

## MayPort EDC sells housing lot for planned build in Riverwood, talks website changes

By COLE SHORT

MAYVILLE – Members of the Mayville-Portland Economic Development Corp. on Tuesday sold a housing lot in the Riverwood Addition in Mayville and discussed whether changes were needed in the oversight and handling of the organization's website.

Board members agreed to sell an undeveloped housing lot in Riverwood for \$4,000 to the Lake Agassiz Development Group, a nonprofit group based in Fargo.

Joe Rizzo, Lake Agassiz Development Group's director of housing programs, said the nonprofit had been lining up estimates from three area contractors interested in building a house on the vacant lot.

The three homebuilders included Domier Construction

in Mayville, Jordahl Custom Homes in West Fargo and T&S Builders in Fargo, he said.

Like other area EDCs – including the Hatton Economic Development Corp. – Lake Agassiz has been tapping into forgivable loan funds from the North Dakota Housing Incentive Fund to offset rising construction costs and add more affordable housing in the state, Rizzo said.

MPEDC President Ernie Strube questioned whether the board could require Lake Agassiz to partner with a local contractor, such as Domier Construction, to build the home in Riverwood.

Rizzo responded the nonprofit wasn't legally required to seek public bids for the project, which would allow Lake Agassiz to choose its building partner.

In an unrelated matter, board members discussed whether

they needed to make substantive changes to MPEDC's website ([mayvilleportland.com](http://mayvilleportland.com)).

Board member Jasper Jacobson pointed out the website remains functional, although MPEDC's ability to advertise housing lots on the site will be reduced as more lots are snapped up in Riverwood.

In previous years, the Mayville Public Library and cities of Mayville and Portland submitted content, notices and city meeting minutes to post on the website, Jacobson said.

However, the public library has built up its network of Facebook followers and Portland city officials have stopped passing along minutes from their monthly meetings, he said.

Jacobson asked whether MPEDC should approach city officials in Mayville and ask

whether they wanted to take control of the website or receive administrative rights to update content themselves.

Strube said he preferred the second option. "We should give them the ability to make their own changes ... so we could still own (the website) and they could update it when they want," he said.

In other business Tuesday, MPEDC board members approved a \$1,500 donation to the North Dakota Shrine Bowl all-star football games, which will return to Mayville State this summer.

Roger Baier, a former MPEDC board member, said this year's 52nd annual Shrine Bowl games will be held on Saturday, June 20 at Mayville State's Jerome Berg Field.

## Hillsboro City Commission members discuss mowing equipment at Monday night meeting

By ALYSSA MEIER

Members of the Hillsboro City Commission are evaluating their options for mowing equipment used to maintain the city's cemeteries, which are currently under contract for lawn care.

The city currently contracts help to mow Hillsboro's four cemeteries – Riverside, Riverside Addition, Hjelmsland Brother's Memorial and Lynn Elton. All are located along the Goose River at the north end of town off of Highway 81.

The city paid \$12,000 per year in 2024 and 2025 to have the cemeteries maintained. This was an increase from the \$8,000 annually paid in 2022 and 2023.

"We kind of have to decide what direction we're going to go," City Commission President Levi Reese said during Monday night's city commission meeting.

"If we're gonna hire it out or if we're going to purchase something to do it."

The commission on Monday night reviewed several op-

tions for lawn tractors – priced at roughly \$80,000 – that could be purchased to do the bulk of mowing, but a finishing tractor would be needed in order to avoid hiring help for that portion of maintenance.

Also discussed was the possibility of working with the Hillsboro School District, which has a mower that is currently not being used frequently.

The district was reportedly interested in trading in its mower for one that the city houses and

maintains, with the school district able to use it for roughly 20 hours of work per year.

City commissioners agreed to look into financing for mowers and what it would cost the city to purchase one, or to work with the school on a trade-in.

The commission will evaluate potential long-term cost savings of purchasing equipment over continuing to contract for the work and will discuss further at a future meeting.

## Hatton City Council to discuss water rates in March

### HATTON CITY

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month that the petition appeared to include several signers who didn't live in Hatton as well as minors under age 18.

Naastad renewed his concerns Tuesday night, noting that three of the petition signers were seasonal workers from Costa Rica who had been employed by his excavating business, Naastad Brothers.

