

# Ray School Board Minutes

**Unofficial Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 23, 2025**  
Present: Foss, Johnsrud, Binge-man, Barman and Schmitt  
Also present: Matthew Heier; Secondary Principal, Rob Pedersen; Elementary Principal, Jordan Rusche; Divide County Journal, Ashley Elsworth, Teacher Representative  
President Foss called the regular April meeting of the Board of Nesson School District #2 to order at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.  
Additions/Corrections to the agenda: None  
Delegations/Special guests: None  
Bills were presented and reviewed.  
Motion made by Schmitt second by Johnsrud to pay the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.  
Amazon Capital Services..... 631.76  
Beck, Trish ..... 595.00  
Blarney Stone Pub..... 34.45  
Cash..... 11.58

City Of Ray ..... 955.86  
Costco Wholesale..... 37.53  
Dakota Diesel..... 20,876.85  
Dollywood Foundation ..... 51.50  
Easy Time Clock, Inc..... 202.00  
Eckroth Music..... 342.34  
Gibbs Towing..... 525.00  
Hartleys School Buses ..... 534.58  
Herff Jones, LLC ..... 174.80  
Holiday-Bismarck ..... 159.52  
Horizon Resources..... 6,774.64  
I-State Truck Center ..... 935.45  
J. W. Pepper & Sons, Inc..... 7.55  
Journal Publishing Inc..... 224.52  
Linde Gas & Equipment Inc 103.88  
Marco Technologies LLC..... 87.50  
Marco Technologies LLC . 1,950.08  
Menards - Williston..... 557.57  
Midwest Bus Parts ..... 558.70  
Midwest Transit Equipment. 673.30  
Montana-Dakota  
Utilities Co..... 11,306.64  
NAPA Truck Service Center.....60.80  
NW Communications Coop. 692.14  
Pearce Durick PLLC ..... 427.50  
Pierce Auto Body, Inc ..... 1,850.00

Popplers Music Inc ..... 467.73  
Quill Corporation ..... 176.61  
Ray Family  
Medical Center..... 1,230.00  
Ray Foods ..... 210.48  
Ray Service Center ..... 740.74  
Rosco Vision ..... 15.00  
Sanford Health Occupational  
Medicine Bismarck ..... 455.00  
Stein's Inc..... 3,195.64  
Teachers Pay Teachers ..... 129.97  
Tioga Hardware..... 86.52  
Top Dead  
Center Automotive..... 767.90  
United Truck  
Body Co. Inc. .... 1,720.60  
Vestis ..... 326.27  
Wex Health, Inc..... 50.00  
Williston Basin Cte Center.....5,200.00  
Total ..... \$66,115.50  
A motion made by Bingeman second by Schmitt to approve the consent agenda. Carried unanimously.  
Mr. Kuehn presented a report for Mr. Bergstrom who was unable to attend the meeting. He reported on the

participation numbers in our spring sports. Our off-season programs are set up for the summer with BBB, GBB, VB and weights. We are hosting a variety of camps this summer as well. Ray is hosting the Region BSB Tournament May 17,19 & 20, 2025. We are scheduled to host the NWC VB tournament next fall and the BBB District Tournament in New Town next winter. Mr. Bergstrom would like the board to consider updating the weight room.  
Mr. Enget arrived at 6:08 p.m. and proposed adding a weights group to Ray activities. He and Mr. Bergstrom will have more details on what will be needed to start the group and updates for the weight room at the May board meeting.  
Mr. Pedersen went over all the different activities happening in elementary school, finalizing testing and field trips coming up in the last 4 weeks of school. Mrs. Donnelly has been named “Williams County

