

District 28 legislators note funds approved, new laws signed:
Ellendale Opera House is among beneficiaries

District 28 legislative report for Dickey County, LaMoure County, Logan County, McIntosh County, & Sargent County

May 16, 2025
The 69th Legislative Assembly concluded their work May 3 at 4:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning after a 20-hour session. That leaves 6 days on the calendar in case a special session is needed to deal with any emergency measures prior to the next session.
The District 28 Legislative Team—Sen. Robert Erbele, Rep. Mike Brandenburg and Rep. Jim Grueneich—note new funds for the district and several of their bills that have been signed into law by Gov. Kelly Armstrong.
Sargent County Museum
Sen. Erbele, Rep. Brandenburg and Rep. Grueneich were successful in securing \$200,000 in funding through the State Historical Society of North Dakota for the Sargent County Museum at Forman.
On April 6, 2023, one of the museum's buildings collapsed under the weight of that year's heavy snow, and Curator Pat Olofson and the museum board led a fund-raising drive to replace it. A grand opening for the new, partially completed 70x172 building was held last September.
The collapse of the original building affected adjoining structures and the parking area, so the \$200,000 will allow the project to be finished. The museum is considered one of the best in the state.
The District 28 Team congratulates Olofson on her work with the museum and support of the legislative effort.
Ellendale Opera House
Since 1992, the non-profit Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts, or O.P.E.R.A., Inc., has

been raising funds and working hard to restore the 1908 Ellendale Opera House. Since that time, O.P.E.R.A. has installed a new roof, rebuilt the back wall, added ADA access and renovated a section of the Main Street store fronts into a lobby and gallery space for theater performances, art exhibits and other programs.
Sen. Erbele, Rep. Brandenburg and Rep. Grueneich were able to secure \$250,000 in N.D. Commerce Dept. funds to help with the extensive renovation work that remains.
The Opera House is a benefit both to Ellendale and to the surrounding area, and the District 28 Team believes the funds are an investment in the future.



Road and Bridge Funding
HB 1235, which was introduced by Rep. Grueneich and co-sponsored by Rep. Brandenburg and Sen. Erbele, has been signed into law by Gov. Kelly Armstrong. It passed the House 89-3 and the Senate 47-0.
The new law empowers the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the N.D. Department of Transportation, to award grants to cities with a population of 1,500 or less for road and bridge improvements necessary to accommodate value-added ag businesses.
Counties and township are also eligible for the Agriculture Infrastructure Grant

Program. Grueneich, Brandenburg and Erbele said the program will be a boost to District 28 communities where new ag businesses are being developed or expanded. In addition, Rep. Brandenburg and Sen. Erbele were both assigned to the conference committee that worked on the Department of Transportation's budget. They were able to negotiate dedicating a portion of the Legacy funds earnings to the DOT, and also arrange the funding streams of the Prairie Dog buckets which allow road money to flow to the townships, counties, and cities in a more timely manner and with more certainty than previous budget allocations.
Marion Flood Control Project
The District 28 team also worked with the Adjutant General to secure an additional \$200,000 dollars from the Disaster Relief Fund to support the city of Marion in their flood control project.
These are matching funds that will help with some of the increase costs that have occurred since the project began several years ago.
Legal Drain 11
Reps. Brandenburg and Grueneich, and Sen. Erbele along with people from Sargent County put forth a lot of effort to win passage of HB 1280 and Gov. Armstrong's signature. The law will now allow the Sargent County Water Board to hold an election to resolve Legal Drain 11 issues without the involvement of Ransom County, which does not pay assessments to maintain or improve the drain. The law also creates a process to resolve landowner disputes.
May you have a great spring and a bountiful year ahead.

