

Public Notices

Wells County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S REGULAR MEETING November 7, 2024

The November meeting was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:30 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Laut, Danny Maxwell, Brian Miller, Brian Argabright, Ivy Brye, Tom Deede, Lydia Gessele, Cheyenne Gessele, Mike Gregg, Brian Schimelfenig, Larry Skiftun, Daniel Stutlien, and Neil Nelson of the Herald-Press.

BL (M), BM (S) to approve the minutes from the October Meeting. Unanimously carried.

BM (M), DD (S) to approve the minutes from the October 9th Special Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Employee timesheets were reviewed by the commissioners.

DD (M), DM (S) to approve the bills as presented. Unanimously carried.

The current WC Balance Sheet was reviewed and discussed. Also, the Auditor shared current county investments as well as Commission controlled WC funds.

DD (M), BL (S) to approve Laura Muscha, Treasurer, and Daniel Stutlien, Auditor, to purchase or cash out CD's on behalf of WC. Unanimously carried.

Pledged Securities for all WC bank accounts were reviewed by the Commission. It was the consensus of the WC Commission the securities were adequate to cover the county's current deposits.

Correspondence in the form of a letter of support for WC's inclusion in the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program from District Judge, Daniel D. Narum to the ND Supreme Court was shared. Commission Portfolios were reviewed and discussed. The Commission was reminded the December meeting will have a new election of officers & portfolio assignments.

WC Sheriff, Chris Kluth, was on the agenda but was not able to attend.

WC Road Foreman, Brent Keller, met with the Commission to discuss matters of his dept. Specifically, Keller discussed the completion of the bridge on 21st St. NE South of Harvey and all barricades, signs, and equipment have been removed from the site, and the roadway is open and being used extensively already. The millings (850 ton) have been put in place at the WC Fairgrounds and the project has been deemed a positive one. The Road Dept. is prepping the equipment for winter.

Brian Argabright of Harvey sat with the Commission to ask questions that he had regarding roads and bridges, specifically bridge types. Argabright questioned how many bridges WC have, and how many of each type, in an effort to address long-term planning? Argabright also suggested weight limits needing to be enforced in the County.

Dale Schmitz of Manfred Township met with the Commission to discuss WC Drain #1 and the amount of water that sits near US #52 during runoff. Schmitz distributed a map showing the number of culverts installed in the last few years seemingly passing excessive water to and through this area in too short a time period. Schmitz questioned who is benefiting and who is suffering from this drain project as it is currently designed. Schmitz later submitted

a formal request to remove Larry Skiftun from the WC Water Board. Schmitz's request will be taken under advisement by the Commission and Schmitz was encouraged to get on the Water Board's agenda.

Berlin Township submitted a concern in the form of a letter to the Commission regarding the lack of speed control along WC #71 in south central WC. It was the consensus of the Commission to pass this letter along to the Sheriff.

The Commission reviewed WC's Culvert Policy. The policy has a date of 1/1/14, so review is needed. The consensus of the Commission was to have the States Attorney review this policy with guidance from the Commission regarding bridge removal, culvert installation guidance, and county installation standards.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien presented Companion Dental's 2025 premiums. The '25 rates are unchanged from '24's.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien discussed the General Election from November 5th. Stutlien shared 2,279 votes were cast and counted across the three polling centers in Bowdon, Fessenden, and Harvey, as well as absentee votes submitted by/before the deadline of 11/4/24 at 5:00 PM. Canvassing of set-aside ballots and those absentee ballots received after the deadline, is slated for Monday, November 18th, at 10:00 AM, at which time the '24 General Election will be complete and certified.

WC's property foreclosure sale will take place Tuesday, November 19th, at 10:00 AM in the Auditor's Office. The list of properties was shared and has been published in the H-P.

After significant review, a reconciliation of the HSZ's indirect costs has been completed. WC shall pay Eddy County \$76,762.75, and Foster County \$81,167.12. The HSZ will then reimburse Wells County \$58,159.43 for zone costs incurred by WC on behalf of Eddy & Foster Counties since 2020, and perform journal entries for another \$1,675.40 to settle the dispute. BM (M), DM (S) to authorize the payments at the end of November. Unanimously carried.