Teacher of the Year” for 2025 by the NDDPI. Grades 5 & 6 will have their Spring Music Concert on May 6th at 6:30 pm. A Title I parent meeting will take place prior to the concert at 6:00 pm in the library. It is Staff Appreciation Week May 5th- 9th. Mr. Pedersen thanked the board for all their support during his first year here in Ray and is looking forward to next year.  
Mr. Heier reported the MTSS 3rd round of screening will take place the first week in May. NDA+ make-up testing will take place next week. Mrs. Vejtasa is working with high school classes on their 4 year rolling plans and pre-registration for next year. The sophomores completed the Pre-ACT on April 1st. The Scrubs Camp went well for the 7th graders on April 2nd. The HS Student Appreciation Banquet will be held Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Supper will be served from 5:45 pm- 6:30 pm that night. The

JH Student Appreciation Assembly will be Thursday, May 15th at 2:15 pm. Graduation is Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.  
Mr. Kuehn reported that prior to the meeting the Governor vetoed HB 1540. ND legislatures are trying to wrap up the session this week. Mr. Kuehn is starting to prepare for the Cognia Accreditation Review for January/February 2026. He will be sending out parent and community surveys in preparation for the review. The Federal Funds Monitoring is complete. He reviewed the oil revenue compared to last year with the board. May 6, 2025 is the school board election.  
A motion was made by Bingeman second by Barman to accept the letter of resignation from Codie Rollag. Carried unanimously.  
Next board meeting will be Monday, May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Meeting Room #29. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

# Ray City Commission Minutes

**RAY CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Ray City Hall**  
**April 14, 2025**  
**7 p.m.**  
A regular meeting of the Ray City Commission was called to order by President Troy Kupper at 7:14 p.m., with the following Commissioners present: Eric Barman, Casey Brunner, Richard Liesener, and Andrew Nelson. Absent: none. Also in attendance: Tim Blossom, Brenna Hudson, Jan Munyon, Dean Peterson (IEI); Jan Dancer, Deputy Auditor and Auditor, Ronda Rustad. Via Zoom: Brad Nygaard (Crosby Journal); Dave Wiosna (IEI).  
Liesener moved to approve March 21st, 2025; Special Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Brunner, RCV, MCU.  
Barman moved to approve the financials & checks for March 2025 and checks for April 2025 as presented. Seconded by Nelson, RCV MCU. March checks of \$261,541.87 and payroll of \$39,937.56.

**West Side Annexation-** the annexation process is waiting for survey to be completed on the Solberg property subdivision. IEI will work with the city auditor to schedule a meeting to go over the next steps, tentatively at the end of April.  
**Solberg Properties-** The final plat of the proposed subdivision was approved at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and at the regular City Commission Meeting, both on 3/12. IEI is working with Williams County for their review and will then move on to signatures from Solberg's and City.  
**Pitt Group Lot Rearrangement-** Recordation of the lot line adjustment may not occur until the proposed development is recorded, which can be done at the same time. IEI, the property owner, and the City's attorney have finalized the development agreement. IEI is working with Pitt Group on signatures.  
The plat had a change where the proposed utility was going to be, so the easement changed. We don't have the actual final plat, recommend a motion to approve at the next meeting.

Barman moved to notify the NDDOT that the city wishes to accept the SRF funding, and to have IEI prepare a task order for the South Park Road project. Seconded by Brunner, RCV MCU.  
IEI will arrange to meet with the City Attorney for discussion of legal survey requirements prior to start of any legal survey efforts. See attached South Park Road Exhibit.  
**Water Main Extension Project** - IEI submitted plans and specifications to NDDEQ. Project is out to bid with a bid opening on April 24th. The contract cannot be awarded prior to all permanent easements being signed. Construction cannot begin prior to all temporary construction easements being signed. IEI has submitted a draft utility crossing permit application to NDDOT for the proposed Highway 2 water main crossing and received comments. A final permit application will be submitted after award of the contract.  
**Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI)-** IEI has received a signed Task Order from the NDDEQ for Category B (Phase II) – Onsite Validation of Records Review for the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). This phase will focus on identifying the material of unknown service lines. The process includes three (3) attempts, with the first being a second round of customer identification surveys, which will include a letter explaining the purpose of this project, followed by two (2) door-to-door attempts to directly access service lines with unknown material that did not respond to the survey. IEI anticipates sending out the customer identification survey letters to those with an unknown status the week of April 14th and will work with city staff during the door-to-door attempts. IEI encourages city staff and the residents of Ray to participate in these attempts by completing the survey and to cooperate with the door-to-door team when they visit. This information is essential for the city's infrastructure planning and future safety measures

