

Renewed housing focus prompts optimism for future

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A key component of Armstrong's plans was a \$50 million program to incentivize infrastructure improvements with grants to lower the cost of water, sewage, power, communications and transportation needed to support new housing.

The plan had similarities to what was successfully rolled out in South Dakota.

Most of the funding targeted communities under 20,000 residents. Matching funds from political subdivisions, local developers and other funding sources within local communities would have been required had the program gone through.

That bill, Senate Bill 2225, failed in committee in the wee hours of May 3 just before the conclusion of the legislative assembly.

For those closely following the housing shortage saga, failures of the Legislature to back more robust action have postponed inevitable expenditures to the long-term and made it more difficult to attract workers in the short-term.

Impact on businesses

That lack of housing impacts town businesses, particularly those with secure but not the highest paying jobs like local gas stations and other small businesses, she said.

"Housing is really tight, and in some of these smaller communities it's to a point where it causes issues with trying to grow," said David Klein, executive director of the Great Plains Housing Authority based out of Jamestown.

Klein said the great thing about the failed housing infrastructure plan was how it targeted smaller communities, where it is often difficult to develop housing because developers are focused on the major urban areas where a lot of infrastructure is already in place

or easier to scale.

Higher material and labor costs mean it is more costly to build on or develop infrastructure for a single lot as opposed to developing the infrastructure for several lots at once, Klein said. More lots in one place could drive interest from developers.

"Not having that puts things back further," he said of the failure of the legislation.

Corry Shevlin, executive director of the Jamestown/Stutsman County Development Corporation, said there's a need for all levels of housing in his region.

Jamestown had been primed and ready to roll out projects if the legislation had passed.

"We had to reevaluate where and if our dollars would have the same impact," Shevlin said. "We recognize that the problem's not going to go away. We would have loved to see that program funded. It was a great proposal, and I'm hoping it does return in future legislation."

Shevlin said the organization was ready to put forward \$1 million for a community match if the bill had gone through.

He's hopeful of getting a couple projects through local initiatives moving by the end of this construction season, but the clock is ticking.

Schilken said he expects some form of Armstrong's proposal to be resurrected in the next legislative session.

"Although we're disappointed it didn't pass, I think it started the conversation and really brought a lot of different people into that conversation," Schliken said. "Those are good things to take from it and we can put together some legislation to bring back next session."

Missing middle

Besides the smaller rural communities, other larger urban centers have difficulty attracting

and retaining young and midlevel professionals because of housing imbalances.

Most of the housing available is either on the high or the very low end of the spectrum, with what's in the middle coming and going from the market in a flash.

Future housing proposals should also have a "move up strategy" so those in entry-level housing can move up the ladder in five to 10 years, freeing up housing for those coming in, said Nick Hacker, CEO of the Title Team and a legislative committee president for the North Dakota Land Title Association.

"There's a pipeline here that's really important, and if any part of the pipeline is kind of broken, in the long term it will be a struggle," Hacker said. "We have to pay attention to the missing middle."

Daniel Stenberg, economic development director in McKenzie County, sees a similar situation in Watford City. Higher labor and construction costs often lead to the building of higher-end homes, missing out on the mid-range market. That impacts the ability to retain workers.

"We've got people that come in and they live in an apartment for a year or two, but they want to bring their family in and make themselves part of the community," Stenberg said.

"From a retention standpoint, you get people a lot more rooted if they have a house, they've built some equity, they've got kids in the school system."

Stenberg said he hopes any future state-level solutions would recognize investments already made in shovel-ready lots in places like Watford City, with the potential to use that funding toward down-payment assistance.

"It moves the builders to build, and then the buyers to be able to qualify to purchase these houses," Stenberg said.

This story was originally published on NewsCoopND.org.

Join Us for a Steak Fry Supporting Local 4-H Youth

Ellendale, ND — Wednesday, September 24— Dickey County 4-H is excited to announce an upcoming Steak Fry Fundraiser to support improvements made to the 4-H concession stands at the Dickey County Fairgrounds. The event will be held on September 24 from 5:00-7:00 PM, at the American Legion Robert Bernhagen Event Center (82 Main St, Ellendale), and the community is invited to enjoy a delicious meal while helping support local youth programs.

The steak fry will feature steak, beans, coleslaw, a bun, and dessert, served by 4-H volunteers and supporters.

Funds raised will be directed toward the recently completed 4-H concession stand improvements, which not only provide a safe, functional, and welcoming space for families and fairgoers but also ensure the facility meets current regulations, making it an option for broader community use beyond fair week. The 4-H fair concessions serve as the primary annual fundraiser for local 4-H programming, helping support educational opportunities, camps, contests, and leadership development for youth throughout the year.