Ellendale gets more exposure
(continued from page 1)
The KFYZ piece noted that Applied Digital is unlikely to interfere with the area's power supply, as Ellendale is a hub for massive amounts of wind-powered electricity, far more than could possibly be used otherwise.
Phillips noted that North Dakota's Public Service Commission has authorized Applied Digital to eventually use as much as 530 megawatts of power. This, he said, is about five times the normal power consumption of Bismarck. The data center campus is projected to complete three AI processing buildings in addition to its blockchain facility, giving it a total of 2.2 million square feet of space. In short, it's a massive project, and is less than half complete at present.
Mayor Flaherty's comments echoed Jeannette Robb's optimistic outlook. "I think that this will guarantee that Ellendale will be a thriving community well into the 22nd century," he said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a small town. If we want this to work, we have to be active participants in it, just like they want to be active participants in it. That means we need to work together to build a stronger community."
For those wanting more detail than was provided on the brief TV segment on KFYZ, Tim Flakoll's interview with Nick Phillips provides a good depth of information. Flakoll is a Forbes native and Fargo resident whose many prominent leadership positions include periodically guest hosting the Jay Thomas show on WDAY radio. Tim recently reached out to the *Leader* for contact information from Applied Digital, and a few days later set up the interview with Nick.
In the interview, Nick provided a more thorough explanation of Ellendale's advantages for locating a data center, and discussed some of the unique characteristics of the facility currently nearing completion, which has the designation ELN02. Nick stressed, as did the KFYZ piece, that the building uses closed-loop, recirculating cooling and thus its water needs are minimal. He addressed the noise issue, acknowledging that it has been an irritant to neighbors, but the company has worked hard on noise abatement. Nick's comments echoed Applied Digital's official published statements that the firm is committed to environmentally conscious operation, and strives to respond proactively to the potential negative impacts on the town and rural community.
While it must be noted that the interests of tech investors may not always overlap with those of established residents, the prevailing attitude seems to be that the data center campus presents a win-win situation.
Jeanette Robb seems to have captured this attitude with a brief comment, which made it into KFYZ-TV's final edit: "There's going to be negative things," she said. "There always are with any growth or expansion. But it's going to put Ellendale on the map, big time, and there's nothing wrong with that."
The KFYZ-TV piece, titled "A massive AI footprint is in Ellendale and it's there to stay" can be viewed at bit.ly/kfyrapld.
The May 9 Tim Flakoll/Nick Phillips interview, in an segment called "From AI Megaprojects to Backyard Wisdom" is available online at bit.ly/wdayphillips.



This aerial view of the long blockchain buildings and massive ELN02 "data factory" is from a flyover video posted on X on May 1, 2025 x.com/APLDDigital

Public Notices

PROCEEDINGS OF FORBES CITY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Board of Equalization met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at Forbes City Hall.
There were present:
Board Members: Mayor Carl Kronberg, Ty Bertsch, Mike Henning, Dennis Schrum
Assessors: Director of Equalization Don Flaherty, Deputy Director of Equalization Kasie Kinzler
Patrons: Linda Gross
Mayor Carl Kronberg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and turned it over to Assessor Don Flaherty to lead.
Discussion on Parcel #11077000, Christ & Linda Gross, New Construction Exemption, due to City of Forbes Resolution adopted on 9-14-09
MSC, Henning/Schrum, to approve the assessment book as presented. (MC)
Flaherty declared the equalization meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m..
Subject to council approval
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the proceedings of the Board of Equalization of Forbes City, Dickey County, North Dakota.
In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand this 16th day of April 2025.
Darci Wolff, City Auditor
(May 22, 2025)

CITY OFFORBES Regular Meeting ~ April 16, 2025
Mayor Carl Kronberg called the regular meeting of the Forbes City Council to order on Monday, April 16, 2025, at 8:09 p.m., with members Ty Bertsch, Mike Henning, and Dennis Schrum present; Brandon Salberg, absent. Also attending was Auditor Darci Wolff and Linda Gross.
A quorum was established. MSC, Henning/Schrum, to approve the 3-10-25 regular meeting minutes with the following correction: OLD BUSINESS: mowing bid should read MSC, Bertsch/Salberg. Wolff reported a checking balance of 48,638.91 as of 3-31-25. MSC, Schrum/Henning, to approve financial reports.
PAYMENT OF BILLS: City of Fargo 14.00; DC Leader 69.66; DC Tax Equalization 431.68; Gahner Sanitation 762.72; MDU 532.01; WEB 639.90; D. Wolff 27.70; PAYROLL: 1348.34. MSC, Schrum/Henning, to pay all bills totaling \$3,826.01 and authorize payment of any regular bills due before the next regular meeting.
PATRON CONCERNS
• Linda Gross asked why they had to move their water pit and others do not. Discussion regarding issues with the old water pit, including the facts that their water pit needed to be replaced and was on city property.
COMMITTEE REPORTS
• Water/Sewer (Schrum) – discussion on water line from Anliker RV Site to Chris Anderson property and the best way to extend the main and install a curb stop for Chris Anderson and disconnect/remove the line from Anliker's property. A new curb stop needs to be installed for Cory Martin.
• Streets (Henning/Bertsch) – rough. MSC, Bertsch/Henning, to have the rest of the north/south streets right-of-way boundaries surveyed in May/June.
• Park (Salberg) – no report.

