

Dakota Datebook: Grand Forks Sleigh Ride

By Jim Davis

Christmas carols often remind us of “Christmases long, long ago,” On December 9, 1950, L.K. VanAlstine of Grand Forks and Theresa Thoreson of East Grand Forks recalled an even earlier time.

It was a time when there was the jingling of bells as horses skimmed along the frozen surface of the Red River in a one-horse open sleigh. For those romantically inclined, one horse could easily pull a couple in a sleigh, known as a cutter, but according to VanAlstine, for real class, a span of horses was better. In fact, he recommended a “spanking pair of grays,” a term applied to white horses with black skins. The word “spanking” meant capable at moving with a quick, lively pace, coming from the Danish word “spanke” which means to strut.

So, in 1900, sleigh riding was one of the great winter sports in Grand Forks.

The Bacon & VanAlstine Livory Barn had as many as 100 cutters out on some Sunday afternoons. Fur coats, warm caps and buggy robes of buffalo or some other fur were the trappings of the sleigh. And of course, one essential ingredient was the sleigh bell. Rings of sleigh bells were placed on the horses and others were placed on the pole between the teams, or on the shafts on each side of the horse in a one-horse sleigh. There were one, two and three-toned sets of bells.

Miss Thoreson recalled that besides the pleasure of just going for a ride up and down the Red River, it also served as a highway to visit families and friends. And she recalled that the cool breeze blowing

Dakota Datebook: Small State Of ND

By Sarah Walker

It has often been said that ties run close in North Dakota. It’s the biggest small town in the world, or so it seems.

On December 13, 1968, the Minot Daily News published a story that illustrated that point in an unexpected way. Mark Marsall, a former

resident of Mandan, who was then living in California, met Robert E. Larson, of Minot, while in Mexico, out in the Pacific Ocean, when Larson saved Marsall’s life.

Larson was in Mexico on a business trip with college friend Steve Bergren, from Chicago, who was fluent in Spanish and would serve as translator. On the night they arrived, they were relaxing around the hotel pool when a woman ran up to them and asked if they could swim. The two men could definitely swim, they had taken and passed a diving course while at Stanford. When they said they could, the woman told them that two men were drowning in the ocean.

According to reports, Marsall and his teenage son Joe had been caught in a stiff undertow, or rip current. Responding to the Marsall’s cries for help, Larson and his friend quickly swam to the two men. They found Marsall, but not his son, Marsall had told his son Joe to take off

for the shore, to save his own life. Marsall meanwhile, was almost on his last breath. Larson towed him back to the coast while Bergren stayed behind to look for Joe. Towing a person with one arm and while swimming for two was difficult for Larson. However, after about ten minutes, Marsall was sufficiently rested to hold onto Larson’s swim trunks, making it easier for them to get to shore.

Marsall’s son Joe made it back

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Workforce Innovation Grants Could Make Rural ND Shine

By Mike Moen, Prairie News Service

North Dakota has thirty available workers for every one-hundred open jobs. To help confront workforce shortages, the state is now accepting grant applications to kick-start solutions at the local level.

The Department of Commerce's Regional Workforce Impact Program invites towns, cities and their business development groups to seek out the grants.

Arik Spencer, president and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, said providing seed money to foster innovation in worker recruitment might boost rural areas at a competitive disadvantage. "Whether it is starting manufacturing ventures or doing other creative things," Spencer outlined. "To the extent that this can help those, maybe, small communities or underserved communities get people to move there and bolster their workforce, we think that's a positive outcome."

Spencer pointed out the innovation might look like closing afford-

able housing gaps, which he said is a common roadblock around the state. He and other stakeholders monitoring the labor landscape still hope for broader support when the Legislature reconvenes early next year. North Dakota's labor shortage woes appear to be more pressing than its neighboring states.

Spencer noted no matter the size of the community, applicants appear to be in the driver's seat in coming up with fixes that work for their populations. "While living in Fargo may be attractive to some people, maybe living in Watford City's attractive to others," Spencer acknowledged. "This grant program allows those regional communities to figure out their own solutions and tackle those with the support of the state."

