



McINTOSH

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McIntosh, Minnesota



Win-E-Mac music students excel at solo contest. Eleven soloists from Win-E-Mac High School recently competed in the Subsection 30-8A solo contest, held at the Ulen Hiterdal school on Monday, January 29, 2024. 6 soloists received a Superior (**) rating, while 5 soloists received an Excellent (*) rating. Four vocalists performed at solo contest, with 1 earning the Superior (**) rating, and 3 earning an Excellent (*) rating. Those receiving the Superior (**) rating were: Isabelle Morinville. Vocalists receiving an Excellent (*) rating were: Emelia Boianoff, Josie Fortman, and Riley Kochman. Seven instrumentalists performed at solo contest, with 5 earning the Superior (**) rating, and 2 earning an Excellent (*) rating. Those receiving the Superior (**) rating were: Nevaeh Simpson (Flute), Shelby Mandt (Soprano Sax), Shelby Mandt (Alto Sax), Kalli Roy (Alto Sax) and Evie Ryan (French Horn). Instrumentalists receiving an Excellent (*) ratings were earned by: Alyssa Morberg (Flute) and Luella Strom (Flute). Accompanying the solos were: Andrew Hanson & Charity Salmonson. Pictured: Row 1: Alyssa Morberg, Evie Ryan, Shelby Mandt, Kalli Roy; Row 2: Emelia Boianoff, Josie Fortman, Isabelle Morinville, Ella Strom, Nevaeh Simpson, and Riley Kochman.



Justin Courneya and Luella Strom attended the Triple A banquet for Region 8A, representing Win-E-Mac as the school winners. Luella was also selected as the Sub-Section 30 girls winner as well! This award is given out by the Minnesota State High School League to Seniors who excel in Academics, Athletics, & the Arts. Congratulations to Ella and Justin!

The lost winter of 2023-24

The winter season can be defined meteorologically (December through February), astronomically (December 21st to March 21st), or based on when we actually experience winter-like conditions, meaning cold and snow.

By that latter definition, a typical winter lasts from November into March or even April, but this year, we've had only a total of about two weeks of it, and some of that was around Halloween!

Instead, the winter has been dominated by warmth and snowlessness. Winter heatwaves in December, January, and February have produced record high temperatures, record high minimum temperatures, and some "firsts" for winter warmth too.

At International Falls, the high temperature of 53 F on January 31st became the highest temperature on record for any January day. Previously, no January day had ever topped 50 F at that weather station.

In the Twin Cities and at St. Cloud, the high temperature was 55 F, record highs for the date at both stations. Rochester also broke a daily high temperature record, with 52 F. Duluth hit 48 F, just one degree shy of its daily record. Airport stations in western and southwestern Minnesota recorded temperatures in the upper 50s and low 60s. The highest temperatures in the state occurred in western and southwestern Minnesota (many recorded on February 1 because volunteer daily observers with the official National Weather Service Cooperative Network make morning readings), with 61 F at Marshall, and 58 F reported at Milan, Wells and Winnebago.

The warmth on the final day of January punctuated a warm spell that began in most areas on the 22nd or 23rd. For the final week of the month, daily mean temperatures averaged 18-25 degrees F above normal across the state.

Most areas in the state had received less than 25% of their normal snowfall through the first week of February, and had seen 20-55 days since December 1st with no snow on the ground.

Annual blood drive held in McIntosh

Donors needed to make up for 50% decline in donations at business blood drives

The Friends of McIntosh Veteran's recently held their annual blood drive at the McIntosh Community Center.

On Wednesday, January 31st Vitalant set up a blood donation site at the McIntosh Community Center and many members of the community were on hand to offer support and donate blood. There was a total of 46 donors who offered to give blood. Three of those who were there to donate were unable. Because of the 7 donors who donated double, there was a total of 50 units donated. The goal of the staff was to collect 45 units, so the goal was exceeded.

The blood supply for about 900 hospitals nationwide recently dipped to its lowest level in a year at Vitalant, triggering a blood emergency for the nonprofit blood services provider.

Eligible donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed now to schedule an appointment and donate in the days and weeks ahead to prevent delays for patients who need transfusions.

Changes in how people work, live and play since the start of the pandemic created lasting challenges to maintaining an adequate blood supply. As many people continue to work remotely, blood donations at business-hosted blood drives are down by 50% in 2022 from 2019, a decline of 90,000 donations.

Overall, the number of people donating with Vitalant has dropped about 20% in the last three years, while patients' needs remain strong.

"New donors and those who haven't donated recently are critical to helping end this shortage. Patient needs continue but societal shifts have kept



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blood donations from rebounding to pre-pandemic levels," said Cliff Numark, Vitalant senior vice president. "Starting the new year by scheduling a blood donation can make an incredible impact in your community."