• Tree Dump (Bertsch) new pile being added to.
OLD BUSINESS
• Discussion on Cory Martin nuisance property. Trees, tires, rims, and running boards are still left to be removed.
• MSC to amend the 6-month liquor/beer license for Rough Rider Bar & Grill to be effective July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.
NEW BUSINESS
• Discussion on appropriate garbage pick-up containers for residents. If you own your garbage can, it needs to be a HEAVY DUTY 32 GALLON GARBAGE CAN, and when full, it can weigh NO MORE THAN 50 POUNDS, including snow/rain. This is state law. Our garbage provider, Gahner Sanitation, has cans for rent for a very minimal fee (approx. \$20/year), which you would pay directly to them. Contact them at 701-647-2402 for more information. Bags may not be placed on the ground as animals get into them and Gahner's will not be picking up ripped or torn bags.
COUNCIL CONCERNS
• Bertsch inquired about selling the old John Deere lawnmower and old fire wagon. Wolff will check into criteria for when bids are required.
• Bertsch brought up buying a container to place at the lift station and set-up the generator bought for the lift station. Schrum will contact Chad Durheim to get an estimate on cost options.
• Discussion on mowing bid and frequency of mowing.
• Henning suggested making a resolution regarding all mowing/haying be done by July 1st.
MSC, Henning/Schrum, to adjourn at 10:18 p.m.
minutes subject to council approval
Darci Wolff, City Auditor
(May 22, 2025)

CITY OF ELLENDALE Public Hearing Meeting City Council May 12, 2025

6:00 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual
This meeting was held at City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.
Council members in attendance: Belgarde, Lee, Denison, Langeliers and Crabtree via zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Absent: Meidinger
City Employees present: Mayor Flaherty; Auditor Kempf; Deputy Auditor Schmidt; Attorney Kelly, and PW Monroe via Zoom.
Others attending: Wade Senger, Interstate Engineering; Toddy Staley; Jannelle Combs, Applied Digital Attorney; Aaron Tschosik; Kayleen Grom; Cory Koenig; Andrea Mireles; Martin Vega
Public meeting called to order at 6:00 PM
This public hearing is to establish a new Flood Plain Ordinance that would make it so people could get flood insurance within Ellendale.
No public comment.
Motion from zoning board to recommend approval of the flood plain ordinance. Denison moves, Langeliers seconds. All in favor, aye. Absent: Meidinger
Next meeting: Regular City Council Meeting June 9, 2025
Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM

CITY OF ELLENDALE Regular Meeting City Council May 12, 2025

6:08 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual
(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at the next regular meeting.)
(May 22, 2025)
This meeting was held at the City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.
Mayor Flaherty called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:08 pm with Council members in attendance: Belgarde, Lee, Langeliers, Denison, and Crabtree via Zoom.
Absent: Meidinger
City Employees present: Mayor Flaherty, Auditor Kempf, Deputy Auditor Schmidt, Attorney Kelly; and PW Monroe via Zoom.
Others attending: W. Senger, Interstate Engineering, via zoom; Kayleen Grom; Todd Staley; Aaron Tschosik; Cory Koenig; Jannelle Combs; Andrea Mireles; Martin Vega.
Second Reading of Flood Plain Ordinance: Pursuant to NDCC 40-47-05(3) the City Council discussed the grounds for the zoning amendments and determined that the grounds are for the safety of the community and to come into compliance with laws relating to flood insurance. Langeliers moves, Lee seconds to approve the second reading of the Flood Plain Ordinance. Roll Call: Lee, Langeliers, Belgarde, Denison, Crabtree: Aye. Absent: Meidinger
Ambulance Hall: Not much of an update. Sent contracts out to contractor, doing all paperwork to get things started.
Ellendale Acres: Contracts out for base bid. Phase 3 can be included in the TIF later if needed. Include Meidinger in pre-construction meetings.
Meidinger arrives 6:24 PM
Memo of Understanding: Agreement between City of Ellendale, Dickey County and Applied Digital for a road agreement for 87th Ave SE and future improvements and maintenance. Terms and conditions were discussed, possible edits made that need to go to Jannelle Combs and Dickey County. Motion to permit Applied Digital to arrange for vendors to make improvements to that stretch of road under the supervision of the City Engineer all at Applied Digital's sole expense. Lee moves, Denison seconds. Roll Call: Lee, Crabtree, Belgarde, Langeliers, Denison, Meidinger-Yes. Motion carries.
Additions: Proposal of two council meetings a month.
Cemetery Bid Opening: Received one bid from CK Lawn Care for \$5,250 per month from June 2025 - September 2025. For an as needed basis such as end of summer and remainder of May a bid of \$1,750 per time he mows. Denison moves, Lee seconds to accept the bid. Roll Call vote: Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Belgarde, Meidinger, Denison-Yes. Motion carries.
City lot for sale: Residential city owned lot, possible to put out for bids. Subject tabled, investigate and report at next regular meeting in June.
Staley Update: Staley updated the council on his progress of putting a roof and siding on his storage container, he has until June 1, 2025 to complete. Has ordered siding but may come in too late