The application period began last week and runs through Jan. 21. There are grant caps for certain categories. For example, a local coalition focused on recruiting talent can receive a grant of up to \$250,000. The cap is higher for infrastructure needs related to worker recruitment, such as childcare centers.

Prairie Fare: Why Have We Heard So Much About Food Recalls?

By Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist, NDSU Extension

Let's start with a quick quiz. Name a food that has been recalled in recent months.

Here's your bonus question: what was the potential issue with the food?

You probably thought of more than one food that has been recalled due to a potential or actual safety threat to the public. Recalls are specific to certain brand names, not every product. Visit the Food and Drug Administration website for details about recalls and other safety alerts.

Some of the recalls are specific to a small region in the U.S., while other recalls can be nationwide.

You probably remember the 19-state Listeria outbreak linked to deli meats. Ten people died and 60 were hospitalized during the summer of 2024. Previously, lettuce, onions and tomatoes have been linked to outbreaks.

More recently, in Nov. 2024, organic whole carrots potentially contaminated with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli were recalled. Tortilla strips were recalled due to undeclared wheat. Orange custard chocolate chip ice cream was recalled due to undeclared eggs. Soft ripened cheese was recalled due to potential Listeria monocytogenes contamination.

In Oct. 2024, seafood salad was recalled due to undeclared soy. Smoked salmon and chicken street taco meal kits were both recalled due to potential contamination with Listeria monocytogenes.

Food recalls also can involve pet foods. For example, chicken chips dog treats were recalled due to potential salmonella contamination in Nov. 2024.

Not all of the recalled foods have been directly implicated in making people sick, but some products have.

Why do we hear about recalls more often? Information is circulated rapidly through various social media, TV news and many other forms of media. Our food travels throughout the U.S.

Recalls fall into three different categories, and companies can voluntarily conduct a recall. The FDA can request or order a recall.

According to the FDA, a Class I recall is a situation where the product can cause serious or fatal health consequences. A Class II recall is a situation where the product can cause temporary health issues but the chances for serious health consequences is rare. A Class III recall usually does not cause adverse health consequences.

If you were to discover a recalled food product in your refrigerator, freezer or cupboard, what should you do?

Should you take your chances and eat a food potentially contaminated with bacteria such as E. coli or Listeria? No, that is not a good plan. We cannot see, smell or taste bacteria or viruses, and tiny amounts

could make us very ill.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not recommend that we throw caution to the wind. We should not eat the recalled food with potential bacterial contamination. We also should not feed the food to pets, who also can get food poisoning. We should not donate the food to a food bank. Avoid opening the food package. If you already opened the food, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Food recalls often are associated with specific instructions from the manufacturer. Most of the time, you are advised to return the food to where you bought it for a refund. If returning the food is not a possibility, then dispose of the food where no human or animal will consume it.

In 2023, more than half of food recalls were due to undeclared allergens. All foods are required to include the presence of nine allergens (milk, eggs, wheat, soy, sesame, fish, shellfish, tree nuts and peanuts). These allergens are responsible for 90 percent of food allergies, but there are many other potential food allergens.

Food allergies can be serious, even deadly, for people with allergies.

I am fortunate that I do not have food allergies. I would not be as concerned about missing allergen labeling for myself. However, most of us know people with food allergies, and we might be preparing food for them.

Therefore, handle foods with potential allergens similarly to those with potential bacterial contamination. Make an effort to return mislabeled foods to the store for a refund. Never donate it, because you do not know who might be eating the food.

Obviously, I won't give you food preparation advice for recalled foods. Following food safety principles is important every day. Here's a spread for crackers or bread perfect for a light appetizer at a holiday gathering. It was contributed by one of the volunteers in the Growing Together Community Gardens of Fargo-Moorhead.

