

FUN & GAMES

What's the Difference?

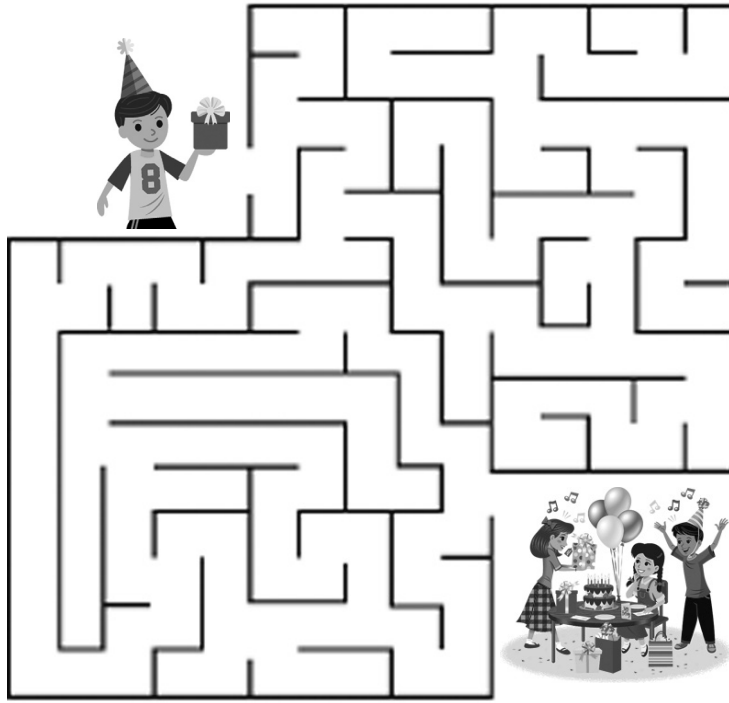
There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Center girl missing feather headband
2. Girl on left has flower in hair 3. Girl on right is wearing different color 4. Fence has color streaks

MAZE CRAZE

Can you help the boy find his way to the party?



Did You Know?

The balloon, a popular birthday party decoration, was created in 1824 by Michael Faraday during experiments with various gases.



THIS DAY IN...



1862
Forces led by Ulysses S. Grant and Andrew H. Foote give the Union its first victory during the American Civil War.

1952
Elizabeth II becomes Queen of the United Kingdom.

1988
Michael Jordan makes his signature slam dunk from the free throw line, inspiring the Air Jordan logo.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Birthday cake



How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Party
- SPANISH:** Fiesta
- ITALIAN:** Festa
- FRENCH:** Fête
- GERMAN:** Party

Oberon 7th/8th graders attend workforce development workshop

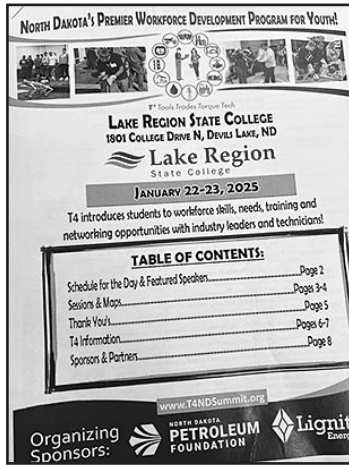
BY CHARLOTTE FRANKS-ERICKSON

Recently, the 7th and 8th graders from the Oberon school took part in an all-day workshop titled "North Dakota's Premiere Workforce Development Program for Youth." Several schools were in attendance. It was held at Lake Region State College and included four areas of professions: automotive, geology, fitness and nursing.

Photos courtesy Charlotte Franks-Erickson



8th graders Jerzey and Harleigh participate in the fitness center.



7th and 8th graders learn about porosity and permeability.

Did You Know?



"Love" is a powerful word that describes one of the most potent human emotions. The word is believed to have evolved from the Proto-Indo-European word "leubh," which described care and desire nearly five thousand years ago. The word was incorporated into Old English as "lufu," a noun meaning "deep affection" and a verb "lufian" meaning "to be very fond of."

