

Guest column by Ken Schmierer (1947-2025):

*(Continued from page 2)*

I suppose writing this stream of conscience quarrel with myself helps me reset and bounce into the new year with an upbeat confidence and a renewed sense of enthusiasm. I know life will bring some solved mysteries and some severe setbacks. I will lose some friends and waddle through additional health problems. However, I will not let age defeat me. My memories of the good times and friends like you will help me handle the curves on the road to a new beginning and help me weather life's storms.

I suppose I am a little over-dramatic at times. Definitely too wordy, but we must face the facts that life is a series of comic mis-steps where we pretend to know the path we are walking and get frustrated when we find out we really don't know much at all. The sky will be blue again and spring will find us where ever we are . . . that is all that I really know.

<b>BOLLINGER FARMS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>BALL BUSTERS</b>	<b>27 1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PAHL FARMS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>PIN PUSHERS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SHORT CIRCUIT</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>WE DON'T GIVE A SPLIT</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>LIVIN ON A SPARE</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>JAMIE DIEMERT</b>	<b>172</b>	
<b>SUE BONIEK</b>	<b>163</b>	
<b>MICHELLE THORPE</b>	<b>161</b>	
<b>SUE BONIEK</b>	<b>441</b>	
<b>MICHELLE THORPE</b>	<b>431</b>	
<b>JAMIE DIEMERT</b>	<b>424</b>	

**Landfill Hours**  
**December 1 to March 31**  
**Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm**

MEMORIES OF KEN SCHMIERER, AS POSTED ON THE "YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM ELLENDALE" FACEBOOK PAGE

- "So relieved to read, as a fellow cat lover, that his cats all have homes. I think that's what he would be most concerned about. Ken will always be remembered in Ellendale."
- "Ken was such a powerhouse & supporter for Ellendale. This is a really sad loss, but I too am relieved he's not suffering anymore."
- "I always appreciated Ken's email essays. His stories of growing up in the Nodak are fondly remembered, especially the one about the sun bathers on the roof."
- "I Always appreciated Ken keeping us updated on Ellendale"
- "A true historian and a great wit."
- "We appreciated Ken!!!!!"
- "Ken was the voice of Ellendale for many years for his extensive list of followers on email. I for one looked forward to his colorful and poignant emails about town goings on and people we knew. No more suffering, Ken. Rest in Peace."
- "Ken was a kindred spirit, we shared a love of photography although I never achieved the heights that he did."
- "Ken was a great ambassador for Ellendale. He was a great thinker with a sense of humor and I always enjoyed visiting with Ken. A "Walk of Fame" candidate long overdue."
- "So sorry to hear this! I used to babysit him and his siblings when they owned Walt's cafe and I also worked as a waitress. He was always very interesting to visit with."
- "I don't remember not knowing Kenny. Our parents were friends, my Mom worked for Walt and Lil, he was a good friend of my brother. Rest in peace, my friend - I wish you music and cats and everything that makes you smile."
- "Ken introduced me to the Ellendale community by creating a visiting artist opportunity. He secured grants to support a four month stay, plus he organized connections for my photography project with many community groups and organizations. What I gained from my Ellendale visiting artist experience continues to enrich my life. The bonus was a deep and meaningful friendship with Ken. I miss him dearly."  
--Roddy McInnes



Ken at Brandenburger park. June 6, 2014 (Photo by Ken Smith)

BOWLING



APLD progress, plans discussed at open house

*(continued from page 1)*

Nick noted that there are currently some 50 to 100 Coreweave employees working on the Ellendale site at any given time.

Also in 2025, the company broke ground for a 300 megawatt AI data center campus at Harwood, a small town that lies just to the north of Fargo. It will consist of two buildings, totaling 1.8 million square feet on 292 acres. APLD's X feed has indicated that the company will soon confirm a lease with another hyperscaler (evidently not Coreweave) for use of the Harwood facility, code named Polaris Forge II.

Nick noted indirectly that he'd been "very vocal" in the controversy that emerged after the Mayor of Fargo made a bid to annex the Harwood campus to his city. That controversy was resolved with the city of Harwood retaining jurisdiction on the campus.