Donors of every blood type are critical to ending this shortage and maintaining an adequate supply. The need is most acute for type O blood and platelets. Type O-positive is the most transfused blood type while O-negative can help patients of any blood type. Donated platelets, which often help cancer patients, must be used within a week.

The Friends of McIntosh Veteran's are looking for volunteers to assist with future blood drives in the coming years. If you are interested, please contact a member.

February is also Heart Health Month. In addition to helping save lives, Vitalant donors receive a free mini-physical, checking their pulse, blood pressure and cholesterol level. With each donation, donors can help save more than one life and track their wellness information in their secure and confidential online portal account.

Learn more about hosting blood drives, donating blood and make an appointment to give at vitalant.org, download and use the Vitalant app or call 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825).



Al Bauer was one of many community members who showed up on Wednesday, January 31st to donate blood at the McIntosh Community Center, where the Annual Blood Drive took place.



Giving blood during the Friends of McIntosh Veteran's Annual Blood Drive was Gene Haugom.



Clyde Kringlen donated blood during the annual blood drive held January 31st in McIntosh.

January 2024 minutes from McIntosh Council meeting

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday January 11, 2024

5:30 p.m.
Community Center

Call to order:
Mayor Strom called the meeting to order at 5:30

Pledge of Allegiance:
Roll call:

Members present: Mayor Toby Strom, Luke Syverson and Beth Hagen Luke Burd and Jordan Gunufson

Melissa Finseth – clerk/treasurer

Rebecca Boehrsen - licensed assisted living director for Poplar Meadows

Guests: Bruce and Debbie Haaven, Clyde Kringle, Mick Evenson, Betty Tangen, Phil Lee, Larry and Orlett Hedlund, Ron Lemer and Arlene Eggers

Determination of quorum:

Quorum was met.

Agenda additions:
Approval of minutes:

a. December 12, 2023 regular council meeting minutes

Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to approve the December 12, 2023 regular council meeting minutes with one amendment.

The city clerk inadvertently listed Luke Burd and Jordan Gunufson as absent instead of present at the December meeting. Passed unopposed.

b. December 12, 2023 Truth in Taxation meeting minutes

Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve the December 12, 2023 truth in taxation meeting minutes. Passed unopposed.

Public concerns:

The question was raised by Bruce Haaven, on behalf of the guests, what the council intended on doing with the houses that are in disrepair within the city - Paul Lindseth's house in particular. Mayor Strom stated that Paul Lindseth is in the process of getting dumpsters lined up so that he can begin demolishing the property. The city clerk confirmed that Paul Lindseth had contacted the office the morning of January 11, 2024 with his plan.

As far as the other properties around town, Mayor Strom stated that it's not a quick or cheap problem to solve once the lawyers get involved. The city clerk also responded by saying that past letters written

to the property owners end up returned unanswered. A guest suggested that sheriff deputies get involved to hand-deliver the letters instead.

It was suggested by a guest that the city cleans up the properties, which may include demolishing the houses, and then bills the owner. Another suggestion was that the city pursues a conveyance deed where the city does the work to clean up the property and the owner signs over their deed to the city. Luke Syverson stated that he would agree to the latter option.

The city clerk stated that letters will be written. The council will need to inform the clerk how they want them delivered.

Meda and Poplar Meadows:

a. Rental status
Rebecca Boehrsen reported that Poplar Meadows currently has twenty-six residents. There is one 1 – 1 bedroom available for rent.

b. Approve Poplar Meadows monthly bills

Motion by Beth Hagen and seconded by Luke Syverson to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$68,279.25. Passed unopposed.

c. Debt payment

Rebecca Boehrsen reported that no debt payment will be made this month.

d. Three payrolls in February

Rebecca Boehrsen asked the council for funds, from the city's General Fund, to help cover the three payrolls and expenses in February. Each payroll is roughly \$30,000.00 and the revenues for February will not be enough to cover all expenses. She asked for \$80,000.00, but after much discussion, Luke Syverson motioned for \$40,000.00 to be given. Beth Hagen seconded the motion, which was passed

unopposed.

Old business:

a. Lindseth property
This was discussed during the public concerns portion of the meeting.

b. Earned sick and safe time – Fire department

The city clerk informed the council that members of the fire department do not qualify for earned sick and safe time under the state's Department of Labor and Industry Standards. No ruling was needed on this issue.