Cucumber Spread

4 large cucumbers (about 3 to 4 cups, diced)

½ teaspoon salt

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

½ cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons dill weed

1 tablespoon minced onion

Chives, mint or parsley

Crackers, carrot or celery sticks, bread (for serving)

Rinse cucumbers thoroughly. Peel cucumbers if desired. Remove seeds and dice. Combine with salt and allow to rest one hour, draining excess water. Combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, dill weed and onion. Fold in cucumbers. Use as a spread.

Makes 16 servings. Each serving of spread has 110 calories, 10 grams (g) fat, 2 g protein, 4 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber and 160 milligrams sodium.

Proceedings Of The Mountrail County Planning Commission

MINUTES MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION OCTOBER 28, 2024

The meeting of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Charlie Sorenson with Commissioners Trudy Ruland, Cameron Tomjack, Jesse Weyrauch and Megan Fritel, Kirk Johnson and Doug Bratvold present. Also present were Planning & Zoning Administrator Melissa Vachal, Planning & Zoning Assistant Malinda Gunderson, Mountrail County State's Attorney Wade Engst and Mountrail County Auditor Stephanie Pappa. Absent were Commissioners Joan Hollekim and Arlo Borud.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Weyrauch, seconded by Commissioner Ruland, to approve the agenda as amended. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Ruland, seconded by Commissioner Weyrauch, to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission minutes of the September 23, 2024 meeting as corrected. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Approval of 2025 Planning & Zoning Application Fees

Administrator Vachal presented the board with the current fee schedule stating there are no suggested changes as of right now. The Planning & Zoning Board will need to address the application fees for Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities once the Land Development Code Amendment has been approved and will need to move to recommend those to the Mountrail County Commissioners for approval at a later date. A suggestion was made earlier this year by Administrator Vachal to address the fees for building permits specifically concerning Commercial and Industrial permits. Administrator Vachal feels that an increase specifically for Industrial permits would be beneficial because these types of permits require more work from administration and more site visits to ensure compliance. Commissioner Ruland suggested splitting Commercial and Industrial building permits into separate categories and to leave Commercial permits at \$350 while increasing Industrial permits to \$500. Commissioner Ruland also suggested the board eliminate the need to designate a value of the construction on all other building permits and leave that fee at \$100.

Moved by Commissioner Ruland, seconded by Commissioner Tomjack to separate Commercial and Industrial building permits and to remove the requirement of the value of construction for all other building permits and to amend the application fees for building permits as follows: Industrial-\$500, Commercial-\$350, all others-\$100. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Administration has no other suggested changes for application fees until the committee for the amendment to the Land Development Code meets and the changes concerning Subdivision Letter of Credit, Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities have been decided. Fees for those categories will be decided once the amendment is complete.

Moved by Commissioner Tomjack, seconded by Commissioner Ruland to make recommendation to the Mountrail County Commissioners to approve the amended fee schedule of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

1. 8:35 a.m. Troy Heinle-Applciant; Thomas & Jackie Heinle-Landowners; (PZ-2024-0354) Conditional Use

Zoning Request/Conditional Use Permit for the following described property: a tract of land 104.06 acres more or less located in the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 15, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) (Parcel# 21-0007800)

The applicant (represented by Troy Heinle) is seeking a Conditional Use Permit to place a mobile home on land zoned Agricultural. The mobile home will be for temporary living quarters until Mr. Heinle is able to build a more permanent residence on the property which he expects to have done in a couple of years. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Ruland, seconded by Commissioner Weyrauch, to approve the zoning request filed by Troy Heinle with concurrence from Thomas & Jackie Heinle-landowners, for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of placing a mobile home on land zoned Agricultural on a tract of land 104.06 acres more or less located in the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 15, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) for a period of 5 years, expiring on 10-28-2029 with the option to revisit the situation if necessary at expiration, as Troy Heinle with concurrence from Thomas & Jackie Heinle-landowners, has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Troy Heinle with concurrence from Thomas & Jackie Heinle-landowners, complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

