

ND ag leaders ask Rollins to bring back certainty for the industry

By Michael Johnson, Agweek

Fargo/Wheatland, N.D. — Surrounded by a wide swath of the agriculture community on Tuesday, April 22, at NDSU's Peltier Complex, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins said she's hit the ground running to support farmers and believes strongly in putting America first.

Rollins said President Donald Trump's focus is to make America great again and that he realizes that Rollins' focus is to ensure American agriculture is great again. She said it is not lost on Washington, D.C., that large parts of the ag industry have been suffering from paper-thin margins in recent years.

Northharvest Bean Growers President Tony Richards listens to comments during a roundtable at NDSU.

Rollins met with industry members from the corn, soybean, wheat, pulse, sunflower, canola, potato, sugarbeet and cattle industries along with North Dakota dignitaries. Rollins listened to the group during a roundtable in the morning before heading out to tour Grand Farm Innovation Campus in Wheatland and wrapped up the day with a visit to American Crystal Sugar in Moorhead, Minnesota.

"Listen, we are on a mission to, in our founders' best vision of this country, return powers to the people," Rollins said.

The sentiment was in response to several farm groups sharing concerns related to government over-regulation. Specifically, that was related to Waters of the United States policy and endangered species regulations that were adding uncertainty to farming.

"Anything that can be done administratively would be great, legislatively would be more permanent, I presume," said Ryan Ellis, president of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, concerning the Endangered Species Act. "The ESA to me is kind of terrifying."

Rollins said this topic came up in the White House in the last week and she asked that specific desires for these regulations be shared with Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., who helped orchestrate the gathering on Tuesday.

Trade concerns resonated with several attendees at the round table. Tony Richards, president of Northharvest Bean Growers Association, shared that the world eats dry beans, but concerns over implemented or even delayed tariffs are causing buyers to move away from the U.S.



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins sits at a roundtable featuring government officials, local agriculture producers, commodity groups, ag researchers, and agribusinesses, on April 22 at the Peltier Complex. Photo by Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

"They are not canceling orders, but they are not making orders," Richards said. "So we are roughly about 25% down, and that market share has gone away to Brazil and Argentina."

And that, for us up here, and the United States as a whole, is a major issue, especially to our growers and processors." If the pain of lost markets continues, Richards said producers will need the certainty of crop insurance. As a specialty crop, dry bean growers don't receive the same disaster assistance as corn and soybean growers. Richardson along with several others are hopeful for unilateral trade agreements that can put U.S. farmers in a strong position to trade around the world.

Leaders of sunflower and canola groups shared concerns over the Make America Healthy Again movement that puts seed oils in a bad light. John Sandbakken, executive director of the National Sunflower Association, said he was hoping that Rollins would be a strong advocate for seed oils and the healthy benefits that they bring to consumers.

The importance of Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation District staff available to farmers was illustrated by North Dakota Farmers Union government relations director Matt Perdue. He shared how the number of attendees interested in learning more about programming for these groups has jumped. He said it's obvious that producers rely on those staff, especially as profit margins are thin for many crops.

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Gov. Armstrong signs bill banning public school student cellphone use in North Dakota

By Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor, April 25, 2025

North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong went to a Bismarck elementary school Friday to sign a bill banning public school student cellphone use from "bell to bell."

"This is a game changer for our public schools, giving students the freedom to focus on learning and to interact with teachers and friends without the constant tug of their cell phones and addictive social media," Armstrong said in a statement.

House Bill 1160 would require public school districts to have policies requiring student cellphones be silenced and locked away during the entire school day on school grounds. The devices, including bluetooth-enabled devices, tablets, smartwatches or other wearable devices and gaming devices, must be stored in a lockable pouch, phone locker or other inaccessible locations.

The law allows students to use their phones while privately traveling to an off-site educational location, such as a career and technology center. It also allows school districts to craft their own cellphone-use policy during school-related noninstructional time, such as bus rides, field trips, sporting events and school dances.

Students with medical needs that require an electronic monitoring device and students participating in individual education programs may be exempted from the law.

School districts will also be required to collect data and compile a report on the impact of its cellphone policies on student behavior, mental health, disciplinary incidents, school attendance and academic performance during the interim.

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said teachers have told her that student mental health challenges have become more "overwhelming."

"This law gives students the gift of attention, connection, and presence. We are removing the constant pull of comparison and distraction and replacing it with space to learn and grow," Baesler said in a statement.

The new law will go into effect Aug. 1.