New business:

a. 2024 list of commissioners

Motion by Jordan Gunufson and seconded by Beth Hagen to approve the list of commissioners for 2024. Passed unopposed. The full list will be available in the clerk's office.

b. 2024 council meeting dates

Motion by Luke Burd and seconded by Luke Syverson to approve the 2024 council meeting dates. Passed unopposed.

c. Set date for township meeting with fire department – February

Council set the date for the combined council, township and fire department for February 21, 2024 at 6:30.

d. Resolution – Polar Beach Snowmobile Club

Jordan Gunufson motioned to act as the legal sponsor for the application funding to the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for trail maintenance of snowmobile trails managed by Polar Beach Snowmobile Club. All members voted yes. Resolution passed.

e. Weather siren quote

Council discussed the weather siren quote provided by Stone's Mobile Radio Incorporated in the amount of \$20,891.66. Luke Syverson asked for another quote to compare pricing. The city clerk will ask Roger's Two Way Radio to provide a quote.

f. 2023 audit engagement letter

Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Beth Hagen to approve the 2023 audit en-

gagement letter from Hoffman, Philipp & Martell, plc.. Passed unopposed.

Approval of monthly bills:

Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$27,796.06. Passed unopposed.

Council & staff reports:

Jordan Gunufson asked the council what the plans are for the Reese property on the south side of Highway 2. Discussion was had that we would get Moore Engineering to plot

out a portion of the property.

Notices & correspondence:

Adjournment:
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to adjourn at 6:55. Passed unopposed.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Fosston
Fr. John Suvakeen,
Pastor

Wed. Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Mass; Adoration 12:00-6:30pm

Sun. Feb. 18: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. Feb. 21: 5:30am Mass; Adoration 12:00-5:00pm

Sun. Feb. 25: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. Feb. 28: 5:30am Mass; Adoration 12:00-5:00pm

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Pastor Rene Mehlberg
Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais

Sun. Feb. 18: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Sun. Feb. 25: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Interim Pastor:
Nathan Dalager

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 11:00am; Sunday School: 9:45am

Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am; Sunday School: 10:45am

Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Independent
Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com
Face Book: Gosen Church

Sun. Feb. 18: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

Tues. Feb. 20: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTN-30

Wed. Feb. 21: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home

Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
Pastor Lee Laaveg

Sun. Feb. 18: 9:00am Worship

Sun. Feb. 25: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker,

Sundays: 9:00am Worship; 10:00am Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Winger

Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- NALC
Erskine
Rev. Pam Thorson

Sundays: 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship
Come early and enjoy fellowship and a good cup of coffee. It will also be available at the same time on Garden Valley Channel 30, Facebook and YouTube.

Please contact the McIntosh Times if you move or have a change in your address so we can keep the paper coming to your home on time.



Darlene Dierkes donated blood during the annual blood drive held at the McIntosh Community Center each January.

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS LESSOR TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Lessor Township, County of Polk, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

The Election Poll Hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

Town Board Supervisor, three year term
Town Board Treasurer, three year term

The Annual Meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh.

Matt Voxland
Lessor Township Clerk

M45-50C



Congratulations to Win-E-Mac Patriot Ryan Kangas for scoring 1,000 career points at the game on Saturday, February 10th. He is pictured in the center of the banner with his teammates.

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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RiverView Health’s 126th Annual Meeting addresses highs, lows of 2023

RiverView Healthcare Association members heard the ups and downs of 2023 virtually Monday, Jan. 29, during the Association's 126th Annual Meeting.

CFO Betty Arvidson shared preliminary financial information with Association members. While numbers have yet to be finalized, RiverView will finish with a substantial loss for Fiscal Year 2023.

Referring to the financial report as "sobering," President/CEO Carrie Michalski shared some background on why RiverView and similar-sized hospitals are struggling.

"Hospitals, particularly rural hospitals across the country, continue to see strained financial resources. The Minnesota Hospital Association in their most recent financial scan of the hospital industry is predicting that Minnesota hospitals on average will end 2023 with a 2.7 percent negative operating margin this year. That's the lowest ever predicted with no relief in sight from our federal or state governments."

Michalski went on to report that RiverView patients are predominantly of Medicare age, with Medicare and Medicaid as primary funding for services. Medicare and Medicaid patients make up over 50 percent of RiverView's business. Unfortunately, Medicare only reimburses .98 cents on the dollar for care, the State of Minnesota only pays approximately .85 cents per dollar for Medicaid hospital patients, and less than .85 cents per dollar for Home Care clients.

Skilled nursing care services are also paid at a lower level, which led to the decision to close RiverView's Memory Care in 2023; as Michalski stated, RiverView could "no longer subsidize the underfunding by the State of Minnesota."

"As we go forward as RiverView, we will continue to right-size our operations and maximize efficiencies as we navigate 2024 and beyond."