4-H is all about helping young people learn by doing, build leadership skills, and find ways to give back to their communities. None of that would be possible without the incredible support we receive from the residents and businesses of Dickey County. This fundraiser is



one more example of how our community comes together to make a difference for local youth.

Dickey County 4-H extends a warm invitation to all community members to join the evening of great food, fellowship, and support for youth development.

For more information, please contact the NDSU Extension office at 701-349-8323.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES, JULY 14, 2025

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL Board Minutes July 14, 2025

The Ellendale Public School Board met in regular session on July 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Kristi Gilbert, Val Wagner, Jeff Goehring and Cresta Miller. Others present were Lana Norton, Jeff Ringstad, Allison Radermacher and Cindy Rall.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance. There were no visitors, communications or changes to the agenda.

The consent agenda included financial reports and bills as presented. Miller reviewed the bills and the following bills were presented for payment:

June Payroll DD 360-363, 368, 7020-7082 Ck# 16098-16109, 16115 \$337,747.96

27404 10 Pin Bar & Grill 260.00 Longevity Certificates

27405 Blumhardt Chevrolet 416.84 Service/Repairs

27406 Cole Papers 6,981.64 Floor Machine/Pads

27407 DPCU 4,509.98 Supplies

27408 Dickey County Leader 684.56 Publishing

27409 EPS Operations, LLC 478.91 Teachers Guide/Student Kit

27410 Geffdog Designs 456.84 Longevity Items

27411 Amy Goehring 17.14 Elementary Supplies

27412 Bridget Henning 23.16 Drivers Ed Gas

27413 LaQuinta 577.80 Lodging

27414 NASSP 95.00 NASC Membership

27415 NDCDE 229.00 Online Coursework

27416 Nodak Café 70.00 Longevity Certificates

27417 Oakes Truck & Trailer 2,305.31 Inspections/Repairs

27418 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00 Monthly Fee

27419 Pearson Education 2,472.12 Books

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Tuesday & Thursday : 8 am – 12 pm (noon)

Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

27420 Carissa Price 21.18 Drivers Ed Supplies

27421 Quill Corporation 1,157.38 Folders/Envelopes

27422 Cynthia Rall 585.95 Meals/Mileage/Cell Reimb.

27423 Sanorbix 3,268.00 MBC Renewal

27424 Savvas Learning 8,066.52 Biology/Science Books

27425 SEEC 4,905.98 Reading Corp

27426 Spaces Inc 11,383.00 Desks/ Chairs/Stools

27427 Supreme School Supply 108.89 Receipt Books

27428 Carrin Thorpe 510.00 Mowing

27429 Verizon 443.09 Hotspot Billing

27430 Z's Fresh Market 35.27 Supplies

27431 Dickey County Abstract 25,500.00 Purchase 501 N 2nd/Demo

2025069 Cenex Fleetcard 3,774.63 Gas/Diesel

27432 Arntson Stewart Wegner Pc 15,750.00 Legal Services-2025 Bond

27433 Avel Ecare 640.00 BHS Sessions

27434 Blick Art 79.55 Supplies

27435 Cenex Fleetcard 171.28 Gasoline & Diesel

27436 Cengage Learning 971.03 Working Papers

27437 Central Business Systems Inc 397.58 Managed Print Services

27438 Chad's Electric 98.00 Light Repairs

27439 Cole Papers Inc 3,620.12 Floor Finish/Supplies

27440 DPCU 2,827.38 Supplies

27441 Dickey County Leader 371.49 Publishing

27442 DRN 1,555.91 Phone/Backup Services

27443 Discount School Supply 106.71 Supplies

27444 EDU Tech 80.00 Powerschool Year End

27445 Ellendale City Of 1,805.97 Utilities

27446 Ellendale True Value 219.56 Custodial Supplies/Paint

27447 Farmers Union 1,024.66 Bottled Gas/Fuel

27448 Geffdog Designs 235.84 Replacement Name Plates

27449 Goehring, Amy 19.03 Elem Supplies

27450 Graves It Solutions 1,400.00 Install/Configure Server

27451 Hase Plumbing 800.00 Toilet Replacement

27452 Hubert Company 165.12 Colanders

27453 Innovative Office Solutions Llc 289.23 Supplies

27454 J & M Elliott Llc 2,700.00 June '25 Owners Rep

27455 J W Pepper & Son Inc 866.14 Folders/Music

27456 Jarman's Water Systems 288.00 Softener Rent

27457 Lakeshore Learning Materials 26.98 Scissors

27458 Laminator.Com 151.26 Laminating Film

27459 Lampo Group, Inc, The 747.04 Finance Consumables

20250709 Leaf 448.00 Printer/Copier Lease

27460 Mertz Lumber & Supply 41.40 2x4's

27461 Middlestead, Colette 1,202.94 2025 Spring Coursework

20250701 MDU 3,628.12 Electricity

27462 NASCO 118.89 Chemicals/Soil Tests

27463 NASSP 385.00 NHS Affiliation

27464 NDCEL 2,009.00 Dues

27465 NDSBA 895.00 Policy Services

27466 Petty Cash 10.10 Postage

27467 Powerschool 6,163.92 School Messenger

27468 Quadiant Leasing USA, Inc 134.22 Postage Meter Lease

27469 Really Good Stuff Inc 26.83 Supplies

27470 Scenario Learning LLC 805.80 Safeschools

27471 School Specialty, Inc 422.72 Elementary Supplies

27472 Software Unlimited, Inc 7,250.00 25-26 Software Fees

27473 Thorpe, Carrin 510.00 Mowing

20250715 TMS 50.40 Monthly Service Fee

27474 Workforce Safety & Insurance 4,634.11 25-26 Premium

Total 145,657.52

It was motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller to approve all of the items on the consent agenda. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

EPS Spotlight

- Thank the custodial crew for getting the school ready for the upcoming school year.
- Thank Mrs. Rall, Mrs. Radermacher, and Lana Norton for the extra work they have done through the superintendent transition.
- Welcome to the new EPS superintendent Mr. Jeff Ringstad.

Vance provided a written report including information regarding staff openings, streaming services and ticket prices. Ringstad's report included a construction update as well as highlights of his time at EPS thus far.

It was motioned by Goehring, seconded by Miller to approve payment in the amount of \$2,970.00 to Co-op Architecture. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Ringstad provided an update on Title funds, HVAC repairs and the ND CLIMBS grant.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Wagner, Jeff Goehring, Michele Thorpe and Cresta Miller. Lana Norton, Allison Radermacher, Cindy Rall and Jeff Ringstad were also present. There were no changes to the agenda or visitors.

Ringstad called for nominations for President. Goehring nominated Michele Thorpe for President. Goehring made a motion, seconded by Miller, that nominations for President cease and that they cast a unanimous vote for Thorpe. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Newly elected President Thorpe asked for nominations for Vice President. Goehring nominated Val Wagner. It was motioned by Goehring, seconded by Miller that nominations for Vice President cease, and that they cast a unanimous vote for Wagner. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner, to set the 2nd Monday as the regular school board meeting date each month at 7:00 p.m., meeting in the conference room at the school. The second meeting, if needed will be scheduled for the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 a.m. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner, to appoint Lana Norton as the Business Manager for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the board to table board member committee assignments.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Goehring to table the school board policy review.

Fees were reviewed for the 25-26 school year. The fees were approved as follows:

Goehring moved, with a second by Wagner, to set the yearbook fee at \$40 per book. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Miller moved, with a second by Wagner, to set the Cardinal Tech Insurance Fee at \$35 (Discounts: \$25/reduced or \$15/free) per device. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Gilbert moved, with a second by Miller, to set the In-District Drivers Ed fee at \$175 and the Retake/Out-of-District fee \$290. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Gilbert moved, with a second by Miller, to set the lost lock fee at \$5.00 per lock. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Miller moved, with a second by Gilbert, to set the lost agenda fee at \$10.00. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Goehring moved, with a second by Miller, to set the 7-12 Activity Ticket fee at \$60.00 and the early bird fee at \$50. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Miller moved, with a second by Gilbert, to set the Adult Couple Activity Ticket fee at \$180.00 and the early bird fee at \$100. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Gilbert moved, with a second by Wagner, to set the Golden Cardinal Pass fee at \$35.00. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner, to approve the following athletic gate admission prices for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Varsity contest Adult \$8.00-Student

\$5.00

Double-header Adult \$10.00-Student \$8.00

JH/JV Adult \$6.00-Student \$4.00

Elementary Free Will Donation

Miller moved, with a second by Wagner, to follow the Thunder board Co-op approved admission prices for Thunder events. Upon roll call, all members voted in favor. The motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Goehring, to approve the following Hudl fees for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Per Contest Viewing \$10.00

Monthly Viewing Subscription \$20.00

Yearly Viewing Subscription \$80.00

Yearly Advertisement \$500.00

It was motion by Wagner, seconded by Miller, to approve the following hot lunch prices for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

\$52.00 20 – Elementary Student Hot Lunch Meals (Cost/Meal - \$2.60)

\$57.00 20 – 7th-12th Grade Student Hot Lunch Meals (Cost/Meal - \$2.85)

\$1.40 Per Second Serving –Breakfast/Lunch

\$77.00 20 – Adult Hot Lunch Meals (Cost/Meal - \$3.85)

\$50.00 20 – Student Breakfast Meals (Cost/Meal - \$2.50)

\$58.00 20 – Adult Breakfast Meals (Cost/Meal - \$2.90)

\$10.00 Monthly Milk Ticket (Good for one calendar month) Grades K-6 1-milk per afternoon,

Grades 7-12 +1 milk at lunch.

