

Acreage at Pheasant Lake County Park to be sold

Story & Photo by Ken Smith

At the January 20, 2026 meeting of the Dickey County Commission, the question was considered of what to do with the undeveloped acreage in the southwest corner of the county-owned park at Pheasant Lake. The topic has been under consideration for several years. By a 4-1 vote, the commissioners decided to sell the available acres. This would not impinge on the beach or dock areas.

As reported in the July 13, 2023 Leader, a proposal for converting this undeveloped land into a campground was put forth. Commissioner Jerry Walsh had raised the point that the land, which is home to a frisbee golf course, rows of lovely trees and a lot of grass, was barely being used. The county was, however, paying for its mowing and maintenance, in amounts that was running into tens of thousands of dollars. Walsh stressed that some action should be taken that would make this land an asset instead of a liability.

It was pointed out at the time, though, that developing a proper camping area, with RV hookups, would require a major investment, with \$150,000 mentioned as a starting cost.

Some residents of Pheasant Lake objected to the camping park idea regardless of cost, concerned that it would negatively affect the quality of life in the neighborhood. In the discussion, the idea was expressed that perhaps the residents could form a cooperative and purchase the land from the county, leaving them free to maintain it and determine its future course, whether that would be to develop it or leave it as is.

As reported in the minutes of the February 3 Commission meeting, KLJ Engineer Bryan Tykwinski, who works with the County on numerous development issues, presented the plat map of the county park areas at Pheasant Lake for the Commission to review. The areas have been platted into 7 separate blocks on the west side of the lake. Discussion on the details for the sale of this land is on the agenda for the March 3, 2026 Commissioners meeting, which is scheduled for 9:00 AM at the courthouse. The meeting is open to the public and comment is welcomed.



'Surrounded by good people': 1 yr old gets mobility chair



Millie McLean wheels around in her 3D-printed mobility trainer with her mother, Anna McLean, behind her, and Walker Bruns, who made the chair, to the right. Abby Makay / WDAY

(continued from page 1)
The family had the design and blueprint for a wheelchair but nobody to make it. That's when Walker stepped up.

"Walker has always been ... he would give you the shirt off his back, and that is what he did. He refused payment, he did this out of the goodness of his heart," Alex said.

That moment the family and Millie saw and tried out the 3D-printed mobility trainer from Walker? It sure touched everyone.

"Seeing Millie sit in it on that first night, I had to look away, I didn't want to tear up but the cherry on the cake was seeing Millie sit in it and laughing when they pushed her around, it was unreal," Bruns said.

The 3D-printed mobility trainer is everything Millie needed. It helps her to learn independence while also spending time with siblings. All because of small town compassion and ingenuity.

"We are surrounded by good people in this town," Alex said of Edgeley. They all rose to the top for Millie.

"Sometimes I feel like with two sets of twins we are surviving, not thriving. You put one foot in front of the other and you do the best you can. But it takes a village and there is something to be said about living in a small town and what you get from that is not replaceable," Anna said. This is small-town living at its very best.

Lost WW2 sailor may finally return to North Dakota

(continued from page 1)
Murray Sagsveen, attorney for the Western North Dakota Synod ELCA, who documents rural cemeteries in the state, was able to connect with Dovre Lutheran congregation in Newburg regarding Darcy's interest in locating a relative.

Lisa Florin, during Sunday services in Newburg in January, passed a message to parishioners about Darcy's research. Judy Hunsor, a friend of Peterson's in attendance, passed the information to her about Darcy's work.

"It would be awesome if everything works out for the family," Florin said.

Darcy has contacted the DPAA and is waiting to hear if the case will move forward.

He said both the wrecks off Newfoundland and another in New York harbor were batched together to be investigated, but work never went forward after DNA samples were collected.

The DPAA likes to conduct group investigations because it is more efficient, Darcy said, but he is hoping they move more quickly on Cool's case as well as others he's recently come across.

