

Legals: Your Right to Know

The Sherwood City Council held their monthly meeting on Monday, November 10th, 2025 at 6:33pm.

Council members present were: Garrett Volk, Boyd Southam, David Thompson, Will Smith, and Jarett Keith. Others present were John Brown, Nathan A, Robert Jackson, Jim Barton, Adam Siegirst, Steve Keith, Charles Robinson, Joel Olhausen, and Sonja Olhausen.

Last month’s meeting minutes were reviewed. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda items were finalized and Financial Report were reviewed. it was noted the payment to Prints 4 Less was for receipt books. Monthly leak report was also reviewed, there was 1 running toilet.

Late water bill payments were discussed, there is \$917.37 in past due, with 3 disconnect notices issued.

PW Monthly Report: John is working on getting quotes for the lagoon fence. He will be going down this week to take a look at the grain truck. The city is interested in purchasing one for city projects, street sealing. Jarett has seen the grain truck as well. The asking price is \$2,500.00. Discussion was held on the email received from Emily Henderson, pertaining to the corroded shut off valve inside her home. An email will be sent back to the resident. The repair costs will be the home owner’s responsibility, and they can contact John to have the water shut off when they have the project completed.

Late payments for those with gym memberships only was discussed. David made a motion to charge a \$5.00 late fee per month/per month that the monthly rate is late. Seconded by Jarett. All board members present were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

City Engineer Monthly Report: Nothing at this time. Kristy state that she had sent all the lead and copper notifications out by mail. 79 letters with no response needed, and 31 letters with response needed. The letters were also send to the residents pertaining to water sampling results, along with the required report sent into the state.

The RCSO report was reviewed. Adam answered questions from the council, and explained the difference in the calls for service. No concerns at this time from the council.

The 2026 Maximum Levy Worksheet from Renville County was given to the council.

Jim B. took a sample of water at the city hall, to measure the total dissolved solids. With his meter reading he brought from home, it was 800ppm. Discussion was held, and the council informed those at the meeting that the city water source comes from the Sundre water well in Minot. The city engineer explained that all cities along the NAWS water line are required to each do their own sampling and testing. Jim is interested in putting in his own well, the city will look into if that’s allowed. Jim gave John a map on an idea of how to address the drainage issue by his residence. Jim had asked about a catch basin, and discussion was held on that. Jim also expressed to the council the decrease in the population in the city, and if the city is doing anything to address the issue. Him had requested a copy of the city employee salaries, and that was given to him at the meeting.

The contract between the city and the State of ND Office of State Tax Commissioner was discussed. The contract would enable the state to administer the City of Sherwood’s Local Sales Tax for the 2026-2027 Biennium. David made a motion to sign the contract. Seconded by Will. All board members present were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The council was given a copy of all of the currently employee salaries/rates of pay. The 2026 employee salaries will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adam S. would like to rent the school gym for a private event on Saturday, November 22nd. Also looking into movie nights as community events this winter. There will be no charge for the community events. He submitted payment and gym rental agreement for the private event.

Public Comments: Sonja O. discussed the 2026 employee salaries. She asked the council to take into consideration raises in employee salaries with the current city projects and the costs of those projects. She also expressed that the city is not growing and has a lower tax base. Joel O. also discussed 2026 employee salaries. With future city issues, and the city only has so much money to work with. The city has had to take loans out and there are unexpected projects coming up.

Joel O. discussed an idea he had for the coal room with the council, installing something to secure the

walls.

Monthly bills were reviewed. Will made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Seconded by David. All board members present were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48p.m.

November Monthly Bills:

John Brown (Payroll)	\$3,992.50
John Brown (Vehicle)	\$250.00
Joni Heller (Payroll)	\$448.39
Cameron Hardware	\$37.77
ND Department of Water Resources	

	\$1,739.04
Precision Farm Parts	\$430.15
Renville County Farmer	\$163.20
Renville County SO	\$1,625.00
Sherwood Park Board	\$327.79
Kristy Titus (Payroll)	\$1,167.90
NCEC	\$126.00
MDU	\$2,179.90
SRT	\$161.75
IRS	\$1,984.73
ND PERS	\$1,627.54
Amazon	\$48.24
USPS	\$556.23
Print It 4 Less	\$149.09
Job Service ND	\$16.89
ND Tax	\$450.00

City of Tolley Regular Meeting December 1, 2025

Mayor Tohm called the regular meeting to order with both council members present.

Minutes and Treasurers report were read and approved.

Discussion on the sewer was held. A-I Evans has not sent information on line blowouts. This will be tabled until spring.

Iverson moved issue liquor license to Ronnie Brekhus Wes’s Bar starting January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 seconded by Triplett motion carried.

Discussion on the flood plain ordinance was held. Tabled until Jan meeting.

Discussion on the schools was held. Triplett moved to pay bills as presented seconded by Iverson motion carried.

Iverson moved to adjourn seconded by Triplett motion carried.

