

Wishek City Council regular meeting minutes, continued from page 7

Vickers Report-fire hall/siren was discussed, motion by Welder 2nd by Lipp to move warning siren to new fire hall and apply for a grant, roll call vote 5-0

Police report – Lawn & junk letters were discussed. Tabby's air in the car is not working. New Police truck is done. Police budget was discussed. Missing house numbers were also discussed.

Street report – Kiefer presented a bid from Jeff Meidinger for \$11,000 on a side by side, motion by Opsahl 2nd by Roth to purchase, roll call vote 5-0.

Mayor's report – reminded everyone that the Emergency shelter is the armory and the civic center is the storm shelter. Employee Eval's/salary info. Motion by Eiseman 2nd by Lipp to give Josh a \$1.50 (5.35%) an hour raise, roll call vote 5-0. Motion by Lipp 2nd by Welder to give Logan a \$2.00 (10%) an hour raise, roll call vote 5-0. Motion by Lipp 2nd by Opsahl to give Zach \$1.00 (5%) an hour raise, roll call vote Welder-n, Roth-n, Eiseman-n, Lipp-y, Opsahl-y 2-3, motion failed. Motion by Roth 2nd by Welder to give Zach \$.50 (2.5%) an hour raise, roll call vote Opsahl-n, Lipp-n, Eiseman-n, Roth-y, Welder-y, 2-3 motion failed. Motion by Opsahl 2nd by Roth to give Zach a 4% raise (\$.80) an hour, roll call vote, Eiseman-n, Lipp-n, Welder-y, Roth-y, Opsahl-y 3-2. Motion by Eiseman 2nd by Opsahl to give Nikki a \$.50 (2.95%) an hour

raise, roll call vote 5-0. Motion by Lipp 2nd by Opsahl to give Tabby a 4% raise, roll call vote Welder-y, Eiseman-n, Roth-y, Lipp-y, Opsahl-y 4-1. Motion by Eiseman 2nd by Welder to give Andy a 2.5% raise, roll call vote, Lipp-n, Roth-n, Opsahl-n, Welder-n, Eiseman-y, 4-1, motion failed. Motion by Lipp 2nd by Roth to give Andy a 4% raise, roll call vote Welder-n, Roth-y, Eiseman-n, Lipp-y, Opsahl-y 3-2. Motion by Opsahl 2nd by Lipp to give Mary a 4% raise, roll call vote, Roth-y, Opsahl-y, Eiseman-n, Welder-y, Lipp-y 4-1. Opsahl-Report – water shed bid to update pipes from Core & Main for \$13,479.87, motion by Lipp 2nd by Eiseman to approve, roll call 5-0. Armory roof was discussed, will send out letters for help to repair/fix roof. DL Barkie for the Water Systems Improvement Project update is going well. Welder-Report – Civic Center roof did not leak this time. Cement colors were discussed. Door for inside bar area was discussed. Utility estimate was presented. Roth-Report-Cameras were discussed for city dump and lawn clippings area. Tourism-City received \$1850 in donations for the Osh Kosh sign. On a motion by Opsahl to adjourn meeting at 8:36 pm. Attest:

Mary Vickers, Auditor

Brenda Dohn, Mayor
(7-16-25)

I-BAND Signs Joint Letter Urging USDA to Maintain Ban on Mexican Cattle Imports Amid Screwworm Threat

The Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (I-BAND) has joined a coalition of national, state, and county cattle associations in signing a formal letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to immediately reverse its decision to reopen southern ports for live cattle imports from Mexico.

The joint letter, transmitted electronically to Secretary Rollins on July 3, 2025, outlines deep concerns over the continued presence and northward spread of the New World Screwworm (NWS) in Mexico. The USDA itself has acknowledged the devastating impact this pest poses to livestock, wildlife, and even humans—warning of “catastrophic” consequences should it reach the United States.

“Reopening the border to live cattle imports from Mexico while active screwworm outbreaks persist is an unnecessary gamble with the health of our national herd and rural livelihoods,” said I-BAND President Frank Tomac. “The USDA’s duty is to protect U.S. livestock producers—not put them at risk for the sake of trade expediency.” The letter calls for the USDA to:

- Maintain the current ban on Mexican cattle, bison, and equines until NWS is eradicated within Mexico’s borders.
- Produce a science-based, quantitative risk

assessment of reopening the border.

- Provide public notice and comment before lifting any safeguards.

Recent USDA reports confirm multiple detections of NWS in Mexico as of June 2025. The agency’s June 30 announcement of a phased reopening lacks a clear explanation of how risk was assessed or mitigated, raising alarms among U.S. cattlemen. The coalition of signatories—representing more than a dozen states—warns that relaxing import restrictions now will eliminate the last line of defense against a pest that has already breached containment efforts in Panama and southern Mexico.

“The threat is real, and the consequences are permanent,” Tomac said. “Now is the time for caution, not compromise.”

In addition to signing the national letter, I-BAND will be asking North Dakota’s congressional delegation, state legislators, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring to strongly oppose the USDA’s decision and push to keep the border closed until the threat is fully eliminated.

I-BAND joins associations from California, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming, and others, alongside national organizations including R-CALF USA and the International Texas Longhorn Association, in calling for immediate USDA action.

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