2. 8:38 a.m. Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre-Applciant; Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-Landowner; (PZ-2024-0356) Amendment

Amendment to Zoning Request for the following described property: a tract

of land 0.64 acres more or less located in the N 46.05' of Outlot 53 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) (Parcel# 57-0019600)

The applicant (represented by Lorena Vergara) is seeking an Amendment to Zoning to re-zone land from Agricultural to Commercial for the purpose of annexing the additional footage that was platted & wasn't part of the original zoning. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Weyrauch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to make recommendation to the Mountrail County Commissioners to approve the zoning request filed by Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, for an amendment to change land zoned Agricultural to Commercial for the purpose of annexing the additional footage that was platted & wasn't part of the original zoning on a tract of land 0.64 acres more or less located in the N 46.05' of Outlot 53 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) as Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, have met all criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

3. 8:41 a.m. Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre-Applciant; Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-Landowner (PZ-2024-0357) Amendment

Amendment to Zoning Request for the following described property: a tract of land 2.91 acres more or less known as Outlot 51 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) (Parcel# 57-0019600)

The applicant (represented by Lorena Vergara) is seeking an Amendment to Zoning to re-zone land from Commercial to Rural Residential for the purpose of building a home. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Ruland, seconded by Commissioner Tomjack, to make recommendation to the Mountrail County Commissioners to approve the zoning request filed by Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, for an amendment to change land zoned Commercial to Rural Residential for the purpose of building a home on a tract of land 2.91 acres more or less known as Outlot 51 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) as Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, have met all criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Lorena Vergara & Rene Vergara Aguirre with concurrence from Get it Done Service & Repair LLC-landowner, complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

4. 8:44 a.m. Teresa Miller-Applciant; Landowner (PZ-2024-0360) Amendment

Amendment to Zoning Request for the following described property: a tract of land 0.20 acres more or less located in the NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 30, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) (Parcel# 21-0015600).

The applicant (represented by Brent Boeddeker with Ohnstad Twichell, P.C. in West Fargo) is seeking an Amendment to Zoning to re-zone a tract of land from Agricultural to Rural Residential for the purpose of selling the property. Administrator Vachal explained that there was an error made by the surveyor that platted Outlot 2 which resulted in the house and garage being cut off so State's Attorney Engst suggested platting Outlot 3 to correct the mistake which is what needs to be re-zoned today. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Weyrauch, seconded by Commissioner Ruland, to make recommendation to the Mountrail County Commissioners to approve the zoning request filed by Teresa Miller for an amendment to change land zoned Agricultural to Rural Residential for the purpose of selling the property on a tract of land 0.20 acres more or less located in the NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 30, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) as Teresa Miller has met all criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Teresa Miller complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

City of Stanley Planning & Zoning Notice of Moratorium

Regarding this notice, Administrator Vachal stated that in 2009 the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission made a resolution and entered in to an agreement with the Planning & Zoning Commissions of the cities of Mountrail

County that would allow them control over their extraterritorial zoning limits. It is because of this agreement that the City of Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission has provided Mountrail County with their own Notice of Moratorium on Data Centers & Battery Storage Facilities. Administrator Vachal informed the board that State's Attorney Engst needs this board to reaffirm the written agreement under N.D.C.C. 40-47-01.1 that allows the City of Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission full control of the regulation of the entirety of the extraterritorial zoning limits to the exclusion of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission and to acknowledge the same action of the board at this meeting with a letter sent to the City of Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission memorializing said action. Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator for the City of Stanley, addressed the board stating that the city issued this letter to ensure that the City of Stanley is staying informed of this board's actions and that someone from the city may attend public meetings to assure that the city and the county are presenting a united front on this issue. The City of Stanley has scheduled a City Council meeting on November 12, 2024 at 7 p.m. and welcomes anyone from the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission to attend if they have any concerns that they would like heard.