Lawmakers also are considering Senate Bill 2354, which would also restrict student cellphone use in private schools. The bill is being debated in a conference com-



North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong gives a student the pen he used to sign a bill establishing cellphone-free public schools during a signing ceremony April 25, 2025, at Bismarck's Kjersti Elementary. He was joined by first lady Kjersti Armstrong. (Photo provided by governor's office)

mittee between the House and Senate. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday morning.

Michael Achterling is a reporter based in Bismarck. He recently worked as digital editor and city government reporter for the Detroit Lakes Tribune in Minnesota and as news director for KDLN/KRCQ/KBOT, a part of Leighton Broadcasting. You can reach him at machterling@northdakotamonitor.com.

North Dakota Monitor is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

The City of Ellendale is looking to hire a Public Works Employee to be responsible for the following maintenance to keep the City in

- Streets
- Alleys
- Water system
- Sewer system
- Landfill areas
- General maintenance of equipment
- Mowing
- Cutting & trimming trees
- Cemetery

good working order and sound condition:

- Perform a variety of manual labor duties which will include all maintenance, heavy equipment operations, snow removal and other duties as required.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with other employees, public officials and the public.
- The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 75 pounds or more.
- This job typically works 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday and will be required to be on call during scheduled evenings and weekends.
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States. No sponsorships considered.
- A valid ND Driver's License is required and the ability to obtain a Class B CDL.
- A high school diploma/GED is required; the ability to pass and obtain all required ND State licensing and certification requirements when eligible.
- Successful applicants will be highly motivated and self-directed.
- Successful applicant will require a background inquiry.
- Experience preferred; and essential that the public works employee be service oriented.
- Must live within 30 minutes of the city limits.
- Wages DOE

Applications/Resumes will be accepted until filled, please submit to City Hall (P O Box 267 - 55 3rd Ave S - Ellendale ND 58436).

Benefits included: BCBS - Health, Vision, Dental, Retirement, Vacation, Sick Leave, On-Call pay, Overtime past 40 hrs, Garbage/Water discount if live in city limits

For further details, please contact Mayor Don Flaherty; Council Member Justin Meidinger or City Hall -701-349-3252.

2025 Building Season is Here!

Your 2025 building project starts here! Our team will make Century Builders' quality part of your next build. Contact us today for a free estimate and exterior building rendering.

•Commercial Shops •Sheds •Livestock Barns •Shouses



Help Wanted Equipment Operator/Mechanic

Steele County Highway Department in Finley, ND has a job opening for a full-time equipment operator/mechanic position. We offer paid health, dental, vision, and ND PERS retirement benefits. Employees will be expected to operate highway maintenance equipment. Some mechanical experience preferred but not required. CDL required. Possibility of night and weekend hours pending the weather. Salary range is \$22.00/hour - \$25.00/hour pending experience. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday May 23, 2025. Submit an application to: Steele County Highway Department, PO Box 291, Finley, ND 58230, Attn: Reed Oien or Email: steelecohighway@nd.gov Applications available on our website at www.steelecountynd.gov/employment (Steele County is an EOE)

Public Notices: Ellendale City Council Minutes, April 14, 2025

CITY OF ELLENDALE Regular Meeting April 14, 2025

6:00 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual 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 6:00 pm with Council members in attendance: Belgarde, Lee, Langeliers, Denison, and Crabtree via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: Meidinger City Employees present: Auditor Kempf, Deputy Auditor Schmidt, Attorney Kelly; and PW Monroe via Zoom.

Others attending: W. Senger, Interstate Engineering; separate sign-in sheet available.

Library: There are some things taking up space in the library, asking for direction on what to do with a desk and a clock. Clock will move to City Hall and desk will be put up for sale with proceeds going to the library fund.

Bower's Tree Service: Based out of Frederick SD. Informed council a pest working its way towards Ellendale, wants to make sure Ellendale doesn't lose their trees to this disease. Educate the public, check trees for any issues, and do a tree inventory. Auditor Kempf, to get Bower's Tree Service information, will need to come up with a plan on how to continue.

Fair Board: The Fair Board expressed interest in the City-owned lot between the fairgrounds and Ellendale Public School Track. This property is used by the Fair board for parking during events held at the fairgrounds. With recent additions to the City of Ellendale the fair board is no longer able to use Ellendale Acres land. The Fair Board is inquiring about a potential lease to be developed for the usage of the land. Denison moves, Langeliers seconds to develop a long-term lease for 25 years for \$1/year. Attorney Kelly purposes an amendment regarding the specifications of the lease agreement. Belgarde moves, Lee seconds the amended motion to have Attorney Kelly specify permitted uses, duration, amount, limited liability, etc. in the

lease agreement between the Fair Board and the City of Ellendale, to be read at a future meeting. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Ambulance Open Supervisor Position: Lee moves, Denison seconds to hire Wade Anliker as Full Time Paramedic Supervisor to start at \$60K a year plus benefits.