It was motion by Miller, seconded by Gilbert, to approve the following printing fees for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

\$0.20 Printing Black & White on School Paper

\$0.15 Printing Black & White

\$0.35 Printing Color on School Paper

\$0.25 Printing Color

It was motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller to set the district mileage reimbursement rate at .70 cents per mile. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Gilbert to set the district lodging at \$98.00, breakfast at \$13.00, lunch at \$15.00 and dinner at \$20.00 for in-state travel and the GSA lodging and meal rate for out-of-town travel. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Gilbert to set the district student state tournament meal reimbursement for \$13.00, lunch at \$15.00 and dinner at \$20.00 for in-state travel. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Wagner to publish staff wages annually, on a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried. The 2025-2026 salaries are as follows:

Bethany Badendick 47,550, Charlene Blondo 57,450, Izabel Chavez 46,750, Jeannine Gibson 59,050, Amy Goehring 66,650, Troy Goehring 65,450, Brennan Hack 50,350, Rebecca Herman 46,750, Janne Holt 61,050, Candice Klipfel 61,450, Taylor Krege 47,950, Rachel Land 58,650, Joni Lematta 54,350, Grace Lynch 47,950, Renae Martin 57,950, Colette Middlestead 55,550, Rebekah Middlestead 58,650, Kristie Morrison 63,450, Lana Norton 71,236, Allison Radermacher 88,314, Ashli Rall 55,850, Cynthia Rall 97,145, Jeff Ringstad 124,500, Lisa Ringstad 58,250, Melinda Stoughton 47,950, Carrin Thorpe 59,150, Brian Vance 61,550, Michele Vance 59,450, Kyra Van Zee 47,550

John Beckius 27.36, Rose Bennett 20.99

Lorraine Betting 22.80, Daniel Blondo 22.77, Pam Cook 19.61, LuAnn Cooper 20.71, Austin Flynn 21.66, Troy Goehring 19.96, Kayleen Grom 18.53, Kelsy Hokana 18.79, Kelly Krege 18.01, Paul Mahler 21.85, Amanda Merkel 18.53, Kayla Musick 18.01, Steve Petersen 24.45, Eldon Fabricio Posligua Cevallos 18.01, Nicole Reis 19.55 and Josh Taylor 18.25.

It was motioned by Miller, seconded by Goehring to set the substitute teacher rate of pay \$156 per day, substitute bus drivers holding the PS endorsement route pay at \$45 per route, substitute bus route pay at \$40 per route, activity driving rate at \$22 per hour, substitute office, food service and custodians at \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Gilbert, to appoint the Superintendent of Ellendale Public School District as the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV and Title V authorized representative. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Wagner motioned to approve Jeff Ringstad, Cindy Rall and Dan Blondo as those qualified to purchase from ND Surplus Property. Seconded by Gilbert. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner, seconded by Gilbert, to appoint the Dickey County Health Nurse as our local immunization authority for the Ellendale Public School District for the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Gilbert, seconded by Miller, to appoint Allison Radermacher as the authority for the Local Homeless Children and Youth Liaison. On roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wagner to set Board salaries at \$50 per committee meeting, \$75 per meeting plus mileage, and the board president salary at \$100 per meeting plus mileage. Seconded by Goehring. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Gilbert motioned, seconded by Miller to appoint Allison Radermacher as the Foster Care Liaison. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motioned by Miller, seconded by Goehring to approve the local referee and game officials as presented. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Miller motioned, seconded by Gilbert to table Action on Annual Certificate of Compliance.

Wagner motioned, seconded by Goehring to table Action of Title I Assurances.

The board reviewed the 2025 Internal Control Measures as well as the Pledge of Assets from the Starion Bank and Choice Bank.

The Board reviewed the Commercial Blanket Bond through the North Dakota Insurance Department. It was the consensus of the board that this coverage is sufficient.

Miller motioned, seconded by Wagner to approve an expenditure budget in the amount of \$5,552,544 for the 2025-26 fiscal year. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

Next School Board Meeting is Monday, August 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Lana Norton, Business Manager
Formally Approved by the Board

(September 11, 2025)