"We need to have (our attorney) look at those signatures because I think there were a quite a few invalid ones on that petition," he said.

Letcher previously questioned whether the petition was intended to convince the city council to amend its chicken and duck ban or set the stage for a citywide vote on the issue in June.

City Council member Mark

Duncan said he was under the impression that the intent of petitioners was to trigger a citywide vote on the chicken ban.

"If everything (in the petition) is good I figured it would be on the ballot in June," he said.

Heather Severinson pointed out that the council set a May 1 deadline to begin enforcement of the city's chicken and duck ban – more than a month before the June 9 primary.

Duncan questioned whether the ban, which originally was set to take effect Jan. 1 before being pushed back to May 1, may need to be delayed a second time until after the primary.

"We'll talk to our attorney and check everything out first," Duncan told Severinson.

In other business Tuesday night, the Hatton City Council:

■ Received word that the city's costs to purchase water from the East Central Regional

Water District will be increasing around 4 percent starting April 1.

Council members agreed that they may need to revisit in March or April the water rates charged to utility customers to offset the upcoming price increase.

■ Briefly revisited a previous discussion on whether to ask voters in Hatton for a half-cent city sales tax that could be used to offset expenses from the city's new public pool, which opened in 2025.

City Council member Bernie Johnson estimated a half-cent sales tax would allow the city to pull in more than \$35,000 a year in additional tax revenue.

Duncan suggested council members table the discussion until their next regularly scheduled meeting in March. The delay wouldn't impact the timeline for placing a city sales tax measure on the June primary ballot if council members decided to pursue that option, he said.

## ND Supreme Court agrees to hear term limits case

### NORTH DAKOTA MONITOR

The North Dakota Supreme Court has decided to hear a lawsuit over a ballot measure that would change voter-approved legislative term limits. The suit, filed in late January, alleges that the Legislature violated the state constitution when it passed a resolution creating the ballot measure during the 2025 session.

The high court will consider the case during its April term, according to a notice filed Sunday.

The ballot measure seeks to alter the 2022 constitutional amendment that established legislative term limits.

However, that article contains a provision that specifically says the Legislature may not propose further constitutional amendments to alter or repeal those

term limits. This prompted two North Dakotans who backed the 2022 term limits amendment to sue the state on Jan. 20, arguing the resolution violates that language.

The plaintiffs, former Minot lawmaker Sen. Oley Larsen and Grand Forks County commissioner Terry Bjerke, filed the suit directly with the North Dakota Supreme Court.

The defendants – the Legislature and Secretary of State's Office – have until March 3 to respond. There were no hearings scheduled in the case as of Monday.

The 2022 constitutional amendment says state lawmakers can serve no more than eight years in the House and eight years in the Senate.

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**FORWARD in FAITH**  
Msgr. Skonseng  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church

**Blessed are the poor in spirit**

The beatitudes were the content of the gospel reading from Matthew for Sunday, Feb. 1, at Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church. Many people of all churches cherish the beatitudes. The beatitudes are at the center of the teaching and preaching of Jesus our Lord. If you want to live a Christian life, practice the beatitudes. They are something to strive for in our daily life. Jesus taught them and lived them, and he will give us the grace and strength to live them. If we live by them, we will be one with Christ, be blessed with the joy of Christ and the kingdom of God and receive a great reward in heaven (Matthew 5:12). I will reflect with you upon the first beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).

In comparison to Luke, who says: "Blessed are you who are poor (Luke 6:20)," Matthew says: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Luke emphasizes those who are materially poor and that they will be blessed and receive what they need in the generous sharing of material possessions in the community of believers who are one in Christ. Matthew emphasizes those who are spiritually poor. This includes all of us, rich and poor, and everyone in between. All of us are poor in relation to God. We would not exist and we would have nothing without God. We are dependent on God for everything. Those who are materially poor are more likely to acknowledge their dependence on God and to beg God for mercy and salvation. When we acknowledge that all that we have, our life and everything else, is a gift from God; we are poor in spirit.