The Commission discussed take-aways from the NDACo Convention held in October in Bismarck.

WC Auditor Daniel Stutlien discussed the new NDCo Defined Contribution plan with the Commission. The plan will be implemented for all new PERS hires beginning 1/1/25, and thereafter. BM (M), DM (S) to authorize WC to match up to the legally allowed 4% employee contribution. Unanimously carried.

A resignation and retirement letter from Jeff Huss, WC Road Department, was shared with the Commission. DM (M), DD (S) to accept the resignation effective 10/31/24 and thank him for his years of service. Unanimously carried.

The Two Rivers Rural Ambulance District (New Rockford Ambulance) will hold their Board Meeting November 20th, at 7:00 PM at the Community Ambulance Service in New Rockford.

Regarding the Sheriff's budget, BL (M), BM (S) to a 5% reduction of the department's budget for future failure to attend Commission meetings and communicate with the Board. On a roll call vote, BL (Y), DD (N), BM (Y), DM (N), SB (N). Motion fails. It is the consensus of the Commission to visit with the States Attorney regarding a Sheriff's legal responsibilities.

The WC Zoning Board was addressed. Bob Martin is willing to represent District #2. The Commission will examine this at their December meeting.

The next WC Departments' Meeting is

scheduled for Thursday, November 21st, at 12:00 PM in the KTL Building.

The regular December WC Commission Meeting will be Thursday, December 5th, 2024 at 8:30 AM.

The next Six-County Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 10th, at 10:00 AM in Logan Co. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

The following Fees and Receipts were approved and ordered filed: Clerk of Court \$260.00; Recorder \$3,640.20; Sheriff \$1,625.00; Misc \$30,306.15

On motion, the following bills were ordered paid: (Gross wages, when listed) #Direct Deposit Payroll, General (1000) \$93,171.75; #Direct Deposit Payroll, Road (2001) \$63,967.99; #Direct Deposit Payroll, 911 (2003) \$1,210.14; #Direct Deposit Payroll, County Agent (2005) \$3,071.60; #Direct Deposit Payroll, Social Welfare (2007) \$64,718.23; #ACH BC/BS Insurance \$66,303.05 #ACH ND PERS Retirement \$34,582.44

November 2024 Expenses:
General: Wells County Treasurer, Central Supplies \$7.75; ODP Business Solutions, LLC, Central Supplies \$45.15; Pitney Bowes, Postage Meter Rent \$114.75; Wells County Treasurer, Telephone \$344.76; NDTCT, Telephone \$628.92; Verizon, Telephone \$200.01; Otter Tail, Countywide Utilities \$1,174.71; Fessenden City, Countywide Utilities \$291.60; Wells County Treasurer, Bank Charges \$46.60; Dakota Dust-Tex, Courthouse & KTL Maintenance \$437.45; Wells County Treasurer, Courthouse & KTL Maintenance \$958.86; Opdahl Concrete, LLC, Courthouse & KTL Maintenance \$6,468.00; Weigelt Refrigeration, Courthouse & KTL Maintenance \$80.00; Kayme Heintz, Janitor Supplies \$63.96; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Courthouse & KTL Maintenance \$15.98; Cole Papers, Janitor Supplies \$1,657.45; Tom's Home Furnishings, Elections \$429.00; ES & S, Elections \$174.12; Herald Press, Legal Publications \$756.47; Transcript Publishing, Legal Publications \$56.00; ND Assn. of Counties, Conference Fees \$1,955.00; Advanced Business Methods, Recycling \$148.00; Dakota Fire Extinguishers, Safety Supplies \$1,523.76; HP INC., Technology \$3,772.10; Tao Interactive, Inc., Technology-Website \$599.95; Advanced Business Methods, Technology \$1,439.93; ITD, Technology \$3,414.30; NDACo Resources Group, Technology \$403.42; NDTCT, Technology \$99.95; Wells County Treasurer, Countywide Misc. \$39.32; Wells County Water Resource District, Spraying Reimb. \$158.90; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$218.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$218.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$109.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$218.00; Wells County Treasurer, Aud. Travel \$218.00; Daniel Stutlien, Travel/Mileage \$523.94; Wells County Treasurer, Ink supplies/Maint. Contracts \$52.18; RELX Inc., Lexis Nexis Fees \$72.03; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$205.00; Carrie Krause, Travel/Mileage \$316.80; Sidwell Company, Sidwell/Vanguard \$1,895.28; ND State Radio, Maintenance - State Radio \$120.00; Axon Enterprise Inc., Training \$2,880.00; Kreiter Autoworks, Inc., Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$901.00; NW Tire Inc., Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$824.27; Wells County Treasurer, Sheriff Travel \$135.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$710.54; Drive Chevrolet Buick Harvey, Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$363.70; Farmers