It may be easier to process the case since the deceased were buried individually, and not as a group, he said.

"I would really like to go forward with this," Peterson said. "And give him a proper burial."

Back in Newburg, an empty gravesite at Dovre Lutheran Cemetery with Orlan's name on the stone lies near the graves of his father and mother.

A total of 203 seamen perished in the wrecks of the Pollux and Truxton, while 186 survived.

The last known survivor of the Pollux, Lanier Phillips, died in 2012.

Phillips, the grandson of slaves, served as a mess attendant on the ship due to segregation policies in the Navy at the time. Years after the war he became a civil rights activist, joining Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Darcy maintains a database of over 17,000 MIAs from WWII; 340 of those are from North Dakota. He's currently attempting to identify another 10 from North Dakota who went missing in action during the war, and hopes relatives step forward if they recognize names.

Once they do, they can request a DNA kit from the DPAA to start the process of identification and potentially get the remains returned to North Dakota, though procedures can take several years.

One such case is U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Irvin C. Ellingson, of Dahlen, North Dakota, whose remains were formally accounted for in June of 2025.

Ellingson was shot down over Japan in April 1945 and taken as a prisoner to the Tokyo Military Prison, where he died in a catastrophic fire the following month. The fire killed over 100 American POWs.

Remains of nearly three dozen of those POWs were examined in 2022, with Ellingson positively identified in that batch.

Ellingson will be buried in Dahlen on June 20, 2026.

The 10 from North Dakota Darcy is investigating include: Carrol L. Carlson of Bismarck, lost during the Palau campaign in the South Pacific; Norman J. Montplaisir of Horace, Melvin L. Nicholson of Bowsmont, and Arnt G. Odegaard of Tioga, all lost during kamikaze strikes in Okinawa; John T. Opsvig of Ward County, stationed in Sichuan but lost during China operations near present day Wuhan; Carrol N. Osterdahl of Ransom County, lost during operations in Malaysia; Arnold A. Pfaff of Sheridan County, lost in Ottre, Belgium; Aldrich A. Seelye of Cavalier County, lost at Neuenkirchen, Germany; Eldred W. Stafney of Burleigh County, lost at Haiphong, Vietnam (French Indochina at the time); and George A. Swenson of Ward County, lost off of Chieuti on the east coast of mainland Italy.

Families can contact Darcy at: teddarcy@yahoo.com or through the website at: wfirg.com.

Sagsveen said the list itself tells a story.

"Young men from every corner of North Dakota were deployed to serve and die in every corner of the globe," Sagsveen said. "The ranks indicate they were junior commissioned and noncommissioned officers, likely leading small units into battle."



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OPENING FOR ELLENDALE PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

The City of Ellendale is looking to hire a Public Works Employee to oversee the following maintenance to keep the City in good working order and sound condition:

- Streets
- Alleys
- Water system
- Sewer system
- Landfill areas
- General maintenance of equipment
- Mowing
- Cutting and trimming trees
- Cemetery
- Perform a variety of manual labor duties which will include all maintenance, heavy equipment operations, snow removal and other duties as required.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with other employees, public officials and the public.
- The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 75 pounds or more.
- This job typically works 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday and will be required to be on call during scheduled evenings and weekends.
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States. No sponsorships

considered.

- A valid ND Driver's License is required and the ability to obtain a Class B CDL.
- A high school diploma/GED is required; the ability to pass and obtain all required ND State licensing and certification requirements when eligible.
- Successful applicants will be highly motivated and self-directed.
- Successful applicant will require a background inquiry.
- Experience preferred; and essential that the public works employee be service oriented.
- Must live within 30 minutes of the city limits.
- Wages DOE

Applications/Resumes will be accepted until filled, please submit to City Hall (P O Box 267 - 55 3rd Ave S - Ellendale ND 58436).