Finding a positive path forward

As part of the effort to turn the financial picture around, Michalski reported that RiverView successfully lowered operating costs by \$3.6 million in 2023 but said more is needed.

RiverView is now part of a collaborative project with 20 other independent community hospitals in Minnesota, exploring the formation of a clinically integrated health network. The hospitals, mostly in rural parts of Minnesota, are working together to further improve patient care and outcomes, and working toward gaining some economies of scale to negotiate better and more fair contracts with larger insurers. There are 37 independent community hospitals in Minnesota. Michalski said the hope is that they will all join the collaboration.

While finances were a struggle, there were many highlights in 2023, most importantly,

- RiverView was among 10 percent of hospitals nationwide awarded the Outstanding Patient Experience Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This five-star status was based on patient survey results.
- Hannah Reski, PA-C, recently joined RiverView's Orthopaedics Team. As an orthopaedic physician assistant, Reski will see new patients and those who need post-operative care. She will also do most of the in-office casting and splinting work.
- Senior Life Solutions, an intensive outpatient mental wellness program, recently opened on RiverView's Crookston campus. The program is designed to help older adults who are experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, or other mental challenges often associated with aging.
- RiverView continues to offer the Community Physician Recruiter Incentive Program to engage the community in the effort to connect with and successfully recruit physicians to RiverView. In return, anyone responsible for igniting the spark that eventually brings a qualified physician to full-time

employment at RiverView will be justly rewarded financially, up to \$20,000. If you know someone who may be interested in a rewarding career at RiverView Health, go to www.riverviewhealth.org and learn more under the "Community Physician Recruiter Program" heading.

Another highlight was that according to the Minnesota Hospital Association's most recent report, RiverView's total charitable community benefit work exceeded \$5.4 million.

"Even though we've had two years of operating loss, we have not let up in supporting our community and making investments in our community," Michalski stated. "RiverView remains committed to serving this community as a nonprofit."

Of that \$5.4 million, about \$1.8 is support for community events, training for future healthcare workers, education, etc.

The other \$3.6 million is what RiverView subsidized for the underfunding of the State of Minnesota's Medicaid program. While this is not a legislative budgeting year, Michalski said RiverView representatives will continue to advocate for relief for rural hospitals to offset inflationary costs and the states continued under funding of Medicaid programs that serve the states most vulnerable citizens.

Board of Directors

Tim Brinkman and Dr. Brett Vibeto were reelected to the Board of Directors to serve their third three-year terms. Other Board members are Grant Gunderson, Stephanie Harbott, Garrett Borowicz, Reed Engelstad, Dr. Erik Kanten, Lori Keller and Kari Koenig.

Special Awards

Several awards were announced at the meeting, with more information to be shared at a later date. Those honors included:

- Employee of the Year: Pam Stainbrook, Inpatient Unit, received the highest employee honor and an award of \$1,000.
- Alta Hermodson Heart and Soul Award: The Auxiliary honored long-time volunteer Judie Kanten with the annual volunteer award.
- Reaching Out to Serve Award: The Crookston Fire Department received the 2023 community-minded honor.

2023 proves busy for the Auxiliary

The RiverView Auxiliary hosted blood drives, the Teddy Bear Clinic, collected items for the Mitten Tree, participated in the Home Delivered Meals Program, and so much more in 2023.

According to Carrie Bergquist, Auxiliary liaison, over \$24,000 was raised through memberships, donations, and fundraising events.

Each year, the Auxiliary funds projects that aim to improve and enhance the patient experience at RiverView Health. In 2023, the Auxiliary funded requests for books for RiverView's Reach Out and Read program, patient activity bags, inpatient clothing, and equipment for Rehab Services totaling more than \$11,000.

In 2023, the Limited Addition Gift Shop donated \$10,000 to the Auxiliary, with the Auxiliary donating \$5,000 to the Giving Hearts Day campaign.

Five hundred dollar scholarships were awarded to RiverView employees working toward healthcare degrees. Recipients were Kalie Magsam and Olivia Huch.

The Limited Addition Gift Shop, run by Auxiliary volunteers, added two new volunteers and two new vendors in 2023. According to Bergquist, the shop is run by 27 volunteers who donated 3,856 hours in 2023 for an equivalent of \$122,620.80. Sales from the shop were more than \$70,000 for the year.

Auxiliary Board members are Gloria Watro, Deb Normandin, Jacqueline Cournia, Judie Kanten, Deb Sylvester, Marlys Mjoen, Nancy Capistran, Kristie Ricard, and Jean LaPlante.

If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, contact Bergquist at cborgquist@riverviewhealth.org or call

281.9572.