Temporary Water Permits – New – For Board Information Only

PZ-2024-0340 – Donald & Theresa Heinle – Applicant/Landowner. State Water Permit #ND2024-22613. Period of Authorized usage: 9/27/2024 through 9/01/2025. Pump placement on a tract of land 51.14 acres more or less located in S1/2SW1/4 of Section 15, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) (16) CERTIFIED RECEIPTS RECEIVED. Approved by P&Z Administrator.

Lay Flat Hose Permits – For Board Information Only

ASWS LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22473/PZ-2024-0341. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: ASWS LLC – Applicant. Rice Ranch LLP – Landowner. SE1/4 of Section 34, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) ending in NE1/4NW1/4 (Gov't Lot 3) of Section 3, Township 155 North, Range 94 (Unorganized Township).

ASWS LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22179/PZ-2024-0342. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: ASWS LLC – Applicant. JamJam Blessings LLP – Landowner. SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 2, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) ending in NE1/4NE1/4 of Section 14, Township 156 North, Range 94 (Myrtle Township).

Streamline Water Services – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22033/PZ-2024-0343. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Streamline Water Services – Applicant. Ronald Rugland – Landowner. NW1/4NE1/4 (Gov't Lot 2) of Section 32, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (Redmond Township) ending in NW1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, Township 157 North, Range 89 (Redmond Township).

Streamline Water Services – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22033/PZ-2024-0344. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Streamline Water Services – Applicant. Ronald Rugland – Landowner. NW1/4NE1/4 of Section 19, Township 157 North, Range 89 West (Redmond Township) ending in the N1/2NE1/4 of Section 24, Township 157 North, Range 90 (Clearwater Township).

Streamline Water Services – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #6172/PZ-2024-0362. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Streamline Water Services – Applicant. Coteau Cattle LLP – Landowner. Outlot 1 of NW1/4NW1/4 of Section 15, Township 157 North, Range 90 West (Clearwater Township) ending in the N1/2NE1/4 of Section 24, Township 157 North, Range 90 (Clearwater Township).

Select Water Solutions LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22226/PZ-2024-0348. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Select Water Solutions LLC – Applicant. Evelyn P Miller Revocable Living Trust & Roger L Miller – Landowners. E1/2NE1/4 of Section 35, Township 157 North, Range 91 West (James Hill Township) ending in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 8, Township 156 North, Range 91 (Idaho Township).

Select Water Solutions LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22112/PZ-2024-0351. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Select Water Solutions LLC – Applicant. Evelyn P Miller Revocable Living Trust & Roger L Miller – Landowners. E1/2NE1/4 of Section 35, Township 157 North, Range 91 West (James Hill Township) ending in the NW1/4 less Outlot 4 of Section 17, Township 156 North, Range 91 (Idaho Township).

Select Water Solutions LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22112 & ND2024-22226/PZ-2024-0350. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Select Water Solutions LLC – Applicant. Evelyn P Miller Revocable Living Trust & Roger L Miller – Landowners. (Ties in with PZ-2024-0348 & PZ-2024-0351) SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 8, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (Idaho Township) ending in the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 156 North, Range 91 (Idaho Township).

Select Water Solutions LLC – Lay Flat Hose Permit only – Permit Number – State Water Permit #ND2024-22112 &

safely, too, and Bergren gave up his search and came in, so all four were accounted for and safe, and Bergren and Larson were heroes.

Water incidents and resultant injury and death can occur almost anywhere, but perhaps it's not a death most North Dakotans are mindful of, living as they do in a land-locked region. But in this instance, meeting an old North Dakota neighbor was more than a lucky break, it was a saving grace.

ND2024-22226/PZ-2024-0349. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose: Select Water Solutions LLC – Applicant. Evelyn P Miller Revocable Living Trust & Roger L Miller – Landowners. (Ties in with PZ-2024-0348 & PZ-2024-0351) SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 8, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (Idaho Township) ending in the NE1/4NW1/4 of Section 8, Township 156 North, Range 91 (Idaho Township).

