

Legal Notices:

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VELVA PUBLIC SCHOOL
DISTRICT #1
NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTION

In Accordance with NDCC 15.1-09-08, 15.1-09-22 and 15.1-09-31 notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, the annual school board election will be held at the Velva School for the purpose of filling two (2) board vacancies by the expiration of two (2) terms. The candidates for this year's school board election are Lance Selzler and Melissa Haskins. In addition, the ballot will include the following, should the school board minutes be published in the official newspaper within a reasonable time after each board meeting? The polls will be open on the day of the election from 11am to 7pm at the Velva Public School. In accordance with NDCC 16.1-07 If requesting an absentee ballot, please contact Skyler Helseth at Velva Public School.

Skyler Helseth, Business Manager
Velva Public School District #1
701-338-2022
5/01-5/08/2025

VELVA REGULAR COMMISSION
MEETING

April 21, 2025

7:00pm at Velva City Hall

Velva City Commission meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Commission President Mike Schreiner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call: Mike Schreiner – Commission

President, Street/Finance; Dave Keller – Vice President, Police Commissioner (including Cemetery oversight); Mary Liz Davis – Police/Finance Commissioner; Ben Zietz – Water/ Sewer Commissioner; Gene Jenson – Commissioner of Streets/Improvements (including Cemetery oversight); Jenny Johns – City Auditor; Kelly Jemtrud and Schad Prellwitz – Public Works Department; Brian Julius – Ackerman-Estvold Engineering; Heather Tudor – Velva Area Voice. Mark Johnson and Connie Bryant – Farmers Union Insurance.

*Motion by Keller/Davis to approve the minutes from the March 17 regular meeting and April 8 & 9 special meetings. R/C: All-aye; m/c.

*Davis/Jenson made a motion to approve the bills paid and bills to be paid in the amount of \$36,212.85 and Payroll for \$39,754.80. R/C: All-aye; m/c. (SRT 601.28, Acme 189.53, Am. Welding 67.16, AutoValue 311.12, BAG 224.93, ChemLab 20.39, Circle 7017.75, Dakota Fluid 41.23, Dakota Fire 178.09, Enerbase 437.68, 1stDistrict 60, Gooseneck 525.33, Hawkins 1931.02, jjohns 170.40, Lenco 3400, lwalter 72.69, mldavis 170.40, McGee 1802.50, MouseRiver 646.19, Napa 115, ND Sewage 1000, NSCCU 2650.54, ND State Auditor 810, Ottertail 4792.28, PJemtrud 450, Runnings 21.67, Ryan Chev. 33.19, sprellwitz 94.73, Schocks locks 5497.75, Sign solutions 593.85, SRT 616.62, Swanston 1759.68, Comp.

Store 55, VCDC 297.94, VFF 171.96, Library 297.94, Verizon 483).

*Schreiner presented the documentation submitted by Mark Johnson of Farmers Union Insurance. Johnson has asked that the commission consider hiring his agency for all of the city's insurance needs. Keller/Jenson made a motion to move the city's insurance business to Farmer's Union Insurance Agency with Mark Johnson in Velva. R/C: All – aye; m/c.

*Schreiner addressed the speed bump installed last fall on Central Avenue East. There are now vehicles that avoid the speed bump by driving onto the toe levee, causing damage to the area. Public Works fears this may compromise the levee and put the city into non-compliance with the Corp of Engineers. Public Works would like to remove the speed bump now that the radar signs are installed to avoid penalties from the Corp. The Commission rested on the matter.

*Johns presented the final audit reports from the state for 2020, 2021, 2022, bringing the city into compliance. This will allow loans to be taken out, if needed, for failing infrastructure.

Jemtrud gave a rundown of current projects, including: crack sealing, street sweeping, levee repairs, etc. The speed bump was previously discussed. Discussion on fluoridation to the city's water supply. Due to a recent federal court ruling that found that fluoride in drinking water, at levels used in the

U.S., poses an unreasonable risk to vulnerable populations like infants and pregnant women, the EPA has recently removed regulations regarding fluoride and sent it to state and local levels. Zietz/Jenson made a motion to cease fluoridation of Velva's water supply due to the mounting scientific evidence that the chemical harms children's health and provides little or no dental benefit. R/C: Zietz, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Keller, Davis – nay ~ m/c.

*Introduction & Adoption of Resolutions/Ordinances: Ordinance change Section 20-21(a). Determination and Enforcement of Nuisance Violations – 2nd reading was discussed. Davis/ Keller made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of ordinance Section 20-21(a) as follows: Sec. 20-21(a). Determination and Enforcement of Nuisance Violations. At the discretion of the City, or its authorized agents or employees, the existence or continuation of a condition constituting a nuisance, as defined under this chapter, may be determined to constitute a finable offense.

