

ND Raw Milk Producers Cautious As Federal Authorities Raise Concerns

State vet urges vigilance, warns of "inherent risks"

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative
Raw milk from North Dakota dairy cows carries a low risk of avian flu contamination, say local producers, but they are still increasing precautions.

The so-called bird flu has been detected in dairy cows in nine other states, including South Dakota, and the Food and Drug Administration has advised against drinking raw milk.

This issue comes less than a year since the lifting of a rule against selling raw milk in North Dakota, though sales can only be at the direct consumer level, not to wholesale or retail outlets or across state lines.

There are currently about two dozen raw milk producers in the state.

One is Peter Bartlett of Bartlett Farms, Bottineau, who said he received a cautionary notice from the North Dakota Milk Producers Association. The notice advised caution when buying cows and to keep close watch for illness in the herd. He said customers are not deterred.

"A pasture-based farm that's not confining its animals in more close confinement like a conventional dairy would be a lot less susceptible," Bartlett said.

Bartlett said he already follows three levels of safety protocols to ensure the health of his cows.

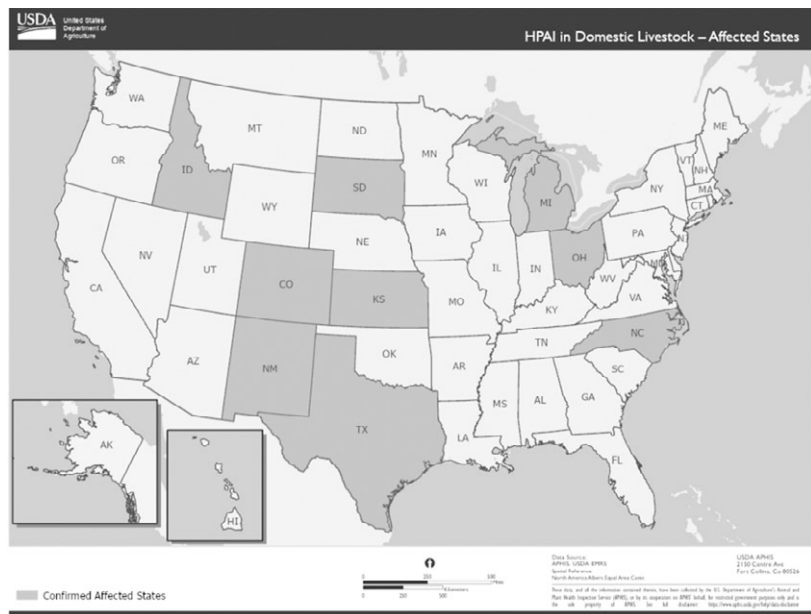
Since the restrictions were eased on sales of raw milk last year Bartlett has seen a steady and growing interest from consumers.

"In the past six months, we seem to have had almost twice as many inquiries about milk," he said. "So that's a good sign. I think that now that the law passed, people look at it as a valid option."

Ty Petersen of Bev's Best Dairy, Monango, agrees that larger dairy farms with confined cows are more at risk from transmission and that smaller operators have a better grip on the health of individual animals.

He said he isn't greatly concerned about avian influenza infecting his cows.

"Just being a fussy producer helps a lot, that's a big part of it, and you know just being around them cows all



USDA map showing states where dairy cows have become infected with avian influenza as infected birds migrate through the region. North Dakota has had no cases of infected wild birds this year, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

day you notice stuff lickety split."

Ava Brokaw of Brokaw Ranch, Kulm, said she is very meticulous about the cleanliness of her cows and quality of her raw milk.

"If I question anything, I dump it," she said. "I would never sell anything where I questioned whether my cow was sick or not."

Brokaw said she's had "a ton of people reach out" since the restrictions were lifted, and that people should do their research on whatever it is they are consuming.

"I've got kids and I want to make sure that everything that I'm giving them is good, you know, so I read up on the risks on it," Brokaw said. "But for us, we've had more problems with store bought milk than raw milk."

Inherent risks
North Dakota's Department of Agriculture regulates production of pasteurized milk, but not raw milk.

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services can only offer guidance, according to Heather Steffl, communications manager of the Public Health Division.

"Pasteurization is the safest choice," Steffl wrote in response to an inquiry from the North Dakota News Co-op.

State veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress said consuming raw milk has "inherent risks" aside from the possible transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

"There are organisms that contaminate raw milk that have the potential to cause people to get sick and occasionally die." He said it's the same risk for all raw food, from oysters to meat.

Andress advises raw milk producers to minimize contact with wild birds because it is hard to know if they are infected and ensure that feed

is protected from exposure to wild birds.

Milk production is a key indicator of a cow's health. "The most common sign (of illness) is a drop in milk production," Andress said.

But even with precautions, some infected cows may not show signs of sickness.

"I think the most frustrating part of this is the asymptomatic part, that some of these cows have an infection but aren't getting sick," Andress said. "Just like people when we get influenza, you have varying levels of how bad people get sick and the same thing occurs in cows."

The closest the avian influenza virus H5N1 has been found in dairy cows is in South Dakota. Other states where it's been detected are Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas.

There have been no cases of avian influenza detected in North Dakota, according to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. Most cases from 2023 occurred in the fall.

Transmission risks still undetermined

Federal officials believe the virus is spreading among cows due to contact with milk from other infected cows, but that further testing is needed.

It is also currently unknown if humans can contract the virus through consuming raw milk from infected cows.

Pasteurization of milk inactivates the virus, according to the FDA. The agency has tested commercially produced pasteurized milk and other dairy products in 38 states and found no live, infectious virus in pasteurized milk.

A recent study published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that cats that consumed raw milk from avian influenza-infected cows became sick and some died.

Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told NDNC

that while "we don't know if people can get H5N1 from drinking raw milk," due to the high levels of viral loads, "it's very much a possibility."

Animals such as cats, dogs, and bears that eat dead birds have gotten diseased, and some died, from that consumption, Rasmussen said.

An FDA statement from May 1 said the agency is continuing to test samples of pooled raw milk routed to pasteurization and processing for commercial use. The FDA currently "advises strongly" against the consumption of raw milk and recommends that industry does not manufacture or sell raw milk or raw milk

products.
The FDA has also recommended that precautions should be taken discarding milk from infected cows so it does not become a source of further spread.

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.

Hoeven, Tillis Introduce Bipartisan Protect And Serve Act

Senator John Hoeven helped introduce the Protect and Serve Act, bipartisan legislation that would make knowingly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury to a law enforcement officer a federal crime. The legislation, led by Senator Thom Tillis, is also cosponsored by Senators Tom Cotton, Joe Manchin, Kevin Cramer, and Steve Daines.

"Each and every day, our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line as they work to protect our communities and keep us safe," said Senator Hoeven. "This legislation will ensure that those who target these public servants with violence face the appropriate federal penalties, and will hopefully serve as a deterrent to help keep our officers safe."

"Law enforcement officers in North Carolina and across the country are heroes who risk their lives every day to protect our communities," said Senator Tillis. "Those who commit senseless acts of violence against law enforcement officers must be held accountable for their actions, which is why I am proud to reintroduce this legisla-

tion that creates federal penalties for criminals who target law enforcement. They put their lives on the line to protect us, and we should do the work in Congress to protect them."

The Protect and Serve Act provides federal prosecutors with tools to hold accountable individuals who target law enforcement for assault or attacks, including:

- * Making it a federal crime to knowingly cause or attempt to cause bodily injury to a law enforcement officer. Offenders are subject to imprisonment for up to 10 years.

- * An offender could receive a life sentence if a death results from the offense, or the offense includes kidnapping, attempted kidnapping or attempted murder.

The law would apply to federal law enforcement officers, as well as state and local officers in circumstances where the federal government can establish jurisdiction over the case.

The legislation is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, Sergeants Benevolent Association, Major County Sheriffs of America and National Association of Police Organizations.

Candidates Invited To Submit Information To The VOTE411 Voter Guide

The League of Women Voters of North Dakota (LWVND) is asking all candidates in the June 11, 2024 election to submit information to their voter guide that will be published on VOTE411.org/LWVND on May 9, 2024. Candidates can upload their photo, share their campaign links, and reply to 5-6 questions in their own words.

Invitations have been sent to candidates by email if they provided an email address or by mail if they did not have an email address on file. If a candidate has questions about filling out the voter guide, they can contact LWVND at nodakLWV@gmail.com.

"Responding to VOTE411 is a great way for candidates to get their information out to voters," said Mary C. Tintes, LWVND Vice President. "The upcoming June election is also city election day in North Dakota, and we want to make it easier for voters to learn about their local candidates who will serve in our day-to-day lives."