Building Permits 2395-2398
2395 – PZ-2024-0355 – Troy Heinle – Applicant. Thomas & Jackie Heinle – Landowner. Parcel #21-0007800. S1/2SE1/4 of Section 15, Township 156 North, Range 94 West (Myrtle Township) 12'x60' mobile home.

2396 – PZ-2024-0358 – Get it Done Service & Repair – Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #57-0019600. Outlot 51 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 10, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) 15'x30' deck.

2397 – PZ-2024-0361 – Trudy Ruland – Applicant. Scott & Trudy Ruland & William Ruland – Landowners. Parcel #47-0003000. SE1/4 of Section 25, Township 152 North, Range 93 West. (Unorganized Township) 50'x 100' storage building.

2398 – PZ-2024-0374 – Kurt Myers – Applicant. Kurt & Michele Myers – landowner. Parcel #22-0005100. Outlot 2 of the NE1/4 & SE1/4 of Section 11, Township 155 North, Range 88 West. (Kickapoo Township) 48'x80' barn.

Moved by Commissioner Fritel, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve building permits 2395-2398. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS

* Gravel Pits-remains ongoing: Administration working on report

* Green Acres Subdivision-no new activity; no new Letter of Credit; no activity regarding plan of action

* Subdivision Letter of Credit

* Data Centers

* Battery Storage Facilities

STAFF UPDATES

* Administrator Vachal presented an update regarding the NDACO Conference she recently attended. There was a round table meeting of County Planning Administrators from several other counties and some of the topics discussed were Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities in which Administrator Vachal informed those in attendance of the moratorium by Mountrail County. Some of these administrators may be attending future meetings of this board for informational purposes. Administrator Vachal also attended a class called *Zoning Decisions in a World of Economic Development* which was presented by North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Randy Christmann, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Morton County Planning & Zoning Director Natalie Pierce.

* SRF is working on a correction to the contract and will be submitting it to the Mountrail County Commissioners for approval. Administration has sent letters to all township officers, city boards, and the Three Affiliated Tribes offices informing them of the moratorium and that the board welcomes them all to attend the meetings once they are scheduled. Meeting dates for the committee for the amendment to the Land Development Code will be set following the approval of the contract with SRF.

* Mountrail County has been part of a study on feeding operations: Rural Development Site Analysis on the Large Animal Feeding Operations. GIS maps were sent to all involved administrators for them to go through and to make any necessary updates or changes. Administration has gone through Mountrail County's map and reported a couple minor changes. They will be wrapping up the study soon and setting up meetings with the Mountrail County Commissioners. This study will help pinpoint areas where large animal feeding operations will be best located.

* We have received a letter from Bryan Zacher regarding a gravel mining pit located in the SW1/4 of Section 7, Township 153 North, Range 90 West directing the board to release the Certificate of Deposit with Cornerstone Bank. The letter is to release D&L Construction Inc. as Mr. Zacher states the site meets his specifications and there are no gravel stock piles left on site.

Moved by Commissioner Ruland, seconded by Commissioner Weyrauch, to release the Certificate of Deposit with Cornerstone Bank regarding D&L Construction Inc. as the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning has received notification that the gravel mining pit has been properly reclaimed and released by the landowner. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

* Administration received a letter from the Department of Energy regarding a Presidential Permit that Basin Electric Power Cooperative is seeking for a transmission line that will run from Wheelock up to the Canadian border. Administrator Vachal will attend this meeting in Tioga on October 30th, 2024.

BOARD CONCERNS

None.

The Board adjourned at 9:26 a.m. Next regular meeting of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission is **Monday, November 25, 2024**, at 8:30 a.m. by GOTO MEETING or in the Commissioners Room at the Mountrail County Courthouse.

Accepted and approved this 25th day of November, 2024.

Charlie Sorenson, Chairman
Mountrail County
Planning & Zoning Commission

Melissa Vachal, Administrator
Mountrail County
Planning & Zoning

Electronic recordings of full meetings are kept in the office per NDCC 44-04