

HORSE SALE STORIES: THE TACK SALE

BY DARRELL HOVLAND

Before almost every horse sale, there was a tack sale. Tack is considered everything and anything that has to do with a horse, such as hoof picks, brushes, saddle pads, halters, bridles, saddles, etc. Tack is kind of a wide-meaning term, so if you brought it to a horse sale to sell, it was considered tack. I once bought a T-post puller, a sledgehammer, a shovel, a fork and even a live animal trap at a horse sale. All considered tack. But the strangest purchase I made was a wooden wheeled horse buggy. I didn't even have a horse to pull it! Lucky for me, I was able to sell it a week later at another horse sale and I got the same exact price I had paid for it!



The wagon Darrell bought at a tack sale in Park River and sold it the next week in Carrington for the exact same price!

Quite often during a slow time in the sale, the auctioneer would reach under the counter and pull out a gun and sell. They were also considered tack. After selling the gun, he would hand it to the buyer -- no questions asked. It's a little different now, though!

Tack sales would make a good reality TV show today. People from the big cities would not believe what we do for fun here in rural America. Here's how a tack sale worked.

Ideally, before the sale started, everyone would get a bidder number from the office so if you bought something, all you had

to do was show your bid number and it would get recorded as sold to you. No need to mess with giving your name.

Most tack sold at a sale was brand new and was consigned either by the auctioneer or retail tack sellers. There was a family from South Dakota who were tack sellers; I think they owned a retail Western store, too. It was two brothers, about in their early 30s, and their dad. The dad would have a little booth in the hallway during the horse sale in which he would sell specialty items. They also bought horses, slaughter and other types. They

were quite the characters, especially the brothers. Very humorous and they liked to goof around. If you have been to horse sales, you know who I'm talking about.

When the tack sale started, all the tack would be in boxes in the middle of the sales ring. The saddles for sale, new and used, would be hanging on the outside rail of the sales ring. Most tack was of fairly good quality, usually imported from another country such as Mexico. Today a lot of tack is much better quality and American-made.

To start the sale, one of the ring people would hold up a tack item such as a hoof pick and the auctioneer would ask for bids. He would start the bidding at \$2-3 and when he got a bid or two, the ring person would yell, "Stop the sale, that's too much! Pass them out for a dollar!" Then the auctioneer would say, "Who wants a hoof pick for a dollar?" Then all these hands would go up in the air from the audience and the ring people would pass them out, yell out the bidder's number and the amount purchased to the frazzled secretary sitting to the auctioneer's left, and she would be frantically writing it all down on these little slips of paper. How she got it all done was amazing, and she rarely made a mistake. It was organized chaos!

After everyone got all the hoof picks they wanted, the ring person would hold up another item, such as a brush, a little more expensive than a hoof pick. The auctioneer would start the bidding process at \$3-4 and when he got a bid of (say) \$5, the ring person would once again yell, "Stop the sale, that's too much. Pass them out for \$3!" The auctioneer would say, "Who wants a brush for \$3?" And the whole process starts all over again!

The purpose of all this was to get the bidders in the mood for buying and thinking they were really getting some good deals. This process continued all through the sale; smaller items were sold cheap, bigger items would go through the bid process and quite often you paid more for them than what you could buy them for at your local farm supply store. But everyone was happy!

When a bidder purchased an item, the ring people would hand it to you and you would set it on the floor by your feet. By the end of the sale, some people would have quite a pile by their feet and quite often would need to haul some of it out to their vehicle to make room for more purchases. Those little items could add up fast and you realized you spent more money than you thought.

When everyone was through buying, the tack consignor would throw leftover unsold items in a pile and would sell it all to go at one price. I used to buy these piles and used them for prizes at kids' horse shows. Tack prizes at

horse shows were very popular and this was a good way to get some very inexpensively.

The last tack items to sell were the saddles. They were usually a little higher-priced item and you could inspect them before buying. A tack sale usually would last for one to 1-1/2 hours. Then the horses would sell.