To be poor in spirit is to be humble. It means that we live with humility. We let go of our pride in which we place ourselves above God and above others. We give up our efforts to control God and tell God what to do. Rather, like Jesus, we say to God: "Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). We give up our thoughts, words and actions in which we put others down and boast that we are better than them. Rather, we see that others are made in the image and likeness of God, and we respect their dignity and their gifts. We pray for them instead of controlling them, and we give God space to work in their lives. As one of my spiritual directors instructed me: "The essence of humility is honesty." Being humble in spirit, we are honest with ourselves, others, and God. The poor in spirit follow Saint Paul's exhortation: "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31).

**Msgr. Dennis Skonseng**

*This message of hope brought to you by Hillsboro's faith community.*

Our Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church

St. Rose of  
Lima Catholic  
Church

Hillsboro  
United Parish  
UCC/UMC

St. John  
Lutheran  
Church

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### District 20 Republican Convention

Monday, February 23, 7 p.m.

Norsemen Hall

1100 Park Avenue, Portland, N.D.

Questions? Call or Text Sarah at 701-866-1704

Paid for by District 20 Republican Party, Spencer Endrud - Treasurer

## ATTENTION

### DRY PEA & LENTIL GROWERS

The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council election for Traill County will take place on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM (CT) at the Traill County Courthouse, 114 W Caledonia Ave, in Hillsboro, ND.

## ELECTION

Any person who has not applied for a refund for at least three years, plants or causes to be planted a Dry Pea or Lentil crop in which the person has ownership interest with the intent that upon maturity the crop will be harvested is entitled to vote or can be a candidate.

For more information contact the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council at 701-355-4458.

## ATTENTION

### SUNFLOWER GROWERS

The North Dakota Oilseed Council - Sunflower election for Traill County will take place on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM (CT) at the Traill County Courthouse, 114 W Caledonia Ave, in Hillsboro, ND.

## ELECTION

Anyone who has planted Sunflowers in 2025 or intends to plant in 2026 and is a participating producer who resides in Traill County is eligible and encouraged to vote or can be a candidate.

For more information contact the North Dakota Oilseed Council at 701-328-5107.

## HILLSBORO

**Knights of Columbus®**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb 15: Knights Fun Night**



**Feb 18: St. Rose of Lima Fish Fry**



**Mar 15: Pancake Breakfast 9am-1pm**



**News from the Village**

Hello everyone, it's Ronda with the weekly Hatton Prairie Village News.

Well, sadly we are still in the deep freeze, but we are still way better off than some of the other parts of the United States. Luckily, we can stay put for the most part. I saw today on TV that there is 49 days until spring. Theoretically, that sounds great, but this is North Dakota.

We are in the middle of the Giving Hearts Day campaign for January and February. This goes on until Feb. 12. This is the first time Hatton Prairie Village has participated in this. We set a goal for \$5,000. If you would like to donate, please go to [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org) and then search for Hatton Prairie Village and look for the red "donate" button. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy or Amber and they will help you.

Thanks in advance for considering this.

What's going on the week of Feb. 8-14:

Sunday, Feb. 8 - 10 p.m. am worship, there will be Coffee and Dessert in the Coffee Shop from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

It is also SUPERBOWL SUNDAY- cheer on the Seahawks or the Patriots

Monday, Feb. 9 - Room visits, Jenny's choice, trivia, word games, bingo, beverage cart, coffee shop open from 3:15 to 4 p.m. and one-to-one visits.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 - Room visits, jabbering with Joan, trivia, lunch bunch, create, beverage cart, Joan's choice, coffee shop open 3:15 to 4 p.m. and one-to-ones.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - Breakfast club, popcorn, visit by Alyx and the boys, worship, trivia, pie and coffee in the coffee shop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., beverage cart, Bible stud and one-to-ones.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - Room visits, Valentine's activity, trivia, word games, Wayne Carson's birthday and one-to-ones.

Friday, Feb. 13 - Room visits, manicures, sing-along, trivia, coffee shop open from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., beverage cart and one-to-ones.

Saturday, Feb. 14 - HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Coffee shop open from 10 to 11 a.m., trivia, one-to-ones, beverage cart and one-to-ones

WEAR PINK OR RED TODAY!

Happy birthday this week goes out to Kim Ostlie, Andrea Lee and Wayne Carson. Happy birthday!

Also, congratulations to Dawn Holter on her second great granddaughter Karianna Ann. She has a proud big sister Sophia at home.