Circle Sanitatio	736.75
Austin Varty	\$429.43
MDU	\$569.26
USWU	\$45.00

CALL FOR INSURANCE BIDS

Renville County is now accepting bids for general liability, inland marine, business auto, money and securities. Anyone interested in bidding may contact the County Auditor for specifications. All bids must be filed in the office of the County Auditor by 10:00 a.m., January 6, 2026, at which time they will be opened.

The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the right to negotiate terms and to waive technicalities.

LeAnn M. Pollman, County Auditor
P.O. Box 68
Mohall, ND 58761-0068

LOCAL NEWS

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ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES relating to Exploration and Production of Critical Minerals in Coal-Bearing Formations.

North Dakota Geological Survey will hold public hearings to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code.

Geological Survey 1:30 pm CST Tues., Jan. 20, 2026 1000 E Calgary Ave Bismarck, ND

Copies of the proposed rules will be available December 17, 2025 and may be obtained by writing the Geological Survey at 600 E. Blvd, Dept. 474, Bismarck, ND 58505-0614, or by calling (701) 328-8000. View changes at www.dmr.nd.gov/dmr/ndgs Comment in writing by 5pm January 30, 2026. Submit written comments to the Geological Survey (see address above) or ndgs@nd.gov. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Geological Survey at the above address or phone number by January 12, 2026.

Farmers Affected by Hansen-Mueller Bankruptcy Encouraged to File Claims

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring encourages farmers that have been affected by the Hansen-Mueller bankruptcy to file claims with the bankruptcy court.

Hansen-Mueller is a nationwide commodity trading and logistics company that specializes in grain, oilseeds and feed ingredients.

“Every producer who is owed money by Hansen-Mueller should be receiving notification from the bankruptcy court that they are a claimant and need to file a claim,” Goehring said.

“We understand the producer’s frus-

Buying Lots in Watford by Jack Dura

December 8, 2025 – Before it was even built, advertisers were proclaiming Watford, North Dakota, as the latest, greatest town in McKenzie County. A modern boom town today, it had its start as a terminus on the Great Northern Railway, sitting at the center of the state’s largest county.

Around this time in 1913, local economic developers were working to draw residents and merchants to young Watford. The McKenzie County Bank ran an ad in the Schafer Record newspaper. Shafer was the county seat back then. The ad said the new town of Watford would be a supply base for ranchers, with “miles of splendid territory,” fertile farm land, and established settlements.

The ad was a bit presumptuous in announcing Watford would be the new county seat, with “the advantages of a county seat town.” Regardless, people in Schafer were already scrambling to move to Watford, with some businessmen purchasing lots in preparation for a move in the spring of 1915.

The railroad never came to Schafer, and Watford’s beginning spelled the

start of the end for that town. The McKenzie County Bank predicted that Watford would boom in 1915, and residential lots went up for sale – one-third cash with the balance due in two annual payments.

Despite the early prediction of a change in county seat, Schafer held on as the seat for nearly 30 more years, but the pronouncement in the ad was finally fulfilled when the 1940 election transferred the seat to Watford City. Watford had added “city” to its name in 1916 to avoid post office confusion with Wolford, North Dakota.

Watford City did well throughout the next century, with the oil industry providing a lift even as the railroad went away. The old rail bed still marks the path of the trains that helped bring people to McKenzie County, which carries the nickname “the Island Empire” because of the three rivers surrounding it.

Dakota’s First Election by Christina Sunwall

December 9, 2025 – After Abraham Lincoln took office, one of his first acts was to appoint territorial leaders in the newly created Dakota Territory... most importantly, the governorship.

General John Blair Smith Todd was an obvious candidate. After a long military career, Todd had played a crucial role in the creation of Dakota Territory as well as the selection of Yankton as the territorial capital. And he had a personal stake in the future of Dakota Territory as a businessman and landowner. But perhaps most significantly, Todd was the cousin of the President’s wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

But Todd had several marks against him. Not only was he a Democrat, but as the president’s cousin-in-law, his appointment would have been open to charges of nepotism. Further complicating matters was Daniel Marsh Frost, Todd’s former business partner in the territory. Frost had joined the Confederate cause, and in the spring of 1861, took part in a scheme to capture the US arsenal at St. Louis! So instead of Todd, President Lincoln chose his personal physician, friend and fellow Republican, Dr. William Jayne of Springfield, Illinois as the territory’s first governor.

But Todd was not easily discouraged. In September of 1861, the first territorial election would be held to select a delegate to the US Congress and the members of the territorial legislature. The congressional delegate was not a voting member of Congress, but as the territory’s sole elected representative, he would serve as the clearing house for most of the territorial business in Washington.

The Union Party nominated A. J. Bell, while another independent convention nominated Charles P. Booge, a trader at the Yankton Agency. John Todd put himself forward as a candidate, but without a party nomination. Although a Democrat, Todd had many Republican supporters so he deemed it best not to antagonize either party.