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON CITY COUNCIL September 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Oberon City Council was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2024. City council members present: Mayor Faron Stensland, Shawn Trotter and Ellis Laporte Jr.; Wanda Randle (outgoing city auditor); and Tina Ploium (incoming city auditor). Members absent: Kim Krebsbach and Norberta Greywind.

Agenda -- Trotter made a motion to approve the agenda; Laporte seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

August 12 Meeting Minutes -- Laporte made a motion to approve meeting minutes; Trotter seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Miscellaneous -- Dogs being tied up.

The council discussed water and if there was any smell of chlorine.

There is no shutoff valve in the Patricia Anderson home occupied by Brandi Putnam; need to purchase a new valve to put in the house before water repair can be made.

Water, sewer and garbage billing needs to start for the new occupant in Karen Peterson's home.

Trotter asked for another roll-off dumpster for fall cleanup.

Trotter asked for any new information on the audit from Koby and did he get all the information needed (last year's ledgers from bank and CDs).

Bills/Payroll -- Added to the bills was the monthly payment to Benson County Highway Department of \$1,500. There was a question on the Waste Management bill of \$4,564.52. Will pay the current bill of \$1,680.81. Total bills/payroll was \$8,540.25.

Trotter made a motion to approve the bills and payroll; Laporte seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Otter Tail Power Co. \$1,830.68
ND Telephone Co. 104.01
Waste Management 1,680.81
Hawkins 329.59
BC Farmers Press 838.20
BC Farmers Press 628.20
Central Business Systems 97.20
NAPA/Dakota Implement 141.04
Post Office 100.00
Grand Forks Utility 41.64
Rory Littleghost 125.00
Kayla Robertson 125.00
Madison Leaf 125.00
Doug Olson 711.75
BC Highway Dept. 1,500.00
Wanda Randle 162.13

Total \$8,540.25
The next meeting is Monday, Oct. 7, 2024 at 7 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Tina Ploium
City Auditor

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON CITY COUNCIL October 7, 2024

A regular meeting of the Oberon City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2024. City council members present: Mayor Faron Stensland, Shawn Trotter, Ellis Laporte Jr. and Norberta Greywind; City Auditor Tina Ploium. Member absent: Kim Krebsbach. Guests: Rural Water representatives Dan O., Eric and Terry, Hunter Buehler, Raiden Houle, Kayla Greywind and Doug Olson.

Agenda -- Laporte made a motion to approve the agenda; Greywind seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

September 9 Meeting Minutes -- Greywind made a motion to approve meeting minutes; Trotter seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.

New Business -- ND Rural Water representatives talked about water samples taken after the well went dry. We were at 8.0 chlorine level; now we are sitting at 2.3-2.5 chlorine level; took two samples from previous places done before.

Stated Hawkins can do a raw water sample without any additives to see where we sit for magnesium and iron. Dan and Eric will be back to help with flushing and running pigs throughout the water pipes. This will only cost the city the cost of the pigs. Requested maps of the water lines to help with flushing route. Mayor Stensland stated he has those maps and will drop them off at the center.

Water system is 50+ years old and might be looking at the life expectancy of the PVC pipes through city. We have only one functioning pressure tank and there are three in total. The other two have issues with what they call the bladder (plastic faucet) no longer working and can't just replace those; need to replace the pressure tanks itself. Our ground water is not testing well.

Terry said he could get a container and take the raw sample and get it tested for us.

Gave us Dave from the state to ask about funding availability/options for better water quality.

Elected Vice President for the City

Faron Stensland
Mayor

Committee -- Greywind nominated Trotter for vice president; Laporte seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Hiring of Water, Lawn and Snow Removal Personnel -- Greywind made motion to hire Doug Olson for water and lawn care in the summer of 2025 and to raise pay to \$650. Trotter seconded; all in favor; the motion carried.

Asked about cost for the county to come in and plow, \$650-\$700/trip. Auditor's Report -- Discussed that the audit was not completed and they are still requesting more information. Need CD statements from five different banks: Western State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Bremer Bank, First United Bank and Trust, Horizon Financial.