Ambulance Hall Update: Rebids for EMS Building came out better than the first time. Low bidder currently is \$2,031,000. Grant amount is \$1,500,000, city's share would be \$535,000. Ambulance grant would be used (40% roughly), and Capital Improvement and fund raising to offset the city's total cost. Denison moves, Lee seconds to accept Quest and move forward with contract, contingent on city engineer attempting to negotiate the price lower if possible.

Roll Call: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Ellendale Acres: Three phases will be paid through TIF. Two special assessment districts: Phase 1 & 2 for already developed lots for residential and commercial, Phase 3 would be all undeveloped residential lots to the east of the current developed lots. Bids opened with Comstock being the lowest.

Denison moves, Belgarde seconds to approve Resolution Creating Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 and Resolution Creating Street Improvement District No. 2025-2. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Lee motions, Belgarde seconds to approve Resolution Directing Engineer to Prepare Report for Street Improvement District 2025-1 and Resolution Directing Engineer to Prepare Report for Street Improvement District 2025-2. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Denison moves, Lee seconds to approve Resolution Approving Engineer's Report for Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 and Resolution Approving

Engineer's Report for Street Improvement District No. 2025-2. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Resolution of necessity would be next, need to get signatures from current land owners. Denison moves, Langeliers seconds to approve Resolution Directing Engineer to Prepare Plans and Specifications for Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 and Resolution Directing Engineer to Prepare Plans and Specifications for Street Improvement District No. 2025-2. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Denison moves, Langeliers seconds to approve Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for Improvements in Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 of the City of Ellendale and Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for Improvements in Street Improvement District No. 2025-2 of the City of Ellendale. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Belgarde motions, Langeliers seconds to approve Resolution Directing Auditor to Advertise for bids for Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 and Resolution Directing Auditor to Advertise for Bids for Street Improvement District No. 2025-2. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Belgarde motions, Langeliers seconds to approve Resolution Accepting Bid, Showing Receipt of Engineer's Statement of Estimated Cost, and Directing Execution of Contract for Street Improvement District No. 2025-1 and Resolution Accepting Bid, Showing Receipt of Engineer's Statement of Estimated Cost, and Directing Execution of Contract for Street Improvement District No. 2025-2. The lowest responsible bidder is Comstock Construction and the contracts are awarded for Phase 1 & 2 only; Phase 3 will be reconsidered later. Roll Call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Daycare Concerns: With recent growth in Ellendale daycare is more difficult for people to find. JDA has been working on a location to set one up. Establishing an LLC to own the building would be a better idea. The City's involvement would be minimal, and no city council member would serve on the daycare board.

Agenda Additions: None First Right of Refusal: Paul and Priscilla Brandenburger wrote to the city council requesting the city to release the first right of refusal they have on prop-

erty of theirs that is adjacent to Ellendale Acres. After discussion council decided not to sign off on this matter at this time.

Property on east side of Ellendale up for sale, too much for city to purchase, but should think about how city will grow and future development, all of which will be a part of strategic and comprehensive plans that are being put together now.

Building Permits: Belgard moves, Lee seconds to approve permit at TBC for new facility build east of existing building at 50 6th Ave S., all members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries. Denison moves, Lee seconds to approve permit for Minnesota Petroleum Service, Inc, to place underground fuel oil piping for Applied Digital Data Center at 9685 87th Ave SE., all members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries. Lee moves, Denison seconds to approve permit for Belgarde, outside improvements at 313 3rd St N., all members, aye, Belgarde abstains. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries. Denison moves, Langeliers seconds to approve Mosbrucker permit for shed at 601 2nd St N, pending PW Monroe's sign-off, all members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries. Lee motions, Denison seconds to approve demo permit for old buildings and to put a double wide manufactured home at 106 4th St N, with a variance for side yard setbacks set to 5 feet instead of half the front set back footage requirement and with abutting landowner and Larson signing off and filing with City Hall. Roll Call vote: Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- Yes. Belgarde abstains. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Joint Powers Agreement: Currently waiting on legislation before proceeding.

Developers Agreement: Applied Digital attorney made a few changes to the current draft that were discussed last meeting. Denison moves, Lee seconds to approve changes pending current legislation. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Applied Digital Update: Nick Phillips from Applied Digital provided an update on progress at work site. ELN-02 building should be operational later this year. They started dirt work for the upcoming buildings. Very fluid right now. Discussed future road plans.