Union Oil-Fessenden, Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$1,046.33; Faye Schimelfenig, Travel/Mileage/Veh. Maint. \$50.00; Christopher Kluth, Travel \$158.00; Wells County Treasurer, Uniforms \$127.77; Uniform Center, Uniforms \$158.99; Wells County Treasurer, Telephone \$131.52; NDTCT, Telephone \$58.63; Tammy Roehrich, Travel/Mileage \$230.90; Otter Tail, Utilities \$52.71; ODP Business Solutions, LLC, Ink/Maint. Contracts \$381.74; Jon Polries, Salary - Planning & Zoning Board \$50.00; Faye Schimelfenig, Salary - Planning & Zoning Board \$50.00; Connie Kunz, Salary - Planning & Zoning Board \$50.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$297.00; Amy Dale, Travel/Mileage \$289.10; Otter Tail, Festival Hall/Fair Utilities \$729.82; Fessenden City, Festival Hall/Fair Utilities \$284.04. TOTAL: \$41,851.46.

HB 1066: Susag Sand & Gravel, HB 1066 \$671.01; J & J Striping, HB 1066 \$6,849.30. TOTAL: \$7,520.31.

911: ND State Radio, Data Base/Circuiting/Updates \$19,643.48; Wells County Treasurer, Dues/Registration Fees \$300.00; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$1,469.70; Janelle Pepple, Travel/Mileage \$561.08. TOTAL: \$21,974.26.

Jail & Transp.: HACTC, Jail & Transport Medication \$101.82; HACTC, Jail & Transport Prison Board \$1,218.00; Stutsman County Correction Center, Jail & Transport Prison Board \$300.00. TOTAL: \$1,619.82.

Co. Agent: Leaf, Copier Lease & Maint. \$495.41; NDSU, Office Supplies \$28.50; NDTCT, Telephone \$121.30; Wells County Treasurer, Travel/Mileage \$88.00; Kathryn Slavick, Travel/Mileage \$385.42; Otter Tail, Utilities \$50.19; NDSU Ag Budget Office, Share of County Agent \$5,729.17. TOTAL: \$6,897.99.