VOTE411.org is the League of Women Voters' one-stop shop for nationwide voting and election in-

formation. Some of VOTE411's key features are candidate and statewide ballot measure information, voter ID information, absentee ballot information, and a polling place locator.

When voters enter their address on the VOTE411 homepage between May 9 and June 11, 2024, they will see the races and candidates that will be on their ballot and can compare candidate responses. If a candidate has not yet responded to the voter guide, voters are encouraged to reach out to the candidate to ask them to fill out VOTE411.

To vote in North Dakota, you must be a US citizen, a North Dakota resident for at least 30 days, and at least 18 years old on Election Day. North Dakota is the only state without voter registration, but you must have a valid form of ID in order to cast a ballot.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization that envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
North Prairie Regional Water District will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, with registration at 5:00 p.m. and meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, 2200 E. Burdick Expy., Minot, ND 58701. Director positions up for election are for the following areas 3D & 4D. Voting on By-Law Amendments.
May 8, 2024

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION STANLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 11th day of June 2024, annual election will be held for the purpose of electing members of school boards. (NDCC 15-28-11).

Polls will be open at eight o'clock a.m. CDT (8:00 a.m.) and will close at seven o'clock p.m. CDT (7:00 p.m.) of that day. (15-28-06, 07, 09 NDCC). The poll will be held at the **Stanley High School commons area. Go to west side of high school located at 109th 8th Ave and use door 1.**

Barb Reese, Business Manager Stanley Community Public School District No. 2
May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2024

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION NEW TOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 11th day of June 2024, annual election will be held for the purpose of electing one member of the school board to represent City Area #2. (NDCC 15-28-11). Incumbent Marietta Hale has filed for re-election. Joleen Steele has also filed.

Polls will be open at nine o'clock a.m. CDT (9:00 a.m.) and will close at six o'clock p.m. CDT (6:00 p.m.) of that day (NDCC 15-28-06, 07, 09), with balloting for candidates limited to voters residing within City Area #2. of the School District. Eligible voters may also insert a write-in candidate on the official ballot. The polls will be held at the New Town High School Cafeteria.

Nancy Reimer, Business Manager New Town Public School District No. 1
May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2024



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS MOUNTRAIL COUNTY STANLEY, NORTH DAKOTA 36TH STREET NW RECONSTRUCTION

General Notice
MOUNTRAIL COUNTY (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
36TH STREET NW RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT NO. 2023-6

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the **Mountrail County South Complex** located at **8103 61st Street NW, Stanley, ND until Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Grading, culvert replacements, geogrid, aggregate base and hot mix asphalt on three (3) miles of 36th Street NW beginning at County Route 21 and ending at County Route 19. The project will include the following approximate quantities: Common Excavation - Type A - 12,000 CY; Borrow-Excavation - 44,000 CY; Aggregate Base Course CL 5 - 32,000 Tons; Superpave FAA 45 - 19,000 Tons; PG58V-34 Asphalt Cement - 1.150 Tons; Geosynthetic Material Type GT - 60,000 SY; Pipe Conduit (multiple sizes, concrete) - 700 LF; Pipe Conduit - Approach (18" & 24") - 730 LF.

The project has a date for substantial completion of **October 19, 2024**.
Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online at www.questcdn.com utilizing Quest project #9114389. QuestCDN can be contacted at (952)233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership, downloading and working with the digital project information. The cost to download the bidding documents will be \$40.00.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Sauber Engineering Inc.
2401 46th Avenue SE, Suite 110
Mandan, ND

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the website listed in this advertisement.

Instructions to Bidders
Bid will be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials. The owner intends to award a single (1) Contract on the basis of the low bid submitted by a responsible and responsive bidder for the aggregate sum of all bid items for the project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a separate envelope containing the contractor's license and bid security. The bid security must be a sum equal to five (5) percent of the full amount of the bid and must be in the form of a bidder's bond. The bond must be executed by the bidder as principal and a surety, conditioned that if the principal's bid is accepted and the contract awarded to the principal, the principal, within 10 days after the notice of award, shall execute a contract in accordance with the terms of the bid and the bid bond and any condition of Mountrail County.

The bidder must be licensed for the full amount of the bid as requested by sections 43-07-07 and 43-07-12 of the North Dakota Century Code.

No bid will be read or considered that does not fully comply with requirements pertaining to bid security and contractor's license.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance and payment bond in the full amount of the contract.

