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HETTINGER'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT was busy this past week with a house fire Thursday and a grass fire Saturday. | ACR PHOTO

Hettinger Fire Dept. was busy

Last week was a busy one for the Hettinger Volunteer Fire Dept. It began Thursday with a house fire. The insurance adjuster's opinion is the fire may have an electrical fire starting in an outlet in the kitchen and not with an appliance in. Fire Chief Kallen Manthai said "When the firemen arrived and proceeded to enter the home, they could not see 3 feet in front of them due to the smoke."

Although the house appears to be structurally sound the smoke damage was severe upstairs. The home owners lost a dog and a cat with the ambu-

lance crew able to revive 2 other cats with oxygen. The family said "The empathy and kindness of the volunteer firefighters was beyond amazing. Members of the fire department took us through the house to show the damage and provided a thermal imaging camera for us to keep an eye out for hotspots."

The fire department deployed 5 units – both

pumper trucks, rescue vehicle, command vehicle and a crew transport vehicle. Then Saturday the Hettinger volunteers were on a second fire which was a grass fire originating at 800 N Main Street. The breeze Saturday re-ignited debris that had been burned the evening before, setting grass on fire. With the wind out

of the west it pushed the flames into an open area under the water tower hill. It burned around the bottom of the hill to the north and up the hill to the east. Fire Chief Manthai stated the department deployed four grass trucks, one tanker, one pumper and 14 firefighters, extinguishing the flames before any structural damage occurred.

Hettinger Park Board discusses summer rec, insurance claims, transportation grant

The Hettinger Park District Board met Wednesday, Feb 11 at a regular meeting with board members attending: Ryan Sott, Torrey Pekas, Kane Melling and Rob Waris. Business was as usual with discussions including the last meeting minutes, financial statements and committee updates. Warbis reported the Golf Association will be meeting the week of February 16 and for the baseball field lighting he would like to visit with Denny's Electric to see if they can replace the lights on the exiting poles while Sott will visit with Sage Olson of MDU. The Granary roof was damaged during the high winds which has been turned into insurance.

The board is still waiting on quotes to repair it. In the Mirror Lake update discussion was held on the rods on Mirror Lake's kayak launch which were damaged last fall then the ramp was removed. The Adams County shop said they could fix them for \$1,000. Board members Pekas and Warbis thought they could fix the rods themselves. The board discussed burning the weeds around the lake sometime during the week of February 16. Several insurance claims were filed due to wind damage. They include the fencing along the bandshell, a slide from a tree falling on it, a batting cage was destroyed, The Granary roof, a maintenance shed.

All projects are, either awaiting quotes to repair, considered "a no claim from the insurance company as repairs are under \$1,000 deductible, or board members will try repair themselves. The only public comments came from Rod & Melana Howe to report about the \$1, 216,190.00 grant Hettinger Township received from a ND Transportation funding grant for Mirror Lake Ave on the south side of Mirror Lake. The second to last item on the agenda included the summer employment which the board discussed making changes to the supervisor's position. Summer job positions and descriptions passed unanimously. And finally, the paying of the bills.

Hettinger City Council hears updates on tower proposal, Armory and road funding

The Hettinger City Council met in regular session Wednesday morning, Feb. 11, at the Armory Conference Room, with Mayor James Lindquist calling the meeting to order at 7 a.m. Council members Randy Burwick, Michele Gaylord, Carl Ebert and David Parrill were present. The council moved through routine business quickly, approving minutes from the Jan. 14 regular meeting and the Feb. 3 special meeting, along with the amended agenda and monthly financial statements. In correspondence, council members reviewed a request from Kyla Sanders with NDSU Extension seeking rental office space for an aging-in-community service. At this time, the armory does not have space available. The City Tree Board has also scheduled an upcoming meeting. One of the morning's first discussions involved Andy Roehl, who updated the council on equipment remaining in a building he no longer leases from the city. Roehl said the remaining equipment will be removed by the end of the day Monday, Feb. 16, and he will clean paint left on the floor once everything is cleared out. Council members discussed responsibility for prorated property taxes during the time Roehl operated his business and a short-term storage fee while equipment remained in the building. Roehl questioned why he would be assessed taxes when another party was not charged in a past situation involving retrieval of equipment after a sale. Ultimately, the council approved charging the rental storage fee along with prorated taxes. The council also reviewed a conditional use permit request for placement of a 250-foot guided wireless communication tower by Allo Towers and the State of North Dakota as part of the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) project. The tower would be located southwest of the Safratowich property, in Hettinger Township but within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The tower is intended to support EMS, fire, police and emergency response communications. Mayor Lindquist expressed concern about the proposed location but acknowledged the importance of improved emergency communications. After discussion and a phone call to an Allo Towers representative to clarify questions, the council opted to hold off on making a recommendation until additional questions are addressed. At the armory, several maintenance and operational items were discussed. Fitness center memberships brought in \$2,610 last month. The door to the men's shower room is not locking and will need repair, and the council discussed an agreement for archery use of the armory. Storage issues were also raised, including removal of unused equipment. The council approved purchasing shelving, lockers and a barbell stand for the fitness center at a cost of approximately \$850. Members also approved adding a half-day rental option for the gym at \$50 after hearing requests for more flexible rental periods. Adams County Road Superintendent Justin Blade reported that potholes are beginning to surface. The mayor also raised concerns about overhanging tree branches along streets and alleyways. Under mayor and council reporting, Lindquist said he has met with Commissioner Laufer and Nathan Nagel regarding the possible addition of a city employee to assist with municipal tasks. The council also indicated it is not interested in selling the old brick city shop, citing daily use of the building. Discussion continued regarding the American