(1) Upon failure, neglect, or refusal of any property owner to abate the nuisance condition as specified in the notice provided in accordance with Section 20-20, within ten (10) calendar days of receipt thereof, or personal service thereof, said owner shall be deemed in violation of this chapter and subject to the following schedule of fines:

a. For a first offense, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00);

b. For a second offense, a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00);

c. For each subsequent offense, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per occurrence.

(2) Each day that a violation continues beyond the time specified in the notice shall constitute a separate and distinct offense, subject to additional fines as set forth herein. R/C: Davis, Keller, Jenson, Schreiner – aye; Zietz – nay ~ m/c.

Discussion on the seasonal employee position. Jenson/Davis made a motion to appoint K. Prellwitz to the position at the budgeted wage. R/C: All-aye; m/c. City-wide cleanup week has been scheduled for June 9-15, immediately following the garage sale weekend. The efforts will run exactly like last year with 10-hour/day dumping available after obtaining a key from the city office. The employees will also coordinate some night and weekend shifts for residential convenience.

With no other business to discuss, Schreiner adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm. The next Commission Meeting will be Monday, May 19 at 7:00pm. If you would like to be on the next agenda, the deadline is Thursday at noon before a meeting. **Minutes are Subject to Amendment and Approval**

5/01/2025

Weekly Update District 6 - May 1, 2025

Submitted by Paul Thomas - District 6 Senator

The 69th Legislative Session is nearing completion. The initial goal from each chamber was to be done by April 30th. As I write my update on May 1st there is hope that we will be able to complete our work by May 2nd or 3rd, however we may be meeting the following week if compromise cannot be found between our Senate and House positions.

One of the conference committees that is taking a significant amount of time to complete deals with

property tax relief and reform. On the reform piece, conferees have agreed to a 3% cap and are working out the details on how to implement this provision. What a 3% cap means is that local authorities could not increase their revenue from property tax by more than 3% per year. There is a clause in the bill that does allow a vote of the people in that political subdivision to raise the cap beyond 3% for four years if a majority of local voters decide to do so.

The relief portion of the bill provides increased state payments above the \$500 per primary residence homeowner that has been provided for the last two years. The current Senate proposal is to provide primary homeowners with up to a 75% property tax reduction with a maximum of \$1,650 off their tax bill. This proposal still guarantees the full \$500 credit that homeowners receive and just builds on that. The House position is opposed to the 75% share and

had initially proposed paying 100% up to \$1,450.

Most of the budgets have made it through conference committees, however several remain. The budgets that remain are larger ones and are being adjusted to meet our constituents' needs, still balancing the budget, and allowing funds for property tax relief. These budgets include higher education, K 12 funding, Department of Transportation and the Industrial Commission. The important

reminder this time of year is that each Legislator and each District have their priorities. One program is viewed by some as a necessary policy and expenditure while others view their need as equally important. The balancing of these positions is what conferences are all about.

You can contact me at paulthomas@ndlegis.gov and by calling 701 626 2777.

Legislative Report - 69th Legislative Assembly

Submitted by Representative Dan Vollmer, District 6

The 69th Legislative Assembly ended early Saturday morning at about 4:00 am on the 74th legislative day. A long day, however the legislature saved 6 days for any emergency that may arise in the interim between sessions.

Over the last 4 months, the Legislative Assembly passed approximately 600 bills. Those bills will have a tremendous impact on the citizens of the state. Funding was provided

for tax relief, infrastructure improvements, education, social services, and public safety.

The total state budget for the 2025-27 biennium is projected to be about 20.3 billion vs. about 19.6 billion in the last biennium. That is about a 3.4% increase. I am concerned that state revenues may not keep pace with the last biennium given the reduction in oil prices currently. The state relies heavily on oil, gas, and coal to fund a major part of the budget.

One bill that passed I would like to mention. HB 1318 will curb frivolous law suits brought against EPA-approved pesticides. That means farmers will continue to have access to American-made crop protection tools. We need these tools to manage invasive pests, control weeds and combat soil erosion. They are essential to protecting crop yields, preserving soil health and ensuring a stable, affordable food supply for all of us. I carried this bill from our

Agriculture Committee to the House floor and it passed the Senate. Governor Armstrong has signed the bill. North Dakota is the first state in the nation to sign this bill into law. This bill was opposed by environmental activists and trial lawyers and even included some protesters at the capital. Agriculture is the backbone of North Dakota's economy and HB 1318 will protect access to critical tools needed by our farmers and ranchers by ensuring certainty and

consistency in pesticide labeling regulations.

The 69th Legislative Assembly was my first session and I have enjoyed working the citizens of District 6. Thanks to all who have contacted me throughout the session. You can contact me by email at dvollmer@ndlegis.gov or call or text to 701-550-0593

Velva
area
Voice

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