Foundation gears up for Giving Hearts Day

Foundation Director Randy Schoenborn began his presentation by thanking the 2023 Foundation Board of Directors of Marilyn Wentzel, Jerry Lindsay, Jodi Clauson, Marcia Schoenborn, Cory Dallager, Kari Koenig, and Taylor Sannes. After nine years of dedication to the Foundation, Lindsay fulfilled his third three-year term in early 2024. Hunter Plante was elected to fill the position.

Schoenborn reported that 2023 was a successful year for the Foundation, thanks to the support of generous donors. In 2023, the Foundation

- Received 700 gifts from over 450 donors, totaling \$458,000
- Brought in \$210,000 on Giving Heats Day through 245 gifts supporting new analyzers for the RiverView Laboratory and other vital needs within RiverView
- Raised over \$26,000 through the Golf Classic for the Foundation's priority projects,

the RiverView Recovery Center and the Angel Fund. The 2024 Golf Classic will be held on June 10.

- Received more than \$100,000 in gifts from 196 employees
- Brought in close to \$30,000 in scholarship funds for area students pursuing careers in healthcare

The Foundation is now focused on Giving Hearts Day, Feb. 8th, an online nonprofit fundraiser. That day, the Dakota Medical Foundation and other generous donors will

match gifts to the Foundation up to \$60,000.

Undesignated 2024 Giving Hearts Day contributions will assist in the cost of replacing sterilizers in the Surgical Services Department.

Early giving is now open. Go to www.riverviewhealth.org and click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page. For more information or assistance with a donation, contact Schoenborn at rschoenborn@riverviewhealth.org or call 281-9249.



Mary Goodwin, Garnet Aanenson, Ava Rolf, and Arlene Eggers spend a day each January working to help those who wish to donate blood during the Annual Blood Drive held at the McIntosh Community Center. The ladies are part of the Friends of McIntosh Veteran's group.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION			
ELECTION NOTICE			
Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 207A.11, a Presidential Nomination Primary will be held on March 5, 2024 in the State of Minnesota , the County of Polk			
Presidential Nomination Primary voters must be registered to vote pursuant to Minnesota Statute 201.054, subd. 1. An eligible voter may register to vote prior to the election or at their polling place on election day			
Nomination Primary voters must also request the ballot of the major political party for whose candidate the individual wishes to vote. Polling place election judges must record in the polling place roster the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested. The county auditor must include the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested with the voting history of the nomination primary election.			
The major political party ballot selected by a nomination primary voter is private data, except that it will be shared with the chairs of the major political parties in the State of Minnesota.			
NOTICE IS GIVEN that Polk County polling locations and voting hours for the 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary held on March 5, 2024 are listed as follows:			
Brandsvold	BRANDSVOLD TOWN HALL	34315 370th St SE, Fosston, MN 56542	10:00am - 8:00pm
Bygland	BYGLAND TOWN HALL	40966 235th St SW, Fisher, MN 56723	10:00am - 8:00pm
Columbia	LENGBY COMMUNITY HALL	104 Main Ave N, Lengby, MN 56651	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 1	ST. PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH	1214 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 2	ST. PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH	1214 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 3	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	510 Broadway ST N, Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 4	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	510 Broadway ST N, Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 5	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	510 Broadway ST N, Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
Crookston Ward 6	ST. PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH	1214 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716	7:00am - 8:00pm
East Grand Forks Ward 1	EAST GRAND FORKS SENIOR CENTER	538 Rhinehart Dr. SE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
East Grand Forks Ward 2	EAST GRAND FORKS CITY HALL	600 DeMers Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
East Grand Forks Ward 3	EAST GRAND FORKS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1420 4th Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
East Grand Forks Ward 4	EAST GRAND FORKS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1420 4th Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
East Grand Forks Ward 5	EAST GRAND FORKS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	1420 4th Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
Fertile City	FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER	101 Mill St S, Fertile, MN 56540	7:00am - 8:00pm
Fosston City	FOSSTON EMBASSY COMMUNITY CENTER	603 3rd St NE, Fosston, MN 56542	7:00am - 8:00pm
Garfield	GARFIELD TOWN HALL	502 Elm St. SW, Fertile, MN 56542	7:00am - 8:00pm
Hill River	HILL RIVER TOWN HALL	32526 345th Ave SE, Fosston, MN 56542	10:00am - 8:00pm
Huntsville	MALLORY TOWN HALL	20047 400th Ave SW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	7:00am - 8:00pm
King	MCINTOSH COMMUNITY CENTER	115 Broadway NW, McIntosh, MN 56556	7:00am - 8:00pm
Lengby City	LENGBY COMMUNITY HALL	104 Main Ave N, Lengby, MN 56651	7:00am - 8:00pm
McIntosh City	MCINTOSH COMMUNITY CENTER	115 Broadway NW, McIntosh, MN 56556	7:00am - 8:00pm
Queen	QUEEN TOWN HALL	36481 400th Ave SE, Fosston, MN 56542	10:00am - 8:00pm
Sletten	SLETTEN TOWN HALL	28488 430th St SE, Fosston, MN 56542	10:00am - 8:00pm
Sullivan	SULLIVAN TOWN HALL	11542 430th Ave SW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721	10:00am - 8:00pm
Woodside	WOODSIDE TOWN HALL	36817 160th Ave SE, Erskine, MN 56535	7:00am - 8:00pm
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the voters in the following precincts will be receiving ballots and voting by mail as requested by the respective township/city boards:			
Andover Township	Fairfax Township	Higdem Township	Parnell Township
Angus Township	Fanny Township	Hubbard Township	Reis Township
Badger Township	Farley Township	Johnson Township	Rhinehart Township
Belgium Township	Fisher City	Kertonville Township	Roome Township
Beltrami City	Fisher Township	Keystone Township	Rosebud Township
Brandt Township	Garden Township	Knute Township	Russia Township
Brislet Township	Gentilly Township	Lessor Township	Sandsville Township
Chester Township	Godfrey Township	Liberty Township	Scandia Township
Climax City	Grand Forks Township	Lowell Township	Tabor Township
Crookston Township	Grove Park-Tilden Township	Mentor City	Trail City
Eden Township	Gully City	Nesbit Township	Tynsid Township
Erskine City	Gully Township	Nielsville City	Vineland Township
Esther Township	Hammond Township	Northland Township	Winger City
Euclid Township	Helgeland Township	Onstad Township	Winger Township
Eligible voters that live in a mail ballot precinct who did not receive a ballot in the mail may vote by absentee ballot at the office of the Taxpayer Service Center at the Polk County Government Center, 612 N. Broadway, Ste 207, Crookston, MN 56716 until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Mail Ballots and Absentee Ballots will be tabulated at the Polk County Government Center at the close of polls on March 5, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.			
/s/ Samuel W. Melbye Samuel W. Melbye			
Dated: January 25,2024		Polk County Director of Property Records/Election Administrator	
		M48C	