a facility plan and does not include AIS/DB requirements. The water portion will be paid with the loan. The sewer portion will be paid with city funds. Seconded by Barman, RCV MCU.  
**COMMISSION REPORTS**  
Kupper, regarding the Solberg property the purchased for potential future joint venture with Nesson School District. Approximately 90% of the topographical drone survey has been done; I have asked IEI to schedule and complete the drone survey. To look at the potential footprint of this property. Where the stadium, track, parking lot and future community center may sit. Using the planning budget for this item.  
Brunner updates commission on daycare building. A Public Notice will be published for the building:  
**Building for Lease**  
**The City of Ray is offering a unique opportunity:**  
*In order to meet an increasing demand for high-quality childcare and early childhood education services for residents of the City of Ray, ND, the Ray City Commission is requesting proposals from qualified persons and businesses interested in operating a daycare facility and/or preschool facility at a 2,500 ft2 property available for lease from the City. Interested persons and businesses should submit a detailed written proposal to the Ray City Auditor on or before MAY 1ST, 2025. Proposals should address the following:*  

- an outline of proposed operations including
- ages accepted and projected capacity,
- curriculum and any proposed extracurricular activities,
- ability to offer specialized care,
- necessary equipment,
- projected hours of operation,
- projected staffing plan (including desired staff to child ratios, accreditation, licensing)
- ability to undertake renovations to facility;
- projected utility and facility service needs;
- names and addresses of owner(s) and management team members;
- description of relevant experience in operating daycare and/or preschool facilities, including references.
- projected fee structure;

*• projected financial support or funding sources and expected break-even point (in months);*  
*• projected rent and utility budget;*  
*• projected timeframe for starting operations; and*  
*• other relevant information you wish to include.*  
*Questions may be directed to the Ray City Auditor (701) 568-2204 or email: raynd@nccray.net*  
Liesener moved to change the Public Notice from Building for lease to Building available Contract for Deed. Seconded by Nelson, RCV MCU.  
Barman stated the three major nuisance properties have been contacted again this spring, one residential will be fined soon, the other residential Barman is waiting to hear back from them. The commercial property is having a meeting this Thursday and will call with updates and plans or if property will be listed for sale.  
Jeff Schneeman started April 8th and will be on a six-month probation. Storm drain on corner of First Ave & Main St, does not catch sunlight so is still frozen when melting begins. Public Works rented a heater and had down drain, with very little effect. They then used a steamer, which opened drain in about 30 minutes.  
Liesener moved to have Public Works purchase a steamer for approximately \$1,600.00. Seconded by Nelson, RCV MCU.

*true #.*  
*• Keep tree rows clean of all dead and dry debris.*  
*• Consider adding boulevard trees rather than windbreaks to the new developments north of town. Windbreaks are appropriate for rural properties or along natural areas in cities, but they could create future problems for clearance, line of sight, and wildfire fuels if planted in the middle of a residential neighborhood.*  
*• Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic insect pest that poses a threat to a large amount of Ray's community forest. Preemptive removal of poor condition ash and replanting a diversity of other species can help offset the impact EAB will have on your town.*  
We also have hay bales right outside of city limits- the foresters and Williams County Emergency Management noted as a fire hazard- having a large fuel load in windy conditions. Liesener asks if we should consider a stripper stubble ordinance within a certain radius of city limits; within our ETJ?  
Kupper appoints Liesener and Barman to a committee to correspond with attorney for recommendations on this matter.  
We are waiting for a bid from a tree removal contractor and awaiting recommendations for planting back trees/shrubs- hoping to work with the county. Recommendation for a heartier tree ordinance. We are also looking at grants to assist the city with associated costs and/or grants to assist citizens with tree replacement on private property.