Tack sales could be pretty chaotic, as things moved along very quickly. There was a lot of action between the ring people and the bidders, and it would have been very easy for someone to take advantage of this chaos. But people are very honest around here and can be trusted to do the right thing. Everyone loved a tack sale; we would all have our tack rooms at home bulging with all our neat deals!

I find it interesting to watch people on how they signal a bid to the auctioneer. Most bidders raise their hand or nod their head. One bidder I noticed would raise his cap to bid. But some bidders seem to like to make it more difficult for the auctioneer to catch their bid. The professional horse buyers were really good at subtle bids. For example, one bidder I noticed would blink his right eye to bid. Another would do a very slight wave of his hand or finger. One time I was sitting a little behind and to the right of the horse buyer, Dave Hermanson, and he had his hands placed on his knees and would raise his right index finger to bid. It's amazing that the auctioneer could even see his bid!

I was at a farm auction one time and one bidder, after he made a bid, would quickly move to a different location so the auctioneer had to kind of chase him around to get his next bid. That was really strange!

In 1975 I was living in Jamestown and the city had just built the civic center. One of the first events they had in it was this HUGE tack sale. The middle of the floor was covered with every sort of tack available. Most of it came from Mexico. It was like a dream come true for me! I got so carried away I ended up spending \$415, which was quite a bit of money back then. Among the items I bought were two Mexican saddles. One was very good; I still have it. The other one looked really nice; it had lots of stitchings and design but it was uncomfortable to ride in. But I still have that one, too.

I also bought a set of long-horn steer horns for display. Like the ones on the sheriff's car in the movie *Smokey and the Bandit*. They were about six feet

long, polished and mounted on a wooden board. They looked really nice, but they were actually fake. My wife would never let me hang them up in the house for some reason; in fact, she didn't

want them in the house at all! Over the years they have disappeared. I suspect sabotage.

In the next story I will tell about the iconic Carrington horse sale. One of a kind!

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON SCHOOL BOARD February 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the Oberon School Board was held Feb. 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Faron Stensland, Robby Mock, Kim Krebsbach and Crystal Greywater; Superintendent Jordan Brown; and Dean of Students Brian Moriel. Business Manager Maria Dunlap was present via MS Teams. Bobby Stensland was absent.

There were no visitors present. Krebsbach moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater and F. Stensland.

Greywater moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of Jan. 12, 2026 minutes, January financial reports and list of bills. The motion was seconded by Krebsbach and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater and F. Stensland.

Admin Partners	\$100.00
Advanced Business	
Methods	581.43
Amazon.com	1,713.39
BC Farmers Press	229.32
Burris, Christopher	11.96
CentDak	6,079.07
Central City H2O	612.00
Commercial Lighting	1,072.97
Dairy Queen	200.00
Dauenhauer Diesel	
Repair	2,089.26
Dept. of Public Instruction	130.18
Dollar General	29.56
DRN ReadTech	387.65
Dukes Car Wash	45.00
Farmers Union Oil--Perleberg	126.33
Franks-Erickson, Charlotte	244.92
Leavers	432.21
McDonald's	88.09
Meadow Sweet Dairy	758.94
Mwkn. Public School	26,140.80
ND Counseling Assn.	175.00
ND Telephone Co.	249.99
Old National Bank	42.00
Older Tail Power Co.	1,407.50
Perleberg Convenience Store	133.00
postmaster	37.23
Runnings	107.50
Shell	63.28
Survey Monkey	468.00
Sysco ND	4,686.56
United Laboratories, Inc.	418.61
Vestis	631.74
Walmart	1,022.34
Walking Eagle, Carlynn Webstaurant	115.69
	688.25

Bobcat quotes were tabled as none were received.

Discussion was held on teacher contracts and possible costs. Krebsbach moved to hire CREA to help with hiring process for new business manager. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater and F. Stensland.

Mr. Brown reported on potential student expulsion. Superintendent's Report -- 4th grade national testing; student engagement report; DPI and CSI status and records request.