Social Services: Wells County Treasurer, Client Support \$217.33; Angel Beam, Client Support \$1,323.00; Wells County Treasurer, Fuel/Foster Care \$136.48; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Fuel/Foster Care \$43.28; Wells County Treasurer, Vehicles \$18.00; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Vehicles \$12.98; Wells County Treasurer, Fuel/Child Protect. Serv. \$202.73; Wells County Treasurer, Child Protect./Safety Perm. \$289.77; Paula Duren, Parent Aid Travel/Mileage \$178.22; Kim Goettle, Parent Aid Travel/Mileage \$164.82; Wells County Treasurer, Parent Aid/Lodging/Hotels \$594.00; Wells County Treasurer, Family Social Worker/ Fuel \$41.59; CenDak Cooperative-New Rockford, Family Social Worker/Fuel \$80.72; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Foster Care Fuel \$33.89; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Vehicles \$663.64; Wells County Treasurer, Family Soc. Worker/Safety Perm. \$100.00; Vicky Kalmar, In Home Care - Health Ins. \$250.00; Little Mart, In Home Care/Fuel \$173.50; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, In Home Care/Fuel \$160.14; Patriot Fuels, In Home Care/Fuel \$181.33; Bessette Motors, Inc., Vehicles \$1,000.38; Opps Auto Body, Vehicles \$100.00; Patriot Fuels, Vehicles \$12.00; Wells County Treasurer, Contracted Services \$181.30; Leaf, Contracted Services \$461.00; Wells County Treasurer, Telephone \$510.32; NDTCT, Telephone \$608.88; Dakota Central, Telephone \$173.22; Madison Crisman, Admin Support-Travel/Mileage \$718.24; Central City H2O+, Zone Admin Support/Misc \$316.50; ITD, Zone Admin Support/IT Other \$31.25; ND-ACO Resources Group, Zone Admin Support/IT Other \$1,085.00; Wells County Treasurer, Zone Admin Support/Office Materials \$16.98. TOTAL: \$10,080.49.

Weed Control: Donna Rau, Salary - Employee \$220.87; Benson County Farmers Press, Advertising \$224.00; Herald Press, Advertising \$159.60; Transcript Publishing, Advertising \$266.00; Foster County Independent, Advertising \$203.00; West Ontario Township, Noxious Weed/Leafy Spurge/Cost Sharing \$500.00. TOTAL: \$1,573.47.

Hwy Tax: Mid-Dakota Lumber, Building Upkeep \$680.68; Pat Biel Trucking, Inc., Culverts & Bridges \$6,872.40; Farmers Union Oil-Fessenden, Fuel \$13,380.57; Harvey Oil Co., Fuel \$3,130.00; Wells County Treasurer, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$961.98; NAPA-Harvey, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$44.99; Rick's Wholesale Tire, Inc., Tires \$2,006.00; Butler Machinery, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$293.38; Power Plan, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$8,582.59; High Plains Equipment, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$413.05; Swanson Equipment, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$346.01; Gooseneck Implement, Machinery Repairs & Supplies \$266.69; Farm & Family, Supplies \$31.36; Limer Gas & Equipment, Supplies \$129.07; Lerner's ACE & Rental, Supplies \$56.16; NDTCT, Telephone \$145.58; Tim Buchwitz, Travel/Mileage \$80.40; Verendrye Electric, Utilities \$150.79; Harvey City, Utilities \$64.20; Cathay City, Utilities \$95.00; Wells County Treasurer, Utilities \$422.34; Otter Tail, Utilities \$301.11; Central Plains Water, Utilities \$155.05; Northern Plains Electric, Utilities \$272.27; Fessenden City, Utilities \$151.96; \$39,033.63.

Preservation: Tyler Technologies, Technology \$4,522.29.

24-7: Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Screenings \$31.87; Wells County Treasurer, 24-7 \$383.40. TOTAL: \$415.27.

November expenditures: \$135,488.99.

Attest: Daniel W. Stutlien, Wells County Auditor
Publication Date: Nov. 23, 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WELLS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL MEETING November 15, 2024

A special meeting (telephonic) held Friday, November 15th, was called to order by Chairman Buxa at 8:30 AM. Present at the meeting were Stan Buxa, Dennis Dockter, Bryan Laut, Danny Maxwell, and Daniel Stutlien. Brian Miller was absent.

The only item on the agenda was authorization for NDSU to seek to fill the soon-to-be vacant WC Extension Agent position. DD (M), DM (S) to approve NDSU's pursuit to fill the position. Unanimously carried.

The regular December WC Commission meeting will be Thursday, December 5th, 2024 at 8:30 AM. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM.

Publication Date: Nov. 23, 2024

Fessenden City Council Minutes

UNSIGNED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FESSENDEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Monday, November 4, 2024 7:00 P.M. City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Donna Young; aldermen Vince Harshbarger, Robert Krueger, Jeff Johnson, Karl Mogren, Brian Schimelfenig, Ron Widiger; Paula Tweton, City Auditor; Jeff Roehrich, Public Works Commissioner.