Astro-Chem..... 30.00  
Black Mountain..... 10,283.40  
Core & Main ..... 982.17  
Catalis ..... 1,375.67  
Civicplus ..... 577.50  
Circle Sanitation..... 10,356.50  
Evolve ..... 19.95  
First State ..... 45.00  
FirstNet ..... 234.85  
Gameday Media..... 150.00  
Horizon Resources ..... 277.96  
Information Technology..... 49.50  
Interstate Engineering..... 42,423.50  
Journal Publishing..... 380.41  
MDU ..... 3,512.72  
MWEU ..... 549.08  
Marco Technologies..... 235.08  
Matthew Bender ..... 32.43  
McGee, Hankla, & Backes..... 2,161.60  
NCC ..... 526.21  
One Call ..... 1.50  
Oster Electric ..... 1,242.65  
Pro IT ..... 1,137.50  
ProSafe..... 60.00  
R&T ..... 11,907.98  
Summit Fire Protection..... 1,063.85  
SM Services ..... 4,000.00  
Thompson Reuters ..... 527.00  
Tractor & Equipment ..... 1,008.84  
US Flag Pole Guy ..... 216.00  
Vestis ..... 65.80  
Williams  
County Abstract ..... 165,107.22  
**Planning & Zoning**

**Parks Planning** - City Commission approved the park concept for the Prairie Heights pocket park at the Special Meeting on 4/3. IEI funding staff are exploring funding opportunities to present to the City Auditor.  
**North Dakota Department of Transportation** –IEI is reviewing submittals and RFI's Construction will begin in April 2025.  
**2025 Chip Seal project-** 9,916 lineal feet, Chip Seal project. The project was bid on March 13th and awarded to Astech on April 3rd in the amount of \$149,881.90. IEI is currently waiting for contract documents.  
**South Park Road** - Street Committee met on August 29, 2024. South Park Road paving project is estimated at \$1.8 million including legal survey. NDDOT currently has a Special Road Fund program for roads that provide access to recreational, tourist, and historical areas. Funding requires a 40% match with a cap of \$300,000. Application was submitted on November 27, 2024. Notification has been received from the NDDOT that the City of Ray has been selected for the funding of this project. See attached award letter.

**Sanitary Sewer CIPP Rehabilitation Project** – Project is out to bid with a bid opening on April 24th.  
**Funding Opportunities-** BND IRLF and CWSRF loan applications have not been submitted. Brunner moved to Apply for the BND loan only. The BND loan does not require

Nelson reviews crack seal quote with commission, noting 4 blocks of crack seal overlaps w/chip seal project. B's will have those 4 blocks done before chip seal.  
Nelson moved to approve the crack seal proposal for 37 blocks, in the amount of \$85,615.00. Seconded by Barman, RCV MCU.  
NDSU Community Forestry Specialist, Joel Allen and Forest Steward Specialist, Emily Hoyt visited Ray and accessed tree rows, tree species and discussed forestry options for the city. Providing guidance on windbreak renovations and wildfire mitigation.  
Their recommendations are:  

- At a minimum, removal of dead and dying trees on City property. They feel 98% of the two north tree rows are dead- spring will reveal

Public Notice  
The applicant on April 24th, 2025. The parcel is the west half of Lots 1 & 2, Block 8 of the Park Addition, address 115 5th Ave E, Ray, North Dakota.  
A copy of the variance application can be reviewed at the Office of the City Auditor Monday through Friday during regular business hours: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The City Commission will consider all comments, written or spoken, at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to

the City Auditor's Office prior to the meeting date.  
Should you plan to attend the hearing and need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, contact the City Auditor at (701) 568-2204. The City Auditor will provide digital connection information for individuals interested in attending the meeting via Zoom upon request.  
Ronda Rustad  
Ray City Auditor