Next regular meeting is March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Maria Dunlap
Business Manager

Faron Stensland
Board President

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON SCHOOL BOARD March 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the Oberon School Board was held March 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken. Present were Faron Stensland, Robby Mock, Kim Krebsbach, Crystal Greywater and Bobby Stensland; Superintendent Jordan Brown; and Dean of Students Brian Moriel. Business Manager Maria Dunlap was present via MS Teams. There were no visitors present.

Krebsbach moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Krebsbach moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of Feb. 9, 2026 minutes, February financial reports and list of bills. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Advanced Business	
Methods	\$581.43
BC Farmers Press	108.42
Bobcat of Devils Lake	277.19
Central City H2O	216.00
Dept. of Public Instruction	248.95
DRI	3,360.39
East Central Ctr. for Excep. Children	44,850.09
Franks-Erickson, Charlotte	152.98
Meadow Sweet Dairy	192.00
Meadow Sweet Dairy	113.90
Meadow Sweet Dairy	165.50
Mwkn. Public School	33,747.60
ND Telephone Co.	248.11
Paul's C-Store	1,605.37
Pye Barker	537.15
Sambor Law and Consulting	3,500.00
Synergistic Educational Solutions	2,300.00
Thumb, Emily	237.50
Thumb, Emily	855.00
Vestis	315.87
Vestis	315.87
Total	\$93,929.32

Krebsbach moved to approve Mr. Brown's satisfactory evaluation. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Mock moved to increase the teachers' salary schedule base by \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Greywater and approved by Mock, Krebsbach, Greywater, B. Stensland and F. Stensland.

Superintendent's Report -- P/T conferences; spring break; testing program monitoring; county spelling bee; project base learning; and DPI's consultants' review.

Next regular meeting is April 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Maria Dunlap
Business Manager

Faron Stensland
Board President

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MADDOCK CITY COUNCIL June 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the Maddock City Council was held June 9, 2026. Mayor Sarah Dove called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. at city hall. Present for roll call were council members Bradley Hermanson, DeeDee Olson and Teresa Dosch. Absent was Dusty Pierson. Also in attendance were Jamie Green and Laura Wanzek.

A motion was made by Hermanson and seconded by Olson to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 regular meeting, the May 19, 2026 special meeting and the May 26, 2026 special meeting. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Olson, to approve the following bills. All voted yes. The motion carried.

Wages	\$9,963.97
Mutual of Omaha	66.92
Angry Beaver Tree	
Services	10,000.00
BC Farmers Press	850.00
BC Sheriff's Office	600.00
CentDak	710.07
CPWD	7,219.13
Dakota Fire	
Extinguishers, Inc.	910.74
Double M Sanitation	6,250.00
Farmer Union	
Insurance	14,200.00
Farmers Union	
Insurance	13,334.00
Fireside Office	
Solutions	101.83
First Dist. Health Unit	30.00
James Green	4.03
Johnson Ag Resources	203.19
Keith Winson	16.10
Lowe's Floral	719.00
Maddock Opera House	200.00
MRES	200.00
NAPA	113.60
Normont Equipment	362.00
NDEEQ	183.41
Northern Plains Elec.	9,551.32
One Call	105.50
Priscilla Backstrom	1,321.64
Reslock Printing	42.20
Tri-State Paving, Inc.	116,355.87
USPO	106.00
Van Diest	6,660.00
Vestis	115.13
Visa	1,489.57
NDPERS	2,539.92
ND Telephone Co.	426.71
Western Area Power	
Admin.	5,935.60

Council member Dusty Pierson arrived at 6:08 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the quote from Terpening Construction for the concrete apron at the city shop. The project has been submitted for USDA grant funding. A motion was made by Hermanson and seconded by Pierson to proceed with the project regardless of grant funding. All voted yes. The motion carried.

Sheriff Laura Wanzek was present to discuss complaints regarding motorized vehicles and barking dogs, as well as deputy coverage during the Rural Renaissance Festival and 125th Celebration. Wanzek addressed concerns regarding the operation of ATVs, golf carts, side-by-sides and other motorized vehicles on city streets. She stated that operators must possess a valid driver's license or learner's permit and, if operating under a permit, must be accompanied by a licensed driver. Enforcement will consist of a warning and vehicle being parked for a first offense, a citation issued to the parents for a second offense, and possible impoundment of the vehicle for a third offense.