Mountrail County reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in any bid, rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received and accept the bid most favorable to the County.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: **Mountrail County**
By: **Trudy Ruland**
Title: **Chairman, Board of County Commissioners**
Date: **May 7, 2024**
May 8, 15, 22, 2024

Minutes Of The Plaza City Council

CITY OF PLAZA MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Reese, City Council Members Phil Westgard, Dave Reum, Greg Schoess, Darrell Salter.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Bill Woods, City Engineer Jason Strand, AE2S, Wayne Olson, Kasey Trussell
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda
Darrell moved, seconded by Phil, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
Dave moved, seconded by Phil, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills
Phil moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the bills for January. Voting in favor were Phil, Dave, Greg and Darrell, with no abstentions or opposing votes.

Attorney Report
Bill reported on some recent issues with the State Water Commission and is concerned our ability to get better water is going to be delayed. He will get back to the Council when he has an update.

The deadline to publish the public hearing date for vacating the alley was missed by one day. It will now be scheduled for February 12, 2024. Bill also said he will speak to the landowner about filing the quit deed for the burn pit area.

Engineer Report
Jason stated that he and the copper and lead testing crew will get account numbers and addresses and will accompany surveyors to residences to do the testing.

Jason presented Task Order #9 for the Council's review, which will provide for the study and report phase of the Community Hall project. Terry asked Jason if he had spoken with the workers who were boring holes as they pulled up coal from an old coal bin.

The next scheduled planning meeting for the new Hall will be held January 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Terry asked Jason about the proposed sidewalk construction project and they and the Council discussed possible builders.

Kasey Trussell
Kasey said she would like to rent the restaurant space and would like to open for business by summer. She is planning a made to order menu. Dave asked if she was going to paint; Kasey said she'd clean the space first and then paint. Darrell said repairs are needed on the door and the area where the AC goes. Terry said the Senior Citizens usually go there for lunch on Thursdays for a reduced cost.

Greg moved, seconded by Dave, to enter into a rental contract for the restaurant space with Kasey Trussell, for \$100/month for the first six months, to be revisited once she's up and running. There will be no rent charged while she is cleaning and painting the space. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The Council discussed holding a Christmas Party; Dave will see what days are open at the Backroads Bar & Grill.

Adjournment
Dave moved, seconded by Darrell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

CITY OF PLAZA MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Reese, City Council Members Dave Reum, Greg Schoess, Darrell Salter. **ABSENT:** Phil Westgard

OTHERS PRESENT: City Engineer Jason Strand, City Attorney Bill Woods, Wayne Olson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda
Darrell moved, seconded by Dave, to approve the agenda. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
Greg moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills

Dave moved, Greg seconded to approve the February 2024 bills. Voting in favor were Dave, Greg and Darrell, none opposed or abstaining, motion carried.

Terry asked about the meter repair bill at the C-Store and wondered if the City should pay that or if Enerbase should. They decided the City would pay it and then bill Enerbase for the repair bill.

Attorney Report
Bill went through the items that will need to be published before March 1 and was told they are scheduled for publication in the Promoter before that date.

Greg moved, seconded by Darrell, to adjourn the Regular meeting in order to hold a public hearing. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing to Vacate Alleyway
The Public Hearing to vacate the alleyway, Original Townsite Blocks 3-9 was called to order at 7:17 p.m. No member of the public was present for the hearing.

Dave moved, seconded by Darrell, to close the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m. the vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Terry Reese motioned to reconvene the Regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Dave moved, seconded by Greg, to approve the resolution to declare the City's ROW in the alleyway vacant. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Report
Jason presented the minutes from the design team meeting for the new Community Hall improvements. He also presented and discussed with the Council the design images and blueprints. Darrell asked if they need to have a meeting to tear down the old hall, fill it in and compact it.

Jason also presented the information from the bore samples and the geotechnical report. He said he talked with USDA regarding the sewer lines and the remaining water tower funds and that Kery Ihyr Hodem from USDA is checking on it and will get back to him. Jason will update the Council when he hears from her.

Old Business
The Council chose the date of February 29, 2024 for the City's Christmas party to be held at the Backroads Bar & Grill.