There is a CD at the Park River bank; haven't seen any information on that and will check on that as well.

No budgets submitted for past few years cost us some money from the county. Reports are not completed on a timely basis. These things can hurt the city by not getting information to the state and county.

Checking Account Balance as of Sept. 30, 2024 -- Stated we won't have enough money to pay bills as we are still getting the information for the state audit.

Bills/Payroll -- Laporte made a motion to pay Doug for the mowing x2 and gas \$278 and Wanda Randle for August election food reimbursement of \$162.13. Total bills/payroll \$440.13. Greywind seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Wanda Randle \$162.13
Doug Olson 278.00
Total \$440.13

Rest of bills will need to wait until the audit is complete.

The next meeting is Monday, Nov. 4, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Doug Olson would like to buy the four lots east of his place.

Faron Stensland also requested to purchase three lots east of his place, next to his brother Bob Stensland.

Trotter asked about the payments we were to receive from Lance Schroder for the lots he was purchasing.

Robert Santos wants to purchase the lot to the east of them where the church sits. Still owned by Jim Harris.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Tina Ploium
City Auditor

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON CITY COUNCIL November 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Oberon City Council was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2024. City council members present: Vice President Shawn Trotter, Ellis Laporte Jr., Norberta Greywind, Kim Krebsbach by telephone; and City Auditor Tina Ploium. Absent was Mayor Faron Stensland. Guests: Rural Water representatives Dan O., Keith and Jeremy; Doug Olson, water maintenance.

Agenda -- Greywind made a motion to approve the agenda; Laporte seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

October 2024 Meeting Minutes -- Greywind made a motion to approve meeting minutes; Laporte second the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.

New Business -- ND Rural Water representative Dan O. talked about missing a line for pigging and was addressed on this day by Shawn Trotter's residents. Chlorine readings on this day were 7.2 when they started, 6.0 at 8:25 p.m.

Dan O. talked with Hawkins to have orthophosphate coat the lines to help with magnesium; this would cost \$3.50/day for Hawkins to come. Dan also requested the 911 addresses for the residents of Oberon for the reporting we didn't get completed on time. NDRW recommends we purchase at least one pressure tank as we are only working with one at this time. Need a light pole outside of wellhouse to indicate when the breaker trips; safety reasons and state requests that this gets completed.

Doug was to flush all lines again on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024. Doug gave estimated quotes for two pressure tanks from two different places, TSC for 86-gallon (\$530) and Runnings for 86-gallon (\$560). Last time the pressure tanks were replaced was in 1989-90.

Doug will be getting Justin Ystaas to come look at the breaker and the light pole to estimate to get it put in. Have tried many times for Bergstrom to come in for the breaker as they are the ones that put it in. Why does it keep tripping?

With a water main break on North Carson St., we will need to get a plumber in to fix the break and reconnect the hydrant. Doug is to call Issac Boltz

West side valve of water well needs to be put back in. Pipe and valve.

Tabled the cost of lots in city limits that are for sale; need to see what the cost was per lot from previously and when the amount was agreed upon. Advertising needs to be done.

Shawn Trotter looked into Double M Sanitation (219 Harriet Ave., Fessenden 58438) for individual cans and a few dumpsters for businesses in town.

Snow removal was discussed. Doug and Ellis Laporte are to look at the manholes around the city to see what needs to be done to get them up to par for the county to come in and plow streets for us.

Ellis Laporte moved the city plow to the committee center.

Auditor Report -- Gave CD amounts to the city council; which ones were coming up due. Was asked which would be best for the

current situation on the water well, and Account #6427 CD was the most appropriate to use. Laporte made a motion to use this CD and Greywind seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Need to contact Benson County Highway Department to see what is still owed and use a CD for the remainder to pay off balance.

Audit was completed and sent to Koby, who sent it to his manager.

Checking account has a total amount of \$6,798.