Jamie Green's Report -- He reported that spring cleanup week went well.

Pam Lee's Report -- Provided an update on the USDA Public Facility Grant.

The council members each gave a portfolio report.

Mayor Dove reported that the school is the first school in North Dakota to be designated as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Hermanson, to appoint Sarah Dove to the tree committee. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dosch and seconded by Hermanson to approve adding public sewer and water main break coverage with a limit of \$25,000 to the city's general liability policy through the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund. All voted yes. The motion carried.

The council was informed that Double M Sanitation has implemented a fuel surcharge fee due to increased fuel costs. The surcharge will be passed on to customers.

It was reported that Tri-State Paving has been in town repairing streets, including work on Central Avenue North and Dakota Avenue North. Additional repair work is scheduled at other locations throughout the city.

Doyle Schwanke requested to

purchase 1.5 vacant city-owned lots located at 302 3rd Street, and Rod Maddock requested to purchase two vacant city-owned lots located at 601 Railway Avenue. A motion was made by Pierson and seconded by Olson to approve the sale of the lots to the applicants for \$1,000 per lot, with the requirement that a building permit be obtained prior to any construction. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Dosch, to change the name of the Municipal Highway Equipment CD to Municipal Highway. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dosch, seconded by Pierson, to allow the Maddock Rural Fire Department to conduct a controlled burn at the gun range, contingent upon receiving approval from the Maddock Airport Authority. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Dosch and seconded by Olson to approve the Maddock Active Women selling fireworks at the fire department from June 30 through July 5. All voted yes. The motion carried.

There were four building permits presented as follows:

1. Rick and Bonnie Benson -- new garage, remove old garage door, window, concrete apron and patio.
2. Roger and Teresa Harmon -- garage and concrete.
3. Becker Bake Shop -- brick tuckpointing and new door.
4. Barry Hermanson -- doors, windows and repairs.

A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Dosch, to approve all building permits. All voted yes. The motion carried.

Mike and Melissa Thomas applied for a building permit for a new fence requiring a setback variance. The proposed fence extends two feet beyond the setback allowed by ordinance on the east side of their property. A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Pierson, to approve the building permit with the setback variance. All voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Dosch, to approve a gaming permit, for the Maddock Rural Renaissance Festival and 125th Celebration. All voted yes. The motion carried.

There were two special event permits presented as follows:

1. Harriman's Restaurant/Bobcat Bar -- Northern Plains Electric annual meeting
2. Harriman's Restaurant/Bobcat Bar -- family gathering

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Pierson, to approve all special event permits. All voted yes. The motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding overgrown lawns. The council directed Pam Lee to send letters to residents whose lawns require mowing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. The next regular council meeting and reorganization meeting will be July 14, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Pamela Lee
City Auditor

Sarah Dove
Mayor

Oberon School District ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS For a full or part time Business Manager

Job duties include:

- Handling payroll
- Reimbursement from federal programs
- Accounts receivable and payable
- Other duties assigned by the school board

Experience:

- A background with finance and/or a working knowledge of the educational finance software program Software Unlimited is preferred but willing to train the right person.

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, resumé, two letters of recommendation and any applicable college transcripts that apply to:

**Oberon School District
P.O. Box 2
Oberon, ND 58357**

Oberon Elementary School | 315 A St. | Oberon, ND

4TH OF JULY

BLOWOUT

Perfect gift for Father's Day!

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

Five select La-Z-Boy recliners, each just

\$499!



Morrison Rocker Recliner



Liam Rocker Recliner



Norton Rocker Recliner



Joshua Rocker Recliner



Hawthorn Rocker Recliner

La-Z-boy

Up to 61% OFF!

slumberland FURNITURE

HOME | SLEEP | DÉCOR

DOWNTOWN DEVILS LAKE

CALL OR TEXT 701-662-3500

SHOP ONLINE SLUMBERLAND.COM