Guests: Lisa Bertrand, Pastor Shirley Teske, Tammy Roehrich, Raymond van Tonder. Anne Ehni for The Herald-Press.

The regular meeting of the Fessenden City Council was called to order by Mayor Young at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was moved by Brian Schimelfenig and seconded by Robert Krueger to dispense with reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve them. Motion carried on voice vote.

---It was moved by Jeff Johnson and seconded by Schimelfenig to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried on roll call vote; all voting aye.

Johnson moved to approve time cards; seconded by Krueger. Motion carried on voice vote.

Discussion was held on instituting a consent agenda in which routine items are grouped together and can be approved with a single vote, without requiring separate discussion on each item, allowing for faster meeting proceedings by focusing time on more complex issues. Consensus was to leave items separate.

Finance: Mayor Young inquired about the status of the quit claim deed for property sold to First International Bank and Trust. Jeff Johnson stated that he would check on this and discuss at next meeting. Johnson requested auditor to provide Council with year-to-date financial figures to compare these with the budget for next meeting.

Mayor Young appointed Karl Mogren to Legal and Properties committees. Mayor raised issue of Properties Committee reviewing building permits and presenting its recommendations to Council to save time. Discussion held regarding how much time would be saved as well as time factor for committee to meet before council meeting and informing residents of change in procedure. Alderman Widiger moved to table discussion, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried on voice vote.

Changing Council meeting date from the first Monday of the month was discussed in view of bills increasingly arriving after meeting date. Schimelfenig moved to retain current meeting date; seconded by Karl Mogren. Motion carried on voice vote.

Mayor Young requested that the Finance Committee investigate how the City can obtain available funding for lead line replacement project.

Auditor: Auditor Tweton requested Double M Sanitation be added to the preapproved bills. Moved by Schimelfenig and seconded by Johnson to approve; motion carried on voice vote.

Public Works Commissioner: PWC Roehrich reported on muskrat and badger activity at the laagoon.

Unfinished Business: Moved by Johnson and seconded by Krueger to remove Apex engineer Susan Hazlett's name from laagoon resolution and to add Mayor Donna Young. Motion carried on voice vote.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding overall cost of the laagoon. Tammy Roehrich informed Council regarding possibility of 1% federal loan if funds available. Discussed funding options including loan through the State Revolving Fund as well as request from North Dakota Public Finance to raise Fessenden's laagoon fees. Discussion held regarding raising water rates in view of an increase in cost from Central Plains. In view of needing additional information and the need to contact Public Finance, Johnson moved to table resolution regarding raising laagoon and water fees; seconded by Krueger. Motion carried on voice vote. Special city council meeting will be held to determine action on these issues after gathering additional information.

Public Notice of Service Charges

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

Pursuant to Chapter 7 Article 1 Section 7.0124 of the Municipal Ordinances of the City of Fessenden,

BE IT RESOLVED: that established water and sewer rates for the City of Fessenden listed below will be on file with the city auditor and will be available for public inspection during normal business hours.

A. Water Rates
1. Bulk water \$12.00 per 1,000 gals.
2. Business and residential \$25.00 plus \$9.50 per 1,000 gals.
B. Sewer Rates
All users: \$15.00 per month.

Summons
IN DISTRICT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, IN THE SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil No. 52-2024-DM-00014
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Robin Rost, Plaintiff
vs
Vera Rost a/k/a Vera Shumilova, Defendant
SUMMONS

THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, VERA ROST:
[¶1] You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the Complaint in this action, which is herewith served upon you or will be filed with the clerk of this court, by serving upon the undersigned an answer or other proper response within 21 days after the service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS
[¶2] Under Rule 8.4 of the North Dakota Rules of Court, upon service of this summons, you, and your spouse, are bound by the restraints following:

(1) Neither spouse shall dispose of, sell, encumber, or otherwise dissipate any of the parties' assets, except:
a. For necessities of life or for the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets; or
b. For retaining counsel to carry on or to contest the proceeding;

If a spouse disposes of, sells, encumbers, or otherwise dissipates assets during the interim period, that spouse shall provide to the other spouse an accounting within 30 days.