Teacher Negotiations

Every other year, our school district negotiates a new two-year contract with our local teachers' union. We have settled a new contract year that began July 1, 2023, and extends to June 30, 2025. We agree with the union that teachers are highly trained professionals who should be paid commensurately. While we share this goal, as good stewards of taxpayer dollars, the school board is united in its commitment to the district's mission to educate students within the means of its taxpayers and the district's overall budget. The school board desires to provide compensation packages for all employee groups that are competitive, while at the same time, living within the district's financial means to continue to offer high-quality programs.

This year you may have heard of significant increases in state funding for schools passed in the last legislative session. Less publicized were state increases in the number and level of unfunded or under-



funded mandates, increasing our costs significantly. Salary increases must be in line with the significant increases in operational expenses across the district.

It is important to remember that these negotiations are about students. We continue to discuss employee issues, but we must not ever forget why we are doing this work.

Our school district is strongly committed to educating

students with a high-quality educational program. We are proud of our students' accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom. Teachers are an extremely important component of student success.

Summer Programming

Summer is just around the corner and Win-E-Mac will run a summer program similar to what we have done in the past years with Century 21. The only difference will be a cost for the program. We will run the PM program the same but there will be a small charge for the morning. This is yet to be determined. Field trips and play is important for our young kids during the summer and we want to carry this forward.

Ice House for Sale

The school construction class built a fish house last year. It's a 16 x 8-foot house with 8 holes built on a movable trailer. Insulated with heat. If you are interested, please call to make arrangements to come and see it. We are open to a good offer. Contact info: rbruer@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us or 218-563-2900.

Get your teen ready to hit the road, regardless of how they learn

On days when it feels like you need to do everything and be everywhere, having another licensed driver around can make a huge difference. However, it only helps when you have the peace of mind of knowing that driver knows how to drive safely.

Staff in our Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS), we are dedicated to making sure drivers are ready to hit the road, but we know not everyone learns best in a traditional classroom setting. That's why we have worked with our partners across the state to offer online and home-schooling options for driver's education.

The goal: Make sure soon-to-be drivers know the rules of the road, regardless of how they learn.

The material covered is the same DVS-approved curriculum received during in-person programs and undergo the same audits and checks to ensure the curriculum meets all the DVS standards. Each driver will need to pass the written and road tests to get their license.

