Cops" by WC Police Department West Concord Historical Society--Craft Fair ---- Lunch available 11 a.m. - 1 p.m; 9 - 2:30 p.m. enu: BBQs, Cole Slaw, Chips, Pickle, Candy Cane Dessert, Coffee, Cider, Water 9 - 2:30 p.m. City Hall--Silent Auction - Bidding ends at 2:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m. Public Library--Kids Snowplow Safety by West Concord Public Works 11 - 2 p.m. Gochnauer Dairy Farms--"Cookies with the Cows & Hot Beverages" 11 - 3 p.m. Muni Liquor Store-Bloody Marys 11-3 p.m. Wescon Lanes--Lunch Specials & Free Bowling 3-7 p.m. Bell Tower-- Festival of the Trees Resumes ~ Auction Bids Close at 4 p.m. Winners of red at arou 4:00 p.m. Bell Tower--Program (Upstairs & Broadcast to Handican Accessible Basement) Tree Liahting, Bell Ringing, Candle Lighting, Concert- Organ/Pigno/Harp/Vocal, Live Nativity, Christmas Drawings (Must be Present to Win) & Visit by Santa & Mrs. Claus with Gift! 5:30 - 7 p.m. Bell Tower Basement -- Free Supper by WC EDA (Immediately fol ing Program) (Menu: Spaghetti, French Bread, Salad, Dessert, Beverage)

7 - 11 p.m. Municipal Liquor Store—Festive Bar & Music by Main Stage Entertainment!
**All Events Subject to Change or Cancellation. Check City of West Concord-Mayor Facebook Page for Latest Updates

CWD Detected in a Wild Deer Near Wabasha

By Minnesota DNR

A deer harvested during the opening weekend of firearms season near Wabasha in southeastern Minnesota has tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

The hunter harvested the adult male deer in deer permit area (DPA) 342, within the southeastern Minnesota CWD surveillance zone where hunters were required to have their deer tested for CWD during the opening weekend of firearms season.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources had added DPA 342 to the CWD surveillance zone this year in response to detections of CWD in wild deer in bordering Buffalo County, Wisconsin in 2022.

"This discovery in southeastern Minnesota, while unwelcome news, highlights the importance and necessity of our disease surveillance efforts," said Erik Hildebrand, Minnesota DNR wildlife health supervisor. "We truly appreciate hunters' help in combatting CWD by getting their deer tested for CWD when required and complying with carcass movement restrictions. Results of these efforts help limit disease spread and protect the health of Minnesota's white-tailed deer."

With the new discovery, the DNR's current CWD response plan calls for three years of mandatory testing to help determine the po-

tential prevalence of the disease in DPA 342 and surrounding DPAs.

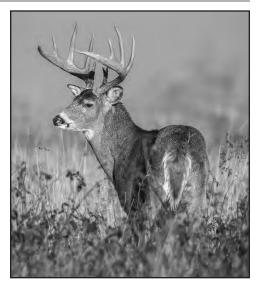
Much of southeastern Minnesota includes areas where CWD has been found in wild deer, or areas that are considered at risk for disease transmission. Statewide, the Minnesota DNR has tested more than 130 000 deer since 2002. As of Nov. 27, 236 have tested positive. Most of those cases occurred in southeastern Minnesota. These data indicate the disease remains relatively rare in Minnesota.

Within DPAs where CWD has been detected, the DNR uses multiple management actions designed to help mitigate disease spread, including carcass movement restrictions, dumpsters, a deer feeding and attractants ban, and sometimes increased hunting opportunities with increased bag limits.

the Minnesota DNR's CWD test results webpage. Any additional deer harvested during the 2023 deer seasons in Minnesota that test positive for CWD will be reported on this webpage. The DNR will directly notify any hunter who harvests a deer that tests positive.

CWD affects cervids, which include whitetailed deer, moose and elk, and has no known cure. It is found in more than half of the states in the U.S.

More information about CWD, what the DNR is doing to limit disease spread and protect the health of Minnesota's white-tailed deer, and information for hunters about current and upcoming hunting seasons, is available on the Minnesota DNR website.





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TRITON ISD NO. 2125 -

SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES

REGULAR SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16,

2023 - 6:00 P.M.

TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

MEDIA CENTER -

DODGE CENTER, MN

& ZOOM VIDEO

CONFERENCING

-Meeting Proceedings-

called the meeting to order at

6:00 p.m. Those members

present: Wendy Kenworthy,

Rebecca Knutson, Duane

Chair Lloyd Henslin, Jr.

Bartel, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., ner, Lula Rud, Maya Dale Jensen and Jim Jensen, Wachter, Mason Henslin, and Brian Ginder; absent: Griffin Snyder, Kaiden none. Also present: Superin-Adreon, Jenae Keener, Haytendent Craig Schlichting, den Sackett, Mason Bills, Business Manager Aimee Salma Fernandez, and An-Lake, Tina Kozisek and 35 drew Edge were recognized visitors. There were no visiand congratulated as Cobra tors present via Zoom. Pride honorees this month. The Pledge of Allegiance

Bartel/Ginder motioned to approve the consent agenda including the September 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; open enrollment/nonresident agreements for students #101623A, #101623B, #101623C, #101623D, #101623E, #101623F, #101623G, and #101623H; contracts for Simplicia Agerter as ESL Childcare Assistant, Kristine Ocampo Mora as Bilingual Liaison, and extra-curricular contract for Jennifer Ryg as Fall Play Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Boynton from Smith Schafer and Associates presented the 2022-2023 audit. Knutson/J. Jensen motioned to approve the 202-20232 audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Bartel/Ginder motioned to approve creating a Gifted and Talented activity account. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Jensen/Kenworthy mo-

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tioned to approve the proposed Certified Staff Seniority List for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously. Kenworthy/Knutson motioned to approve the proposed Classified Staff Seniority List for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously. J. Jensen/Bartel motioned to approve the ZED Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Henslin stated that the ZED meeting had been cancelled and has not been rescheduled yet.

Superintendent Schlichting gave the A.D. report: boys volleyball will be a spring sport, A.D. Black is planning a student survey to see determine interest.

Superintendent Schlichting gave the principals' report: TES is holding conferences, Unity Day, THS servicelearning day, and Standard Response Protocol drills.

Superintendent Schlichting reported on the sport court installation, negotiations, and the upcoming Study Session October 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. 6:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk

TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SCHOOL BOARD STUDY SESSION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023 TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN

-Meeting Proceedings-Dale Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Dale Jensen, Jim Jensen, and Brian Ginder; absent: Rebecca Knutson. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Principal Shane Van Beek, and Principal Luke Lutterman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Items discussed: Review Testing Data Negotiations Update Chair Henslin adjourned



DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, November 13, 2023

Jill Roussopoulos spoke on

behalf of the Triton Classi-

J. Jensen/Knutson mo-

tioned to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ole Kispert, Braxton Mil-

was recited.

fied Staff.

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the November 13, 2023 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Lee Mattson, AJ Gengler, Mark Barwald, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Vermeersch, Melanie Leth, Tim Woessner, Craig Britton and Kathy Freeman

The City Council approved the following items:

• Agenda and consent agenda;

• Authorizing City Attorney to move forward razing the house at 912 Main Street East; • Authorizing City Attorney to move ahead with the 2020 Improvement Project Settle-

ment Agreement and the Mayor's execution;
Resolution 2023-26 – Local Road Improvement Program Funding for Airport Drive North Reconstruction;

• Legal agreement and allowing no less than a \$100,000 cap on Wasioja's funding costs for this project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

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