to meet the deadline. Meidinger motions, Lee seconds to extend the deadline to July 14, 2025, regular city council meeting. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Staley leaves at 8:03 PM
Bauer Update: Bauer's deadline to clean personal property off right of way in Northport Addition is May 15, 2025. After some obstacles they request an extension. Lee motions, Meidinger seconds to extend the deadline to August 31, 2025, with city crew to mark with stakes, to show Bauer's what needs to be moved and how far back they need to go. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Minutes: Lee motions, Denison seconds to approve the minutes from regular meeting from April 14, 2025, and the special meeting minutes from April 30, 2025. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Operating Statement/Fund Activity: Denison motions, Langeliers seconds to approve April operating statement/fund activity reports. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Bills: Lee motions, Belgarde seconds to approve April bills. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Delinquent Accounts: B. Crabtree, B. Hagen, D. Tressel, S. Tank, K. Grom, A. Filbert
Development Agreement: Denison moves, Lee seconds to make changes as specified to Development Agreement pending the concurrence of Applied Digital, and to change the variance to form zoning to accommodate industrial zoning from 90 days to 180 days from February 10, when Applied Digital was annexed into city limits. Lee amends motion to reflect changing to 240 days. Roll Call vote: Belgarde, Lee, Denison, Crabtree, Meidinger, Langeliers- Yes. Motion carries.
Police Report: Staying busy, cops grant is now open, Chief Knutson will work on the grant. Police vehicle grant application was submitted, there will be a public meeting to satisfy the grant parameters at June meeting. Applied Digital discussed with police the want for radar signs on Hwy 11 and 87th Ave SE. Applied Digital are willing to reimburse the city to get the signs up. Chief Knutson wants to send request to ND DOT with councils approval asking permission to put radar signs along Hwy 11, council approves sending the letter. Applied Digital also wants to install two radar signs on 87th Ave SE, Chief Knutson to talk with Dickey Co. Sheriff. Denison moves, Meidinger seconds to approve the purchase of the radar signs. Roll call: Belgarde, Lee, Denison, Crabtree, Meidinger, Langeliers- Yes. Motion carries.
Jason Elliot arrives 8:19 PM
Public Works Report: Proposal of changes being made to water/sewer/garbage for when people are away, or empty houses. Ellendale ordinances state if water is shut off garbage charges stay on. Attorney Kelly to review possible changes to water/sewer/garbage charges and will discuss it at June meeting. PW Monroe also requested ordinance amendment to how long people can park trailers/boats/etc. on street, as it is hard to go around so many obstacles in street sweeper. PW Monroe to sit with council member to discuss changes he is requesting and council member to bring to next meeting. Pole shed owned by city in Northport Addn. does not have power to it, PW Monroe requesting to have