**Building the AI factory**

With the help of powerpoint slides, Nick spoke at length on the construction process. First, he said, comes the initial dirt work, which involves leveling, gravel hauling, and laying the underground infrastructure. Second comes setting foundations, which is done with pounded piles as well as screw piles, and involves moving lots of gravel. Third is the "early concrete" which forms the foundation, readying the base for placing prestressed concrete components, which are trucked in from South Dakota or Minnesota.

The fourth stage, which takes place when the structure has been enclosed, involves pouring floor concrete and sectioning out the building with interior walls. This is done in a heated environment,

so while subzero winds may rage outside, "It's like a balmy fall day inside." This work remains intense, with as many as 1,000 yards of concrete being laid in a day, and 700 drywall sheets being hung.

"When we got to North Dakota in 2021," Nick recalled, "we were a brand new company, and did not anticipate doing construction in the winter." But, he said, "we've done it for five years. We are now a winter construction company. We have somehow managed to perfect the process."

Nick also mentioned the massive backup generators that are designed to keep the power supply steady even under extreme emergency circumstances. He noted that the 100 megawatt Polaris Forge 1-1 plant has 60 generators, and the Polaris Forge 1-2 building will have 96: about 18 of these are already installed.

Nick noted that the first building has a unique three-story design, with cooling and generating equipment located outside the structure. In contrast, the buildings under construction, both at Ellendale and Harwod, are one story: they will house cooling and backup under a single roof. This design, he said, will ease maintenances and service, especially in the winter.

**Employees and traffic**

Nick said that the first building (Polaris 1-1,) now completed, has about 100 permanent full-time employees. Some of them, he said, are living on the south side of town, at Ellendale Acres. Many are from Aberdeen, and some are from smaller neighboring towns. "More than half of them," he said, "came from within 75 miles of Ellendale."

*(continued on page 8)*



Nick Phillips, Vice President of External Affairs for Applied Digital, smiles while interacting with the attendees. Since hosting his first town hall at the Opera House in September 2022, Nick has become a familiar face to area residents. He is no less busy than before, however, as his company has been expanding rapidly, most notably with the construction of a 300 megawatt facility at Harwood. (photo by Ken Smith)



Assisting Nick was Emma Perrotti, Community Engagement Coordinator. Emma has worked here for the past four months, and is available to answer questions related to Applied Digital's work in and around Ellendale: [eperrotti@applieddigital.com](mailto:eperrotti@applieddigital.com). (photo via Linked In)

Public Notices: EPS Board Minutes, Nov. 6, 2025 / Ellendale City Council Minutes, Dec. 11, 2025

**ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**November 6, 2025**

The Ellendale Public School Board met on November 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Michele Thorpe, Val Wagner, Kristi Gilbert, Jeff Goehring and Cresta Miller. Others present were Jeff Ringsstad, Lana Norton, Cindy Rall and Allison Radermacher.

Mrs. Thorpe called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed visitors Pamela Cook and Jason Elliot. Items 6 (Welcome Visitors) and 7 (Public Comments) were adjusted on the agenda. Mrs. Thorpe shared a letter from NDAS-BM congratulating Lana Norton on earning the Gold Medallion Certificate of Merit. She also distributed Applied Wisdom for the Nonprofit Sector to each board member and the administrative team.

The consent agenda included the minutes, financial reports and bills as presented, including the Cenex Fleetcard bill, once it is received. Goehring reviewed the bills and the following bills were presented for payment:

October Payroll DD 380-385, 7236-7296 Ck#16137-16152 \$320,993.67  
27636 281 Repair 6,914.20 #11 Transmission  
27637 Blumhardt Chevrolet 2,364.13 Bus Service  
27638 Central Business Systems Inc 429.39 Managed Print Service  
27639 Cole Papers Inc 2,509.51 Custodial Supplies  
27640 CREA 18,175.00 Quarter 1 Services  
27641 DPCU 1,060.90 Supplies  
27642 Dickey County Highway Dept 80.00 Bus Washing x 2  
27643 Dickey County Leader 432.63 Publishing  
27644 DRN 218.82 Phone Services  
27645 Ellendale City of 2,349.96 Utilities  
27646 Ellendale Community Ambulance 124.00 CPRI/AED Training  
27647 Ellendale Grocery 23.07 Supplies  
27648 Ellendale True Value 523.33 Supplies  
27649 EPS Activity Fund 40.00 Background Check  
27650 Farmers Union Oil Co 1,570.48 LP/Tires  
27651 Geffdog 437.32 Cust/Food Services Polos  
27652 Jerke Irrigation 185.00 Winterization  
27653 Leaf 44.80 Copier/Printer Lease  
27654 Mackin 119.98 Book Order  
27655 Paul Mahler 150.00 DOT Physical  
27656 Ross Merkel 280.00 Mowing  
27657 Mertz Lumber & Supply 56.57 Tech Ed Supplies  
27658 Colette Middlestead 1,139.99 Tuition Course/ Books  
27659 Dale Middlestead 10.00 Fingerprinting Fee  
27660 Rebekah Middlestead 142.76 Stem Supplies  
27661 ND All- State 160.00 All State Auditions  
27662 ND Center for Distance Education 707.00 Online Coursework  
27663 NDSBA 375.00 Online Evaluation Services  
27664 NDSBA Legal Direct 214.50 Legal Services  
27665 North Dakota Attorney General 15.00 Background Check  
27666 NDSC 6,104.76 Bus Driver Training  
27667 Lana Norton 60.00 Meals

27668 Macy Norton 50.00 Childcare  
27669 Olson's Pest Technicians 175.00 Service Fee  
27670 Allison Radermacher 418.60 Colony Field Trip Meal  
27671 Radisson 681.00 Lodging  
27672 Cindy Rall 354.20 Mileage  
27673 Really Good Stuff 21.92 Pencils  
27674 Renaissance Learning 5,642.25 Accelerated Reader  
27675 Jeffery Ringstad 616.80 Meals/ Mileage  
27676 SRCTC 2,560.31 Summer SAE Payment  
27677 Sysco 132.94 Cookies  
27678 Taylor Music 65.00 Repairs  
27679 Carrin Thorpe 170.00 Mowing  
27680 Michele Thorpe 40.00 Meals  
27681 Valuations Northwest, Inc 4,585.50 Asset Tags/Appraisal  
27682 Verizon Wireless 443.11 Hot Spot Billing  
27683 Valerie Wagner 269.60 Mileage/ Meals  
ACH TMS 44.10 Monthly Fee  
ACH MDU 4,900.97 Electricity  
ACH EPS 261.95 eFunds Fees  
ACH Cenex Fleetcard 4,046.27 Gas/ Diesel  
Total \$72,497.62

It was motioned by Goehring, seconded by Wagner to approve the items on the consent agenda. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Motion carried.

**EPS Spotlight:**

- SADD Red Ribbon Week - a big thank you to Deanne Olson and SADD members for bringing in Terrance Talley to speak, and organizing a great week.
- Staff shared things they have seen students do above and beyond.
- Congratulations to Macy N for signing with VCSU to compete in track!
- Thank you to the NDSU Extension Office for coming into the school to celebrate 4H Week at EPS!
- Congrats to the EEK Thunder Football Team who are the Region 1 Champions!
- Congrats to the Cardinal Cyber Madness team for placing 8th today in the Virtual Play-In Rounds, which qualifies them for the Final Tournament in Minot in November! Members of the team are Owen B, Evoleht H, Alex L and Matthew M.
- The Cardinal Cross-Country team placed in the Top 20 at the State XC Meet! Way to go!
- Thunder football ended a successful season making it to the Quarterfinals.
- Congrats to Mackenzie G for being selected as the District 5 FCCLA President! • Congratulations to the following Thunder Football players on being named to the All-Region team. 1st Team: Ivan C, Drew T, Seth I, Brogan Y, Benet G and Riggins S. Honorable Mention: Walker M, Porter G, Drew N and Ross F. Also, a big congratulations to Ivan C for being named the Region 1 Senior Athlete of the year and Region 1 Coach of the Year Garitt Irey!
- Congratulations to the Cardinal Volleyball team for their All-District Honors! Aubrey M made All-District Team, Coach Colette Middlestead is the District 2 Coach of the Year, and we had 11 girls on the All-Academic Team: Aubrey M, Anisten P, Riley G, Mya G, Macy N, Madeline T, Michaela B, Mackenzie G, Kinsey M, Macyn G and Alivia K. • EHS Drama Team placed 3rd at Regionals! Aidan T received a Superior acting award and Marcus H and Samuel H received Honorable Mentions! Way go to, Cardinals