(2) Neither spouse shall harass the other spouse.

(3) All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in coverage or beneficiary designation.

IF EITHER SPOUSE VIOLATES ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, THAT SPOUSE MAY BE IN CONTEMPT OF COURT.

[¶3] Dated this 9th day of June, 2023.
/s/ Paul Murphy
Paul Murphy (ND ID #05166)
Murphy Law Office
909 Main Street, Carrington, ND 58421
(701)652-1270 Fax (701)652-1269
murfslaw@daTel.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Publication Dates: Nov. 16, 23, 30, 2024

C. Deposit
All new users: \$100.00
D. Connection
All new connections and reconections: \$100.00
E. Water Tower Fee
All water connections: \$5.00
F. Drain Maintenance
All water connections: \$1.00
G. Lagoon Maintenance
All sewer connections: \$18.00
Rate increase effective January 1, 2025
Dated this 13th Day of November, 2024
Jeff Johnson, President
Paula Tweton, Auditor
Publication Date: Nov. 23, 2024

For Sale on Bids
The Harvey Fire Department is listing a 1949 American LaFrance fire truck and a 2007 Bobcat Workmate off highway vehicle with the online auction service, Integrity Auctioneers, on December 19th, 2024. We have the right to reject any or all bids. For more information visit www.integrity.bid or call Ben at 605-850-1330.
Publication Dates Nov. 23 and 30, 2024

Public Notice

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Wells County, North Dakota and incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Wells County, North Dakota and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Wells County, North Dakota and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA DAKET (1-877-336-2627).
Publication Dates: Nov. 16 and 23, 2024

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE To All Customers of NDTCTelecommunications Services

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The Public Service Commission of North Dakota designated North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC) as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

NDTC provides the supported services -- voice telephony service and broadband internet access service throughout its designated service area. These supported services include:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network
 - Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
 - Access to emergency services such as 911 and enhanced 911
 - Broadband Internet access service which includes the capability to send data to and receive data from the internet, but excludes dial-up service.
- Voice telephony service is provided at rates which start at \$22.00 per month for residential customers and \$37.00 per month for business line customers. Broadband Internet access service is provided at rates which start at \$31.95 per month for residential and business customers. Use of these services may result in added charges including taxes, surcharges, and fees.

NDTC also offers qualified customers Lifeline service. Lifeline is a non-transferable, federal benefit that makes monthly voice or broadband service more affordable. The program is limited to one discount per household. Eligible households may apply the monthly Lifeline discount to either broadband service (home or wireless) or voice service (home or wireless) but not both. Lifeline customers also have the option to apply the discount to a service bundle, such as home phone and home broadband. In addition, the phone or broadband service you order from NDTC must meet certain minimum service standards. The Lifeline voice service also includes toll blocking to qualifying customers without charge. As of December 1, 2020, the discount provided under the Company's Lifeline service is \$9.25 each month for internet and \$5.25 each month for stand-alone voice service that the customer qualifies.

NDTC also offers Enhanced Lifeline Support for Tribal Lands in addition to the standard benefit amount of \$9.25, eligible residents of federally-recognized Tribal lands who are receiving service from facilities-based service providers will receive an additional Lifeline discount of up to \$25 per month. They may also receive a one-time reduction to the service connection charges up to \$100 at their primary residence.

A household is eligible for the Lifeline discount if the customer's annual household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. You may also qualify for the Lifeline program if a customer, a dependent, or the customer's household participates in one or more of the following programs:

- Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA-Section 8)
 - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
- Qualifying Tribal Programs -- Enhanced Lifeline Support:
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Head Start (only those households meeting the income qualifying standard)
 - Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Consumers can apply through the National Verifier at www.check-lifeline.org or submit a paper application with documentation to the Lifeline Support Center. NDTC is no longer able to accept documentation to determine Lifeline or Enhanced Lifeline Support eligibility.

Please call NDTC if you have any questions.