Chad's Electric provide power. Denison moves Belgarde seconds to spend up to \$4,000 to supply power to the pole shed. Roll Call vote: Belgarde, Lee, Denison, Crabtree, Meidinger, Langeliers- Yes. Motion carries. People have approached PW Monroe about yellow dump truck; he will research on price to set. Lee motions, Meidinger seconds to have PW Monroe set price and list for bids. Mixer for water tower now installed. ND Dept of Health have informed PW Monroe that old cars in landfill need to be disposed of, he will research and subject tabled until next meeting after he gets more information.
Council Member Portfolios: Council members assigned to different aspects of city business to assist in matters that arise.
Regulated Animal Permit: Request for chickens by Forrest Macy at 60 7th Ave N on TBC property. Lee motions, Belgarde seconds to approve chicken permit with written permission from Landowner, Trinity Bible College. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Storage Container Permit: Chris Waldner & Sons Construction, Inc. requesting to place 40'X 8' storage container at Rada's Outlot A on North end of city for tool storage. Belgard motions, Meidinger seconds to approve permit, with making sure they renew the permit every year until they no longer have storage container. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Noise/Fireworks Permit: Dickey County Fair Board applying for loud noise permit until 1 AM on July 10, 11 and 12, 2025 for County Fair, and for fireworks on July 12, 2025. Meidinger motions, Lee seconds to approve fireworks, and loud noise permit for Fair Board. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Raffle Permit: Raffle Permit submitted from Benedictine Living Community to raise funds for outdoor seating area for residents, to be held on June 21, 2025 at Ellendale Country Club. Denison motions, Belgarde seconds to approve the raffle permit. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Building Permits: Meidinger motions, Lee seconds to approve building permits for: Aaron Tschosik, replacing of current shed with one a little bigger at 79 Prairieview Dr.; Garrett Freier, window replacement, siding, & gutters at 321 2nd St S; David Belgarde to replace support beam in SE corner of roof at 313 3rd St N; and Dan Girard to place a 10 X 16 shed at 213 2nd St N. Meidinger motions, Lee seconds to approve building permit for Jason Elliot for new shop building with living quarters to be built on lots South of Prairie Winds Motel. Meidinger motions, Belgarde seconds to approve permit for Nicole Kempf bathroom remodel at 408 16th Ave N. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Gaming Site Authorizations: Lee motions, Meidinger seconds to approve Gaming Site Authorizations, with the condition that the ones missing a back page turn them into City Hall, for American Legion Club, Maggie's Corner, and Ellendale Fire Protection District. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Building Permit Review: Table until June meeting.
Desktop Request: Auditor Kempf requests a desktop PC for her office, so she can use the laptop to work remotely when needed. Denison moves, Meidinger seconds to approve spending

up to \$2,000 for new desktop. All members, aye. Motion carries.
Correspondence: Crossroads, City of Ellendale local Job Development Authority, will officially not be renewing their contract with the City. They will get a list of possible replacement companies for the JDA Board to review.
Council Meeting Frequency Change: Discussion on possibly changing ordinance to two meetings a month. If more than one meeting a month is only for a short time, just have special meetings when needed until city can go back to having just one meeting per month. Try limiting time on next regular meeting to see if that helps.
Next meeting: Regular meeting June 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.
Ellendale PB State Aid \$1,472.72
Amazon Cap Services \$374.98
BCBS of ND \$8,969.63
Dickey CO Treas \$2,938.00
Computer Express \$331.00
Verizon \$227.76
John Deere Financial \$61.06
Deere Credit \$6,750.00
Gannett SD Localiq \$917.00
Metro-Billing Services \$425.00
MDU \$7,387.48
Prairie Printing \$230.00
Starion Bank - Bis \$16,486.96
Software Innovations \$1,200.00
James Monroe \$231.00
American Solution Business \$369.24
VISA \$2,002.42
Farmers Union serv. Assoc. \$1,485.00
United States Treasury \$2,311.92
Council \$692.64
Mayor \$286.41
Ambulance \$17,674.32
City \$26,284.43
Postmaster \$247.95
NDPERS \$4,088.68
NDPERS \$427.84
IRS Payroll \$12,953.80
Lucas Van Zee \$49.00
EC Asset Managemnt \$400.00
CrossRoads Comm. Advisor \$3,300.00
Forum Comm. \$971.18
Sanitation Products \$221.06
Farmers Union Oil Co. \$1,404.57
DRN Readitech \$1,111.76
Ellendale True Value \$275.69
Z's Fresh Market \$5.49
Vestis \$215.64
Southeast Water Users \$15,000.00
Recycling Cntr of ND \$15,482.53
ND One Call \$24.00
Nd Dept of Health \$54.00
Mertz Lumber and Supply \$8,477.99
Information Tech. \$332.69
LaMoure Police Dept. \$25.00
Jones and Kelly \$2,260.00
Lorena Lynde \$290.00
Ellendale Concrete \$700.00
Centra Business Systems \$153.87
Chad's Electric \$896.06
Aflac \$384.48
ELLendale Park Board \$1,200.00
Visa \$855.83
TOTAL \$170,918.08
Donald Flaherty, Mayor
Nicole Kempf, Auditor
(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at next regular meeting.)
(May 22, 2025)