Todd was certain he was the most qualified for the job. He was a West Point graduate with Washington connections and a proven interest in Dakota Territory. In support of Todd, the Yankton newspaper, the ‘Weekly Dakotan’ reminded readers of Todd’s relationship to President Lincoln, while pointing out that until recently, Todd’s opponent, A. J. Bell had been a citizen of Minnesota.

The people of Dakota Territory clearly agreed with the Yankton paper’s assessment. In September of 1861, Todd won nearly 400 of the almost 600 ballots cast while Booge won 110 and Bell took only 78.

On this date in 1861, John “B. S.” Todd took his seat in Washington as the congressional delegate for Dakota Territory. But the fight still wasn’t over. Less than nine months later, the congressional seat would be up for election again, this time pitting President Lincoln’s cousin-in-law, John Todd, against Lincoln’s former physician, and the Governor of Dakota Territory, William Jayne.

Good Farming Associations by Carole Butcher

December 10, 2025 – Decades of interaction with white Americans reshaped Native culture as they adapted to horses, guns, and trade goods. Eventually, the free-ranging lifestyle of Native peoples was permanently altered as they were forced onto reservations.

Some tribes adapted more readily than others as the days of chasing vast herds of bison came to an end. On this date in 1921, Superintendent E.D. Mossman was working with those living on the Standing Rock Reservation to establish Good Farming Associations for each district on the reservation. Mossman noted that residents were “manifesting equal interest in the project.” The purpose of the program was to help the tribe transi-

tion to an agriculture-based lifestyle.

Some tribes had a long history of agriculture. Village-based tribes like the Mandans and Hidatsas cultivated corn, beans, and squash to meet much of their nutritional needs. Women were primarily responsible for clearing the land, cultivating, and harvesting the crops. Agriculture not only provided for their needs but also served as valuable trade goods. Nomadic tribes like the Crow and Lakota traded bison meat and hides in exchange for vegetables.

Native agents from the Standing Rock Indian Agency attempted to teach European American agricultural techniques to the tribes. However, agents often sabotaged their own efforts by instructing men, who traditionally saw agriculture as the role of women. Other mistakes were made as well. Agents promoted wheat over traditional crops and insisted on row cultivation as the only acceptable method, rather than embracing the traditional practice of mixing crops. The government’s goal was to help tribes become self-sufficient, but agents often failed to provide the necessary equipment, seeds, and training.

Today, much Native land has been leased to white farmers. However, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations are moving forward with a major agricultural effort to allow the tribes to grow much of their own food. The Nations are building a 3.5-acre greenhouse complex as the first phase of the Native Green Grow project. Tribal Chairman Mark Fox said, “We once were part of an aboriginal trade center for thousands and thousands of years... all the tribes depended on us greatly as part of the aboriginal trade system.” Additional work will expand the facility by another eleven acres, making it one of the largest in the world.

Christmas House by Sarah Walker

December 11, 2025 – A home is a sacred place. Home is where your heart is, after all. And for the many immigrants of North Dakota, home is where you hang your heritage, old and new.

The Hoghaug family, from Norway, began to build their new home in 1965. The house would tie together what they had built up in America with what they had come from in Norway. Within a year, it was finished, and on this date in 1966, their home was spotlighted as a unique house among the many residences popping up along the Red River.

Large and lavish, but lovely, the finished product was quite a bit removed from the "shell of a house under construction" the year before. Then, a lonely, "forlorn" Christmas tree glittered away, not foretelling the current delight.

Grand Forks Herald writer Marilyn Hagerty looked into the mix of dreams come true, reporting that the house had a suggestion of country living, with a touch of the rich. All of the rooms were irregularly shaped. Everything was soft and rosy, and the house was decorated with pillars, a stained glass window above the mantel, a plethora of colors, even a cupid light fixture.

There was a sauna room, a dressing room, a room with eight windows built into the roofline to let in a lot of sunshine for Mrs. Hoghaug. The house had rich décor, a grand piano and an oak dining room set, carved with decorations of Vikings. However, the beds were covered with hand-made quilts, and a hand-carved Norwegian kubbestole, a chair made from a tree stump, stood in a spot of honor by the fireplace.

Even the exterior was marked by their work. Mrs. Hoghaug searched for three years to find two streetlights to place in her yard. She ended up buying them from the city of Sioux Falls, where they were being replaced. She brought them to Grand Forks, had them stripped and refinished in white, then set one up on each end of the yard.

The reporter said it all mixed "the Norwegian 'Vellkommen'" with the "Grand Forks 'linger awhile...come back again.'"


However, Dr. Hoghaug, the proud new owner of the house, said that it was merely an incarnation of his and his wife’s dreams – especially his wife’s.

Her friends said, "Mar knew what she wanted." And, from the glowing review of her house, that’s what she got.

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shop-prairiepublic.org.

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