Benefits included: BCBS - Health, Vision, Dental, Retirement, Vacation, Sick Leave, On-Call pay, Overtime past 40 hrs, Garbage/Water discount if live in city limits

For further details, please contact Mayor Don Flaherty; Council Member Justin Meidinger or City Hall -701-349-3252.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (Make request). There are none that can withstand your power.

Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times)

Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands. (3 times)

Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you in full. Thanks

PUBLIC NOTICE: ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Regular Meeting City Council

February 9, 2026

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, Belgarde, Denison via zoom and Crabtree. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: None

City Employees present: Auditor Gunn, Attorney Kelly, Police Chief Knutson, Deputy VanZee, Officer Poolman and PW Monroe via zoom.

Others attending: Separate sign-in sheet available.

Public Comment: None

Strategic Plan: Lee moves, Crabtree seconds to adopt and implement the Strategic Plan presented at the January 2026 meeting. Roll Call vote: Meidinger, Denison, Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree-yes. Motion carries.

Wade: EMS Building: Construction going well. Building 75% complete, interior coming together nicely. Play estimate for \$96,300.00 for this month with a finish date of May 1, 2026. Belgarde moves, Lee seconds to pay the current month's pay estimate.

Wade: Street Project: Received word the city did not receive the grant that was applied for. Scope and potential costs of work discussed for city wide street project planned for later this year. Maps and cost sheets provided to council. Street projects have more requirements than water tower/sewer projects. Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to have city engineer to move forward with street project planning. Roll call vote: Denison, Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger-yes. Motion carries.

Midwest Inspection Contract Report: Fees should be paid by Applied Digital within the week, Midwest ready to move upon completion of payment from the City.

Agenda Additions: Senior Center renovations

Police Report: Calls have been normal. Traffic and parking where there should not be are issues all over town. New squad car should be picked up next week. New police officer has started and is doing ride alongs. Will have to go to ND law training later in March/April. City Attorney Fallon administered Oath of Office to Natham Poolman as the third officer for City of Ellendale.

Public Works: PW Monroe reports for January. Keeping an eye on ice and snow melt to keep water flowing. Vacation hours over the max currently. Belgarde investigated how other cities handle carry-over vacation hours, all of which is more than the City of Ellendale. Belgarde moves, Langeliers seconds to go with the state standard from State of ND to let employees carry over 240 hours annually. Roll call vote: Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Denison. Motion carries.

Raffle Permit: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve the raffle permits for Ellendale Shooting Sports; Dickey County 4-H; and James River Ducks Unlimited. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Denison leaves at 7:30 pm

Building Permits: Belgarde discussing with contractor regarding remodel of Senior Center. Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to have Belgarde work with someone to put together bid package requirements to put this out for bids that will not go over \$5000 for that service. Roll call: Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Belgarde-yes. Denison absent. Motion carries. Belgarde moves, Lee seconds to approve City of Ellendale building permit contingent upon acceptance of a bid for the work to be performed. Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to approve the building permits for: R. Reed to convert existing garage into living space at 508 2nd Ave N; D. Bennett for kitchen remodel at 601 1st St N; D. Sigafos to rebuild attached garage at 300 7th St N and for a revised building permit for J. Elliot for a shop on 4th St N. All members, aye. Motion carries.

Special Permit: Special permit submitted by Dickey County 4H for May 2, 2026. Permit tabled until they can provide a route for the fun run to the council.

Streetslights Northport Addition: Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to put streetslights in Northport Addition on 8th St N. All members, aye. Motion carries.

Commercial lots up for bid: There has been interest in buying two city commercial lots along Main St by the old Legion building. Will be inquiring with Legion about the feasibility of possibly working something out and get parameters together for possible ad for bids.

Denison returns at 7:56 pm

Ellendale Township Road Agreement: Have not received a response from Ellendale Township regarding the possible road agreement. City Hall to reach out to see if they have questions or concerns regarding the matter.