The City of Ray (“City”) will accept written bids until 3:00 p.m. (central) on May 8th, 2025, for the following Properties (lots) in Ray, Williams County, North Dakota:  
**Property #1: Lot 18, Block 2 of Rearrangement of Thompson Addition**  
**Property ID: 02-000-00-55-02-090**  
**Property #2: Lot 19, Block 2 of Rearrangement of Thompson Addition**  
**Property ID: 02-000-00-55-02-095**  
All sales subject to the following conditions:  

- Buyer must construct a permanent, habitable residential structure that complies with applicable City ordinances on the property within 18 months of closing.

## RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE

- City reserves oil, gas, and minerals.
- Title subject to easements and right of ways of record.
- Lots will be combined into 1 parcel upon recording of this sale
- Minimum bid is:
  - o **Property #1: Lot 18, Block 2: \$ 11,813.88**
  - o **Property #2: Lot 19, Block 2: \$ 11,813.88**
- City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive irregularities in the bidding procedure.

Bids must be in writing and received at City Hall, 101 Main St. (south entrance on 1st Ave), PO Box 67, Ray, ND 58849, no later than 3:00 p.m.(central), May 8th, 2025. Bids must include bidder's name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, description of lot and amount of

the bid for that lot (in whole USD). Bidders interested in multiple lots must submit separate bids for each lot; single bids for multiple lots will not be accepted. Bids will be opened Monday, May 12th, 2025, at the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM, Ray City Hall, 101 Main St. (south entrance on 1st Ave), Ray, ND. Bidders are encouraged to attend bid opening as the top three bidders for each lot will be allowed to raise their bid. The successful bidder must pay 10% of purchase price as earnest money upon acceptance of the bid, balance payable at closing. Purchase Agreement to be executed at acceptance of bid.  
Bid packet available upon request to: raynd@nccray.net or calling City Hall, 701-568-2204.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

should address the following:  

- an outline of proposed operations including
  - o ages accepted and projected capacity,
  - o curriculum and any proposed extracurricular activities,
  - o ability to offer specialized care, o necessary equipment,
  - o projected hours of operation,
  - o projected staffing plan (including desired staff to child ratios, accreditation, licensing)
- ability to undertake renovations to facility;
- projected utility and facility service needs;

- names and addresses of owner(s) and management team members;
- description of relevant experience in operating daycare and/or preschool facilities, including references;
- projected fee structure;
- projected financial support or funding sources and expected breakeven point (in months);
- projected rent and utility budget;
- projected timeframe for starting operations; and
- other relevant information you wish to include.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ray City Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on May 12, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Meeting Room at City Hall in Ray. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments on a variance application. The Applicant requests a variance from the R-1 zoning district regulations minimum setback of 25' from street right-of-way to allow for construction of an entryway on an existing home.  
An application was submitted by

Yes, we carry

Plat books

Starting at

\$65.00

Divide~Burke~Williams

<sup>The</sup>  
**JOURNAL**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NESSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST. #2  
ELECTION NOTICE  
Ray, North Dakota  
May 6, 2025  
NESSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #2 will hold its annual school district election at the Ray Public School on May 6, 2025. The purpose of the election is to elect two (2) school board members for two three-year terms.  
**Brent Bingeman, Ray, ND**  
**Benji Schmitt, Ray, ND**  
have all filed to be on the ballot.  
The polls will be open at 11:00 am and will close at 7:00 pm on election day. Please use Door 1.  
RAY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
224 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE W  
RAY, ND 58849  
Contact Kelli Heier, Business Manager at 701-568-3301 ext.3 or via email at kelli.heier@rayschools.com to request an absentee ballot application or if you have questions.

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