Minnesota law allows parents who are home-schooling



their children full-time to teach the classroom portion of driver's education, as long as those parents are following the same curriculum. They also will need to fill out the Home School Driver's Education Affidavit form and turn it into the Office of Driver Education.

Make sure your child is ready for their standard driver's license by studying the Class D Driver's Manual, which is translated into multiple languages on our website including Spanish, Somali and Hmong. We also provide the

manual in audio files.

In order to take the road test teen drivers must:

- Be at least 16 years old and have held an instruction permit for at least six months with no convictions for moving, alcohol or controlled substance violations.

- Have completed driver's education and have the white course completion card.

- Present a supervised driving log verifying that they have completed the practice hours required by state law. The details are laid out in the driver's manual.

- The parent, court appointed guardian, county appointed foster parent or director of the transitional living program in which the child resides must approve the driver's license application.

A list of approved online programs is on this site: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/forms-documents/Documents/Online%20Classroom%20Driver%20Training%20Programs.pdf>

More information on specific licensing requirements can be found at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/>.

POLK COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2024

BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., January 23, 2024, in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Crookston, MN. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese (virtual), Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Joan Lee, Commissioner Mark Holy and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the January 23, 2024, agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the below consent item:

- Approve the January 16, 2023, Board minutes.
- Approve for payment Lost Warrant No. 55079 dated December 22, 2023, issued to Shawn Hedlund in the amount of \$463.06.

COUNTY BOARD**MEMBERS ISSUE FORUM**

- Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - No meetings
- Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - Crookston Downtown Task Force
 - Lake Agassiz Regional Library (Virtual)
 - Kiwanis Club
- Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - West Central Regional Water District
 - Drug Task Force
- Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:
 - MCIT Open Meeting Law Webinar
 - East Polk County Development Achievement Center Board
 - East Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Drug Task Force
 - Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Board of Directors
 - Inter-County Community Council Board
- Commissioner Holy brought forth that he attended the following meetings:
 - No meetings

PUBLIC HEALTH

Sarah Reese, Public Health Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. Opioid Settlement Advisory Council – Recommend 2024 Opioid Epidemic Response Grant RFP Schedule

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the following 2024 Opioid Epidemic Response Grant RFP Schedule:

- RFP Release April 15, 2024
Proposals Due By May 15, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
Contract/Estimated Services Start Date July 1, 2024
Estimated Services End Date June 30, 2025
Estimated Due Date for Project Reports January 15, 2025 & July 15, 2025

2. Out of State Travel Request - Ashley Schmitz

A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve out of state travel for Ashley Schmitz, Public Health Nurse to attend the Unit 2 Nurse Family Partnership training in Denver, Colorado from March 18 - 22, 2024.

HIGHWAY

Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

- Redetermination of Benefits for County Ditches
Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer, on behalf of the

County Board will invite the Sandhill River Watershed District Board to the Polk County Board of Commissioners meeting on February 6, 2024, for information and discussion pertaining to how it would look and what it would cost to have the Sandhill River Ditch and all the county ditches that drain into the Sandhill River redetermined.

SHERIFF

James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1.Fill Approved Captain Position

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling the previously approved Captain position in the Sheriff's Office.

PROPERTY RECORDS

Samuel Melbye, Property Records Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. City of Crookston New Housing Abatement Program

The City of Crookston New Housing Abatement Program was discussed with the Board.

a. Resolution (2024-06) A Resolution To Participate In The City Of Crookston's Housing Incentive Program Which Includes Property Tax Abatements

RESOLUTION (2024-06)

A Resolution To Participate In The City Of Crookston's Housing Incentive Program Which Includes Property Tax Abatements

The following resolution (2024-06) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 through 469.1815 authorize property tax abatements for Community Economic Development purposes, and

WHEREAS, The City of Crookston desires to offer a program pursuant to said statutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County that Polk County does authorize a housing incentive tax abatement program with the following parameters:

- The City of Crookston, Independent School District 593 and Polk County participate in the program.

- The program would apply to new residential construction only. New residential construction shall include modular homes and stick built homes.

- The program would apply to single-family dwellings, including town homes and twin homes, ready for occupancy in the years 2024-2025. The abatement of real property taxes would be for two years. The first year where payment of taxes are based upon the value of the new dwelling.

- The City of Crookston shall be responsible to notify Polk County of which properties are in the program at the time the real property is acquired and arrange for the proper hearing(s) as required by law.

- This resolution is considered to be a 2-year extension of the existing program.

Commissioner Lee seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, and Commissioner Reese. NAYS: None.

2. Designation of Absentee Voting Location

In order to better service the residents of Polk County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 203B.05 an additional absentee voting location will be designated in the City of East Grand Forks, MN. Voters from East Grand Forks Wards 1-5 will be served from East Grand Forks City Hall, 600 DeMers Avenue, East Grand Forks, MN.