Lana Norton, Business Manager  
Formally Approved by the Board

**(December 25, 2025)**

**CITY OF ELLENDALE**  
Regular Meeting  
December 11, 2025  
6:00 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual

This meeting was held at City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.

Mayor Flaherty called the public hearing to order at 6:00 PM with Council members in attendance: Lee, Meidinger, Langeliers and Crabtree. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: Denison, and Belgarde

City Employees present: Auditor Gunn, Deputy Auditor Schmidt, Attorney Kelly, and PW Monroe via zoom.

Others attending: Separate sign-in sheet available.

Mobile Home/RV Parks Ordinance Hearing: No public comment. Lee moves, Meidinger seconds pursuant to NDCC 40-47-04(3) the City of Ellendale Council hereby make the following written findings that specify the grounds upon which it has decided to amend its zoning ordinances regarding the regulation of Mobile Home Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks. The grounds include the fact that it is proper with the purposes of NDCC 40-47-03 to change the zoning in the area in question to protect the interests of the public, Roll call vote: Meidinger, Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree- yes. Absent: Denison, Belgarde.

City of Ellendale East Annexation: No public comment. Crabtree moves, Lee seconds to recommend the annexation of parts of the eastern portion of current City of Ellendale city limits to include Ellendale City Cemetery, Outlot 12-4, Hasz family subdivision, and a portion of 1st St N and a portion of 90th Ave SE, requested by property owners. Roll call: Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger-yes. Absent: Denison, Belgarde. Hearing closed 6:05 pm

Regular City council meeting starts at 6:05 pm.

Public Comment: None

Agenda Additions: Myron Meyers: Mr. Meyers recently purchased the rest of Blk 10 Northport Addn. in the City of Ellendale from previous owners. Meyers is aware there are items in the right-of-way, and he will work on getting that stuff removed from the right of way. He was also concerned about lack of streetlights on the road in Northport Addn., but there is a streetlight fee on his utility bill. Auditor Gunn to investigate.

Staley Storage Container: Was able to complete roof and one side of siding, no siding on back side of container yet, bad weather preventing him from completing it. Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to have Staley bring another update at January regular council meeting. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

O.P.E.R.A Grant: Greg Gackle with Ellendale Opera House is requesting a letter of support from City of Ellendale for the Opera House to apply for a Rural Catalyst Grant to replace their aging roof on the Opera House in Ellendale. Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to write a letter of support for Opera House to apply for this grant. Roll call vote: Langeliers, Crabtree, Lee- yes. Absent: Denison, Belgarde. Meidinger abstains. Motion carries.

Wade: Street Project: Working on numbers that will be more in depth at January meeting. Applying for grants that we should hear back in December if we receive them or not.

Wade: EMS Building: Things are progressing quite well. 65% complete, with a completion time frame May 2026. Lee moves, Crabtree seconds to pay estimate #7 in the amount of \$177,300.00 to Quest Construction. Roll call vote: Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger- yes. Absent: Denison, Belgarde. Motion carries.

Denison arrives at 6:25 PM.

Ellendale Township Road Agreement: Ellendale Township reviewed JPA with City of Ellendale that was drafted, came back with a counterproposal. Ellendale Township wants to be able to negotiate after 5 years when the contract is supposed to terminate. City Attorney Fallon to work on changes and bring back to council. Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to revise this agreement regarding discussed terms to bring back to council at next special meeting. All in favor, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Alarm Monitoring System: EMS Building will need alarm monitoring system. Proposal was sent with three different types of monitoring. Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to choose Option #3 IP with cell back up, as it is the better option. Roll call vote: Denison, Meidinger, Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree- yes. Absent: Belgard. Motion carries.

Strategic Plan: New updated plan submitted by KLJ Construction and ND Dept. Commerce who drafted it. Will be discussed more in depth at January meeting.

Police Report: Police Chief Knutson submitted a report for November along with quotes to renew their tasers as their current ones are very outdated. Lee moves, Crabtree seconds to renew the taser plan at a 5-year renewal.

Roll call: Meidinger, Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Denison- yes. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries. Interviews for another officer have been conducted and maybe reach out with an offer starting at \$55,000 a year.

Public Works: PW Monroe reports on November activities. Received the stump grinder, was able to get some stumps ground before the snow. Possible issue with shipping container on EPS property, letter to be sent. Concerns regarding Stanley mobile home court new trailer placement. Possible request for variance.

Variance Request: Gary Dathe requesting variance for placement of trailers in Stanley Trailer Park. Measurements and possible survey will be done to determine if a variance is needed. Licensing of that property to operate as a trailer court is near completion.

Building Permits: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve new enclosed entryway at 213 7th St N for Brad Morrissey; and for a bathroom remodel at 308 7th Ave N for Matt Thorpe. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. After receiving from council at last meeting what model type for Custom Touch Homes to put onto Bell's Addn. lots, they have since submitted formal building permits for the option that was chosen. There will be two separate modular homes for temporary housing. Crabtree moves, Lee seconds to approve these building permits contingent upon they are laid out on the lots according to city ordinances, city zoning and within correct lot lines. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Absent: Belgarde.

Raffle Permit: Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to approve raffle permit for Thunder Wrestling. All in favor, aye. Motion carries . Absent: Belgarde.

First Reading Annexation Ordinance: First Reading East Annexation by petition from landowners. Zoning to change after annexation. Meidinger moves, Langeliers seconds to adopt First Reading of East Annexation for City of Ellendale. Roll call vote: Denison, Lee, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger-yes. Absent: Belgarde

Second Reading: Lee moves, Denison seconds to approve Second Reading for Mobile Home/RV Courts ordinance. Roll call: Denison, Medinger, Crabtree, Lee, Langeliers- yes. Absent: Belgarde.

Liquor License Renewals: Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to approve the semi-annual liquor licenses from January 1, 2026, though June 30, 2026; full liquor licenses for American Legion, Granary, Rooster's Corner, Casey's General, and Pheasant Lanes; beer only for Dickey County Fair Board and beer and wine for American Revival Ribs. All in favor, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Pledge Reports: Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to approve the Pledge reports given by Choice Bank, Dakota Plains Credit Union, and Starion Bank. All members, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Minutes: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve the minutes from November 10, 2025, regular meeting, and November 24, 2025, Special meeting. All in favor, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Operating Statement/Fund Activity: Langeliers moves, Crabtree seconds to approve November 2025 operating statement/fund activity report. All in favor, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Bills: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve November 2025 bills. All in favor, aye. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Sales Tax Distribution: With a bigger influx of Sales Tax monies, a different distribution system was discussed. Lee moves, Medinger seconds to approve the new sales tax distribution beginning in 2026 as follows: First \$600K to go to all original entities to receive their current portions. The next \$200K each original entity will receive 50% of what they would normally receive, with the other 50% being set aside for building maintenance for senior center. Anything after \$800K each original entity would receive 25% of what they would normally receive with the other 75% to be put into a reserve account to be used as needed for situations that arise. Roll call: Denison, Meidinger, Lee, Crabtree, Langeliers-yes. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

Bond Payoff Discussion: There are three years left on utility bond loan that was for sewer work done in 2008 that is on current utility bills for \$8.50. There is enough in that account to pay off the loan early, with leftover funds to go into special assessment fund. Denison moves, Crabtree seconds to pay loan off early and take bond payment of \$8.50 off utility bills beginning in January 2026. Roll call vote: Denison, Langeliers, Lee, Meidinger, Crabtree- yes. Absent: Belgarde. Motion carries.

*(Continued on page 7)*