Table: Council member portfolios, public works discussions, ordinance discussions, possibly having a special meeting at a later date.

City Property for Sale: Belgarde motions, Lee seconds to call for bids on Block 6, Lot 1, Ellendale Acres commercial lot, and Block 10 Lot 12 ELC residential lot. After discussion Belgarde amends motion to only list commercial lot for sale now, wait to review residen-

tial lot later. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Minutes: Lee motions, Langeliers seconds to approve minutes from March 10, 2025, regular council meeting. All members present, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Operating/Fund Activity: Lee motions, Denison seconds to approve the operating/fund activity statement. All members present, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Bills: Denison motions, Langeliers seconds to approve the bills as presented. All members present, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Delinquent Accounts: B. Crabtree, J. Fuher, M. Bullock, B. Hagen, C. Weber, D. Tressel, S. Tank, K. Grom, A. Filbert, Imaginit LLC., Farmers Tractor Parts, 281 Repair LLC.

BCBS Renewal: Belgarde motions, Lee seconds to approve the renewal rates for city employee health insurance. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Strategic Plan: No updates. Surveys are completed and will be compiled by KLJ. Will move forward on their timeline with regular updates.

Police Report: Deputy VanZee's vehicle will be getting looked at, and hopefully fixed. Discussed with Applied about donating solar radar signs on W side of town. Waiting for grants to open to apply for equipment needed. Requesting council to use the retainer of sick/vacation days for carry over for police department. Denison moves, Lee seconds to waive all requirements for caps on vacation until a new policy manual is established. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Public Works Report: PW Monroe reports on jobs from March. City wide clean updates/times proposed and will be published. No electricity in city pole shed would like electricity in it. PW Monroe to talk to Chad's Electric about getting electrical inside. Wants to sell city road grader by call for bids. Also sell old water truck.

Raffle Permits: Lee motions, Belgarde seconds to approve raffle permit for Dickey County 4-H, Barnyard Bingo on July 13, 2025, during Dickey County Fair. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Mutual Aid Agreement: This agreement is between city ambulance services and fire department where they will furnish mutual aid to each other in the event of a major response dispatch. Denison moves, Lee seconds to approve this agreement. All members, aye. Absent: Meidinger. Motion carries.

Correspondence: IIG will be trenching

fiber optic telecoms. Project through city boundaries of Ellendale and have provided a map of where they will be doing this project.

Next meeting: Regular meeting May 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Napa - Ellendale	\$1.43
Matheson Tri-Gas	\$363.20
Ferguson Waterworks	\$788.75
Rapid Response	\$4,214.00
The Library Store	\$169.45
MDU	\$8,685.38
Column Software	\$428.64
Pierson	\$494.45
Interstate Engineering	\$48,351.18
City of Fargo	\$28.00
BCBS of ND	\$8,969.63
Jones & Kelly	\$3,620.00
Computer Express	\$1,050.00
VISA	\$1,980.45
City Employees	\$25,054.64
Council	\$692.64
AmbulanceEmployees	\$13,032.11
Mayor	\$297.17
IRS Payroll Taxes	\$11,129.07
NDPERS	\$4,665.97
DRN	\$796.26
Postmaster	\$428.82
Ellendale MV	\$25.50
Ellendale Park Board	\$1,545.82
Lorraine Betting	\$679.09
VOID	
Farmers Union Oil	\$1,555.32
DRN\$1,110.38	
Bound Tree Medical	\$556.69
Matheson Tri-Gas	\$229.45
Ellendale True Value	\$452.14
Verizon	\$224.39
Ferguson Waterworks	\$1,119.95
ND St. Tax Commissioner	\$604.01
Dickey CO. Recorder	\$9.00
Ferguson Enterprises	\$72.72
Dickey Co Leader	\$2,240.06
Chads Electric	\$98.00
Starion - Bismarck	\$1,729.00
Aflac	\$384.48
Recycling Center ND	\$15,159.89
Southeast Water Users	\$15,000.00
ND One Call	\$13.50
RailRoad Management	\$417.05
Lorena Lynde	\$190.00
Inform. Tech Dept	\$323.69
City of Fargo	\$28.00
Jones & Kelly	\$1,980.00
Ec Asset Management	\$400.00
CrossRoads Comm.Advisor	\$3,300.00
	\$183,573.37

Donald Flaherty, Mayor

Nicole Kempf, Auditor (Minutes subject to corrections and approval at next regular meeting.)

(published May 1, 2025)

Ellendale Landfill Hours

See Front page for special spring cleanup hours