3.2024 Presidential Nomination Primary, Primary & General Election Canvassing Dates

A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to set the date of the 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., the Primary Election on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., and General Election on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

4. Appointment of Elections

Judges

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to appoint Casey "CJ" Wilde-Olson, Kayla Schumacher, Julie Sandman, Connie Desrosier, Amanda Maygra, Catherine Ortiz, Janet Mattison, Amy Erdmann, Annalee Jones, Andrew Dessellier, Harrison Boucher, Diana Amiot, Jennifer Perreault, Patty Frydenlund, Kendall Wahouske, and Bruce Krueger as Election Judges for the 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary Election to be utilized in Testing, Validating, Tabulation and Technical Support.

5. Establish Absentee/Mail/UOCAVA Ballot Board

Discussion was held with the Board regarding Establishing an Absentee/Mail/UOCAVA Ballot Board.

a. Resolution (2024-07) Establishing An Absentee/Mail/UOCAVA Ballot Board For The 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary, Primary & General Elections

RESOLUTION (2024-07) Establishing An Absentee/Mail/UOCAVA Ballot Board For The 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary, Primary & General Elections

The following resolution (2024-07) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Polk County Board of Commissioners is required by Minnesota Statutes 203B.121, Subd 1 to establish an Absentee Ballot Board effective January 19, 2024 for the Presidential Nomination Primary Election to be held March 5, 2024, effective June 28, 2024, for the Primary Election to be held August 13, 2024, and effective Friday, September 20, 2024 for the General Election to be held November 5, 2024, and

WHEREAS, This Board will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee, mail and UOCAVA ballots in Polk County; and

WHEREAS, The Absentee Ballot Board would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy county auditors trained in the processing and counting of absentee, mail and UOCAVA ballots;

WHEREAS, The following person are appointed for the purpose of the Absentee Ballot Board Polk County: Casey "CJ" Wilde-Olson, Kayla Schumacher, Julie Sandman, Connie Desrosier, Amanda Maygra, Catherine Ortiz, Janet Mattison, Amy Erdmann, Annalee Jones, Andrew Dessillier, Harrison Boucher, Diana Amiot, Jennifer Perreault, Bruce Krueger City of East Grand Forks: Megan Nelson and Reid Huttunen.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Polk hereby establishes an Absentee Ballot Board that would consist of a sufficient number of election judges as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 or deputy auditors to perform the task.

Commissioner Holy seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Strandell, and Commissioner Reese. NAYS: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Greg Widseth, Polk County Attorney came before the Board with matters pertaining to the County THC Moratorium:

1.Review of Ordinance 23-1 Re: County THC Moratorium

Greg Widseth, Polk County Attorney discussed the Polk County Ordinance No. 23-1 - An Emergency Interim Ordinance Prohibiting The Establishment Of New Uses Or The Expansion Of Existing Uses Related To Sales, Testing, Manufacturing And Distribution Of THC Products expiring on February 7, 2024 as presented to the Board. (Ordinance on file in the Administrator's Office)

With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., February 6, 2024.

Gary Willhite, Chair

Charles S. Whiting,
Polk County Administrator
Clerk of the Board

M48C



A familiar face at the annual blood drive held by the McIntosh Friends of Veteran's at the Community Center is Jim Wertish.



Not only an annual volunteer for the blood drive in McIntosh, but also a donor is Arlene Eggers.



Congratulations to Win-E-Mac Patriot Samuel Lundy, a member of the Win-E-Mac eSports team. Sam is Win-E-Mac's first ever eSports competitor to qualify for the Fenworks State Tournament. This tournament will take place at UND on February 22nd - 24th. Sam Lundy will be competing in the individual title Super Smash Bros Ultimate. He is ranked 13th in our region in that title.



Prom Sign-up: you must complete sign-up by February 25, 2024. Prom will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2024. All prom attendees must be signed-up and pay attendance fees ahead of time. Win-E-Mac seniors/juniors are invited to attend the prom. Attendees are expected to wear formal attire if possible. Sophomores and former graduates (under age 21) may attend as a guest of a WEM senior or junior. The cost to attend is \$20 each. Return forms from Mrs. Winter with payment directly to Mrs. Winter.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at the Win-E-Mac School on Thursday, February 22nd from 1:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Parents of students in grades K-6 should have made appointments to see their respective teachers. Parents of 7th - 12th grade students, conferences will be self-led by the students, with their homeroom teachers. Signup sheets will be sent home with students to schedule a time. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 with buses running shortly after dismissal.