

No applicants for JDA job; deadline extended

**By Jordan Rusche
Report for America**
The deadline for applying for Divide County's open community development director position has been extended 60 days by Job Development Authority members. Board members reported during the group's latest meeting on April 8 that they have

still not received any applications for the job, which originally had a deadline of March 28. Mayor James Jacobs also said Crosby City Auditor Alexa Kruger wasn't able to post an ad about the job opening on the county's behalf. "The only way she could post the job is it would end up

being posted as a city job," he said. He added County Auditor Gayle Jastrzebski should be able to upload the job listing instead. Those interested in the community development director position can send applications to Divide County at P.O. Box 49, Crosby, ND 58730.

Council approves lagoon project to reduce smell

Solar-powered aerators come from ND vendor; \$117K price tag

By Brad Nygaard
If all goes according to plans, Crosby residents and visitors may not have to hold their noses when driving by the city's sewage lagoon much longer. Council members on April 7 approved the purchase of three solar-powered aerators that the manufacturer claims will reduce odors by keeping water moving, even in winter. For a total price tag of nearly \$117,000, the project includes the aerators and anchoring system, installation, training and a sludge survey, as well as cellular communications devices for monitoring the system.

The vendor is Sunflo2, based in Bismarck and rural Wilton. Prior to the council's approval of the project, City Water Superintendent Paul Sannes briefed council members about conversations he'd had with other municipalities currently using Sunflo2 technology.

"They're ecstatic about it," Sannes said of his conversation with representatives of Howard, South Dakota. "It's really helped with the smell. They've never froze up, and they have almost the same cold as we do."

Similar positive reviews, according to Sannes, came from representatives of Wagner, South Dakota; Sidney, Montana; and an unnamed city in Kansas.

"They work great," Sannes said of the Kansas reaction. "It's cut back on the smell and helped cut back on the amount of sludge."

According to information in Sunflo2's proposal and discussions held between council members and Sannes, the sludge survey is necessary to determine how much buildup of solids is currently present.

Those solids can eventually lead to dredging, which is much more expensive, and part of Sunflo2's proposal claims the units help reduce sludge buildup.

Moving water, especially in winter, also helps mitigate the effects of solids breaking down and the resulting gases that, if trapped under ice all winter, give off undesirable odors.

"In my opinion, I would seriously look into getting this," Sannes said.

The system, Sannes estimated, coupled with bugs he puts into the lagoon, could eliminate 70% to 75% of the odor problems, as well as assist with reducing sludge buildup



A provided photo of a Sunflo2 Shallow-Flo solar-powered water aeration system. The Crosby City Council on April 7 approved the purchase of three solar-powered aerators for the city's sewage lagoon.

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that over time is reducing the lagoon's capacity and could lead to a dredging project that may cost millions of dollars. "That would be really detrimental to this community," Sannes said.

Engineering firm search
City Auditor Alexa Kruger informed council members a total of seven firms have responded to the city's request for proposals for engineering services, replacing Interstate Engineering as the city's firm of record.

City Attorney Seymour Jordan said the request for proposals, as written, gives the council the flexibility to conduct interviews with all seven applicants, or the council could review the responses and choose from just a few.

"I think you guys should get a subcommittee together to interview the applicants," Jordan said. "You can get some standardized questions together."

Following some discussion about how firms might be scored to select the most desirable firms, the council approved selection of a subcommittee consisting of Mayor James Jacobs and council members Jerry King and Doug Anderson.

Those three will work with Jordan on development of interview criteria and selection of firms to be interviewed.

"I just want to make sure we're doing it sooner rather than later," Jordan said of the selection process. "Because the plan is to have something by the next meeting, right?"

Crack sealing streets
The council also approved a proposal that will see a Williston contractor perform crack

sealing on many of the city's streets.

B's Crack Sealing's quote was slightly more than \$80,500. Maps of the affected streets are available in the company's proposal at City Hall.

Crack sealing is the process of placing an adhesive sealant into cracks on the pavement surface, preventing the infiltration of moisture and foreign materials that could potentially lead to the development of potholes into the pavement.

The process is widely hailed as a cost-effective pavement preservation treatment that can slow deterioration and extend pavement life by three to five years.

Animal ordinance
Revisions to the city's animal ordinance were approved in a first of two required readings.

As initially adopted, the revisions decriminalize offenses and remove previous language in the penalty portion regarding possible jail time.

Fines of up to \$1,500 in the original ordinance have also been stricken in favor of a graduated fine schedule that starts at \$100 for a first offense and can reach up to \$1,000 in the case of repeat offenses.

The revisions apply to any violation of the ordinance, from dogs and cats running at large to vaccination and license issues.

The current ordinance was first adopted in 2003, and critics have maintained the penalties are too steep, despite assurances from City Attorney Seymour Jordan that he would never propose jail time for such an offense, and that fines previously possible under the ordinance were seldom if ever imposed at the \$1,500 level.

The new maximum fine of \$1,000, for a third offense within five years, equals the lowest level of offense categorized as criminal by the North Dakota Court System.

Fantastic gymnastics



Prairie Tumbleweeds Gymnastics of Crosby hosted its annual exhibition on Saturday at Divide County High School to show the skills its students have learned over the season.

Above: Thome Johnson is guided by coach Brittany Probasco through an obstacle course for the Grades K-1 Ninja class. Daley Naeb is behind them getting ready for another run-through.

At right: Madilynn Lambert performs a bridge with the Level 1 gymnastics class.



Brad Nygaard -- The Journal

Sons of Norway hosting variety of art classes in April, June, July

**By Jordan Rusche
Report for America**
Sons of Norway, Vidda Lodge is sponsoring a rosemaling class in Crosby for local community members to learn the traditional Scandinavian art style. Joan Varty, a rosemaling artist from Minot, will lead the two-day class at the Bypass Bar and Grill on April 25 at 5:30 p.m. and on April 26 at 9 a.m. "She's been coming up here for 20 years, probably," said Betty Dhuyvetter, who is helping organize the event. While registration for the

class is already full, Dhuyvetter said there is a waiting list in case anyone cannot attend. Rosemaling is a Scandinavian style of painting, usually done on a wooden surface, that features specific kinds of brush strokes and color use, though techniques differ between styles. Dhuyvetter said the class usually spends the first day of class preparing the wooden boards they will be painting on and learning the right techniques for painting. "If there's time, she'll do all the basics about the painting,

the type of paints, and the brushes and the techniques," she said. Then students will have the second day to start painting the pattern provided by Varty. "No one has to have any artistic talent to come in and do it, just an interest in painting," Dhuyvetter said. "She'll walk the students through every step of the way." Dhuyvetter said being able to host classes teaching traditions like rosemaling is an important part of preserving Scandinavian heritage. "It just keeps the arts and

culture of the Scandinavian countries alive," she said. Dhuyvetter also said the lodge has plenty of other art classes and events coming up later this summer. In June, Burnell Rosenquist will be teaching a class on kolrosing, which is the art of etching designs into wooden surfaces. In July, Heike Rosenquist will be teaching how to make Sámi-inspired bracelets using leather and wire. The Sámi are the Indigenous people who live in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Welcome to the brotherhood



At right, Cooper Svangstu and Adam Knudson recite the Eagle Scout Challenge from Tim Bishop of Boy Scouts of America's Northern Lights Council during their Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday in Crosby.