Bills:
Otter Tail Power Co. \$720.21
Waste Management 1,441.43
Ferguson 93.87

PAYROLL
Doug Olson \$1,035.99
Tina Ploium 2,648.03
Total \$5,939.53

Laporte made a motion to pay the above bills and payroll; Greywind seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

The next meeting is Dec. 9, 2024 at 7 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

Tina Ploium
City Auditor

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OBERON CITY COUNCIL December 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Oberon City Council was called to order at 7:09 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2024. City council members present: Mayor Faron Stensland, Vice President Shawn Trotter, Ellis Laporte Jr., Norberta Greywind; City Auditor Tina Ploium. Absent: Kim Krebsbach. Guests: Doug Olson, water maintenance; and Raiden Houle.

Agenda -- Greywind made a motion to approve the agenda; Trotter seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.

November 2024 Meeting Minutes -- Trotter made a motion to approve meeting minutes; Greywind seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.

New Business -- Karen's Place owner Elvis Thumb requested a renewal of his liquor and retail license with application completed. Greywind made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Laporte; all in favor, the motion carried.

City of Oberon will hire Double M Sanitation beginning in the new year of 2025. Looking to have individual cans per household. The agreement was based on current contract with Waste Management of what the penalty would be to void the contract and give them at least 90-day advance notice. Trotter made a motion to hire Double M Sanitation starting Jan. 1, 2025, seconded by Greywind; all in favor, the motion carried.

Water -- With the rise of cost to treat the water at well house, the city isn't charging enough for the cost to cover everything. The auditor was shown the amount of money lost between both the water and garbage. The city agreed to raise the cost of water per month to \$25. Laporte made a motion to approve the raise of the water cost; Shawn Trotter seconded the motion; all in favor, the motion carried.

Late fees of \$5 per month are to be added to the billing statements beginning Jan. 1, 2025, even though

the billing statements are mailed out every quarter (January to March, April to June, July to September and October to December). Greywind made motion to approve the late fee, seconded by Trotter; all in favor, the motion carried.

A letter was put together and mailed out to the residents of Oberon for price increase for water usage, late fee and change of sanitation business. Also included in the envelope was the information about the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions/Lead Service Line Inventory, with instructions on where to find the water line material in their home and to report the information to the city auditor. Water lines are either copper, galvanized steel, lead or plastic piping.

Old Business -- Purchase of two pressure tanks was approved with a motion made by Trotter, seconded by Greywind; all in favor, the motion carried.

Regarding CD maturity from Western State Bank, the city requested to cash in \$25,000 for the remaining cost owed to Benson County Highway Department for the resurfacing of 2nd St. to county road and put remaining amount back into renewal of seven-month maturity.

Trotter made a motion to approve cash out and put remaining CD monies into the CD for seven months; Greywind seconded the motion; all in favor; the motion carried.

Auditor Report -- A CD was maturing in December; asked what to do with the CD; gave a quick rundown on what the city lost in revenue for the cost of Waste Management and not charging the residents for the cost of the garbage; checking account has a total amount of \$30,075.21.

Payroll and Bills -- Bills and payroll in the amount of \$13,550.34 includes all outstanding bills to the current date. A motion was made by Laporte to approve the bills and payroll; Trotter seconded; all in favor, the motion carried.

Otter Tail Power Co. \$380.66
Otter Tail Power Co. 150.60
Otter Tail Power Co. 321.60
Otter Tail Power Co. 67.44
ND Telephone Co. 103.04
Waste Management 1,920.40
Waste Management 1,916.99
Waste Management 1,442.28
Hawkins 533.24
Hawkins 58.75
Hawkins 535.53
Central Business Systems 198.25
ND Dept. of Environ. Quality 200.97
State of ND Chem. Lab . 943.77
GF Utility 287.82
Spirit Lake Refuse Control 515.00
Tina Ploium 1,200.00
Doug Olson 650.00
Faron Stensland 450.00
Ellis Laporte Jr. 350.00
Shawn Trotter 350.00
Norberta Greywind 150.00
Kim Krebsbach 250.00
Doug Olson 574.00
Total \$13,550.34

The next meeting is Jan. 6, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

Tina Ploium
City Auditor

Faron Stensland
Mayor