Denison returns 7:56 PM

Minutes: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve minutes from January 12, 2026, regular meeting. All in favor, aye. Motion carries

Operating Statement/Fund Activity: Meidinger moves, Langeliers seconds to approve January 2026 operating statement/fund activity reports. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Bills: Lee moves, Denison seconds to approve January bills. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

2025 Financial Statement: Tabled until all transfers are complete.

Government P Card Program: Inquire as to who the City would be dealing with if there were any issues with the cards.

Special Meeting Compensation: Table until March meeting.

Senior Center Rental: A couple of people have inquired about renting out the senior center for different activities. Agreement for Dickey County Transport has been drafted, city hall to send to Dickey County Senior Citizens board to look over to lease office space at the senior center. Inquire as to insurance restrictions on renting out senior center for different activities.

New Building Permit Review: Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to approve new building permit contingent upon the few changes suggested to go into effect as of April 1, 2026.

Correspondence: None

Next meeting: Regular meeting March 9, 2026

NLDC Spring Conference March 17-19, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

PAYMENTS	
Visa	\$1,719.70
WSI	\$3,494.01
Metro	\$400.00
Software Innovations	\$600.00
Matheson Tri-Gas	\$59.76
MDU	\$5,623.66
Interstate Engineering	\$12,577.07
Farmers Union Oil	\$2,574.73
BCBS of ND	\$9,133.76
Railroad Management	\$458.76
ND One Call	\$13.50
Farmers Poolman Service Assoc.	\$44.00
Nathan Poolman	\$581.20
Donald Flaherty	\$229.60
Anne Vande Hei	\$75.00
Lucas Van Zee	\$111.08
Mertz Lumber	\$413.88
ND Chemistry Lab	\$367.10
Graham Tire	\$948.00
John Deere Financial	\$133.58
John Deere Financial	\$7,500.00
Dickey Co. Treasurer	\$19,140.29
Computer Express	\$639.94
Dickey Co. Leader	\$2,136.89
Butler Machinery	\$1,000.00
Amazon	\$346.84
Dickey Co. Recorder	\$20.00
Eco. Devel. Assoc. of ND	\$150.00
Jays HiWay Furniture	\$11,578.00
Central Business Systems	\$201.74
Post Board	\$45.00
Council	\$692.64
Mayor	\$277.46
City	\$30,382.36
Ambulance	\$19,567.51
IRS	\$14,321.15
Ellendale Childcare Center	\$50,000.00
Story City Ford	\$44,143.20

Ellendale Park Board	\$2,173.71
Postmaster	\$272.38
Farmers Union Oil Co.	\$2,921.61
Verizon Wireless	\$268.85
Jays Company	\$92.66
DRN	\$997.65
MDU	\$3,125.38
James Monroe	\$317.00
Strengthen ND	\$2,000.00
Lorena Lynde	\$240.00
Motorola Solutions	\$7,889.40
AFLAC	\$590.46
Dickey Co. Leader	\$1,337.76
Jones and Kelly	\$2,560.00
Joyce Mosley	\$149.57
ND One Call Concepts	\$4.50
Recycle ND	\$28,426.80
NAPA Auto Parts	\$296.11
Rapid Response	\$1,000.00
Southeast Water Users	\$15,000.00
Ellendale True Value	\$36.77
Postmaster	\$78.00
Galls, LLC	\$917.71
Amazon Capital Services	\$269.05
Information Technology	\$417.54
Interstate Engineering	\$21,258.25
Ellendale Grocery	\$5.09
Climate Control	\$346.95
Ellendale Concrete	\$184.56
Axon Enterprises	\$200.00
Karl Emergency Vehicles	\$21,056.38
Ferguson	\$1,300.53
Vestin	\$76.98
VISA	\$2,995.40
Quest Construction	\$96,348.15
Quest Construction	\$34,151.85
TOTAL:	\$491,008.46

Landfill Hours Dec. 1 - March 31

Saturdays: 10 am – 4 pm

Donald Flaherty, Mayor
Nicole Gunn, Auditor
(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at next regular meeting.)

(February 26, 2026)