Wayne Olson
Wayne said there is a February 28 deadline for the grant application to Mountrail County to help defray the costs of the new Hall. Wayne said if it is turned in early that will leave time if anything needs to be changed. Wayne and the Council discussed the objectives of the grant and Wayne said that Bill would need to write up a four-point narrative for the application and the City would need statements that showed support from City residents. He said they would get information to Bill regarding the four points in an email tomorrow.

Wayne also requested the use of a bucket of the City's pea gravel to work on a leak in the Lutheran Church and was told yes.

The Council discussed a problem with a resident's meter pit which the resident improperly shut off, resulting in a big bill. They discussed whether they should shut it completely off but the resident will have to do it. The Auditor was instructed to telephone the resident and ask them to make sure their water is off.

The Council also discussed the problem of the same residents who end up on the shut-off list month after month. The Council also discussed the potential of having to schedule a Special meeting for the Tax Equalization meeting in April.

The next meeting will be held March 11, 2024.

Adjournment
Dave moved, seconded by Darrell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

CITY OF PLAZA MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Reese, Council Members Phil Westgard, Dave Reum, Greg Schoess, Darrell Salter

OTHERS PRESENT: City Engineer Jason Strand, City Attorney Bill Woods, Shelby and Ethan Stein, Robert Blunck, Wayne Olson, Roger Fyllesvold.
The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda
Darrell moved, seconded by Phil, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Dave moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills
Phil moved, seconded by Greg, to approve the March 2024 bills. Voting in favor were Phil, Dave, Greg and Darrell, with none opposing or abstaining.

Attorney Report
Bill stated he had spoken with Darcy Lynne regarding the proposed quit claim deed and sent him a copy. They will discuss it when Darcy returns in the spring.

He also said he'd spoken with Sigrid Perez and she is still interested in cleaning up Megan's property and he explained why the City placed special assessments for yard clean-up and trash removal.

New Hall Project
Next the Council, Wayne Olson and Bill discussed the grant application for Mountrail County funds to help build the new Hall and the information they would need to identify, gather and include in the application.

The condition of the old Hall was discussed and potential costs for tearing it down and which companies are available to do the work. Phil said he would take pictures of the old Hall. They discussed completing the new Hall in stages, and what is proposed for each stage. They then discussed the size and style of the proposed new building, the costs and planning needs of the proposed building phases and how long it would take to complete each phase.

Darrell advised that someone speak to the ND Insurance Reserve Fund to make sure the type of building we select will be covered.

Dave moved, seconded by Greg, to submit a grant application to Mountrail County for \$1.5 million for funding to assist in the Phase I construction of a new City Hall. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

City Engineer Report
Jason brought a budget and copies of work proposed for the sewer line project which will use monies left over from the water tower project. Jason drafted Amendment #1 to submit to USDA for surveying the new sewer manholes and lining. Jason said he plans to install lining for all the non-lined pipes. He also said if the amendment is approved at this meeting it will have to be approved by USDA also.

Darrell moved, seconded by Phil, to approve Amendment #1 to the proposed sewer line project as presented by Jason. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Jason also presented the amended Engineer Agreement Certification, showing breakdown of costs for basic services and USDA requirements, as amended.

Dave moved, seconded by Darrell, to approve the Engineer Agreement Certification as amended. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Jason also reminded everyone about the upcoming sidewalk project. He said the company will start work in spring/early summer and they have agreed to stick to the costs they originally presented to the City. He handed out information on that project as a reminder to everyone. Phil said someone will have to talk with folks at the Lutheran Church too, they need a new culvert where the driveway is right next to the sidewalk.

New Business
The 2024 Tax Equalization Meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m., April 15, 2024. The Regular Council meeting will be held afterwards at 7:00 p.m. Jason will bring his laptop and Karla will take part in the meeting online.

Late Utilities Payments
The Council discussed those residents who don't pay their water bills on time and end up on the shut-off list each month. They discussed charging these individuals a deposit that could cover two to three months' billing to be used by NPRWD if they are late again. They also discussed talking to those individuals one more time before instituting this option.

Phil moved, seconded by Darrell, to table this matter until a later date. The vote was all in favor, motion carried.

Greg asked about needed street repairs; those plans are usually made in the July or August meeting. Greg also said he would call the contractor who recently pulled down an old house to see about other work the City is planning.

Adjournment
Phil moved, Dave seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Pemina Yellow Bird, City Auditor

Terry Reese, Mayor

Oil Activity Report

Permits:
None
Additional Information:
Released from Confidential Status: