

Poll: Support slips in North Dakota for President Trump's tariff policies

(continued from page 1)

Overall, Trump's approval ranking remains high in North Dakota. The poll found 56% approve of his performance, with 39% disapproving. The highest approvals came in Western North Dakota, with 73% happy with his performance; the lowest was in Fargo/Cass County where only 35% approved. Independent respondents were somewhat split, with 39% approving, 48% disapproving, and 13% not sure. "Trump's very popular. He won a resounding percentage of the vote all three times he ran in North Dakota, so that's not surprising," said Mark Jendrysik, a professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Dakota. "I think the main interesting point was the obvious difference between Cass County and the rest of the state, which I don't think is that much of a surprise, but it's definitely growing in importance as Fargo grows larger and that area becomes a higher percentage of the state's overall population," Jendrysik said. Most national polls in the past few weeks have Trump's approval ranking somewhere between 32-45% and disapprovals between 53-67%. "It's all mirroring the national trends, but it's just that Trump started out at a much higher level here in North Dakota, and obviously remains more popular here than nationally," Jendrysik said. A total of 55% of voting-age North Dakotans approve of Trump's handling of the economy, while 41% disapprove. Again, the highest approvals were in Western North Dakota at 65% and the least favorable numbers were in Fargo/Cass County where only 38% approve of the

president's economic policies. The Iran War and national security led as the top concern of North Dakotans at 26%. "The war issue is an interesting one," Jendrysik said. "The longer it goes on, the more it becomes top of mind for people, but right now it hasn't ... beyond the price of gasoline and diesel going up ... it hasn't had a major effect on people's lives." War concern was followed by several others in a similar range: 17% felt that immigration is the top issue facing the country, 14% said inflation and affordability, 13% healthcare, and 12% the economy and employment. Only 2% said trade and tariffs was the top issue. Bitzan said if you batch some of the most similar ones together like trade, economy, affordability, they end up being the second most important issue. "I think this shows that affordability is on the top of people's minds due to the price increases they have experienced over the last year due to tariffs and concerns over energy prices with the recent conflict," Bitzan said. The North Dakota Poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from April 15 through April 19, 2026. A total of 625 North Dakota adult residents were interviewed statewide by telephone as part of the survey. The North Dakota Poll, sponsored by the North Dakota News Cooperative, is the only regular, non-partisan statewide survey of eligible North Dakota voters and consumers. *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.*

ND cattle industry sees growth amid historically high prices

By Korrie Wenzel Agweek
Dahlen, N.D.--Until around 1990, the Ellingson farm near Dahlen was a dairy operation.

But as the years passed, the daily rigors of milking convinced Terry Ellingson and his wife, Dee Ann, to pivot. With advanced degrees from Virginia Tech in hand, the Holstein herd was sold and the operation took on a new focus: registered Simmental genetics. "I love the Holstein cow, but it's too much work," Terry Ellingson said. "You're a slave to the cow." Three decades later, the decision is looking even more prodigious. The cattle market in North Dakota is on the rise, sparking an aura of optimism that some in the industry say hasn't existed in years — possibly ever. "There are a lot of bright spots in the beef industry," said North Dakota Stockmen's Association Executive Vice President Julie Ellingson, who knows Terry Ellingson but is not related. "We have seen unprecedented demand for beef, resulting in record-level market prices for most producers. It's an exciting time." North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is even more to the point. "The market," Goehring said, "has never been this good." According to data provided by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the state inventory for cattle shows 1.73 million head at present, marking an upward climb from 2022's 1.69 million. Prior to that, the state's herd consistently numbered a little more than 1.8 million, from 1.81 in 1997 to 1.83 million in 2017. Prices are up, too. Terry Ellingson said he's seeing a 25% increase in revenue on cattle sales. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Information Center shows 600- to 700-pound steers selling for approximately \$2,900, approximately \$500 to \$600 higher than in 2025. A Grand Forks Herald report from early March noted the increase in price, as well as a rise in optimism among producers — especially



Terry Ellingson checks one of the newest additions to the herd at his Simmental ranch near Dahlen, North Dakota, on March 20. Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

those in northeast North Dakota. In Devils Lake, for instance, Lake Region Livestock Auction Barn owner Chris Plummer told the *Herald* the cattle market has been strong this year, bucking a trend of low prices seen in the grain industry. "Everyone's pretty well aware that this cattle market is good," Plummer said. "If you're buying meat in the store, you're darn sure well aware of it." A number of factors are in play, according to Plummer and others. Among them: Prolonged drought conditions five years ago contributed to a selloff of cattle as pastures shriveled under the hot summer sun and producers couldn't afford to feed their cattle. A July 2021 *Herald* report noted that Lake Region Livestock Auction was selling 800 to 1,000 head weekly, more than double what it was selling prior to that year's drought. Fires in 2024 — mostly in western North Dakota — hampered production, too, Plummer said. Those distinctly North Dakota factors reduced the state's herd, but another — one spreading along the nation's southern border — is now causing a reaction as well. (continued on page 9)

SEE FRONT PAGE FOR SPRING CLEANUP HOURS
Regular Landfill Hours : April – September
Monday & Wednesday: 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (noon)
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Public Notices: ELLENDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES, APRIL 13, 2026

Record of Proceedings of the City Board of Equalization Ellendale City, Dickey County, North Dakota

CITY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
Duties, Complaints and Grievances
(North Dakota Century Code—Chapter 57-11)
57-11-01. Membership of board - Quorum - Meeting.
The board of equalization of a city consists of the members of the governing body, and shall meet at the usual place of meeting of the governing body of the city, on the second Tuesday in April in each year. The executive officer of the governing body shall act as chairman, but in the executive officer's absence the governing body may elect one of its members to preside. A majority of the board constitutes a quorum to transact business, and it may adjourn from day to day until its work is completed. In case a quorum is not present at any time, the clerk may adjourn from day to day and publicly announce the time to which the meeting is adjourned.

57-11-02. Duties of auditor. The city auditor, as clerk, shall keep an accurate record of all changes made in valuation, and of all other proceedings, and, within ten days after the completion of the equalization of the assessment, shall deliver the assessments as equalized to the county auditor of the county in which the city is situated, with the city auditor's certificate that the assessments are correct as equalized by the city board of equalization. The assessment as equalized must be accepted by the board of county commissioners in lieu of all other assessment rolls for the property in said city.

57-11-03. Duties of board - Limitation on increase - Notice. At its meeting, the board of equalization shall proceed to equalize and correct the assessment roll. It may change the valuation and assessment of any real property upon the roll by increasing or diminishing the assessed valuation thereof as is reasonable and just to render taxation uniform, except that the valuation of any property returned by the assessor may not be increased more than twenty-five percent without first giving the owner or the owner's agent notice of the intention of the board to increase it. The notice must state the time when the board will be in session to act upon the matter and must be given by personal notice served upon the owner or the owner's agent or by leaving a copy at the owner's last-known place of residence.

Board of Equalization Annual Meeting

April 13, 2026
5:30 PM – City Hall and via Zoom virtual meeting.

Mayor Donald Flaherty called the meeting to order with Council Members present: Tammy Belgarde, Bruce Crabtree, Tom Denison, Patrick Lee, and Justin Meidinger.
Absent: Jon Langeliers

City Employees present were: Attorney Kelly, PW J Monroe and Auditor Gunn.
Also present: Plus see attached sign-up sheet.

Mayor Flaherty turned meeting over to President Meidinger. Mayor Flaherty has no ability to vote because of also being the Tax Equalization Director/City Assessor. If a tie would occur or two or more abstained this would result in a no vote.

The Council was able to review the assessment book.
Minor adjustments to commercial properties.
Residential adjustment was a 5% increase to be compliant with the State.

Zoning Board Hearing Ellendale City Council

April 13, 2026

6:00 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual
This meeting was held at City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.

Council members in attendance: Lee, Denison, Crabtree, Belgarde, Langeliers and Meidinger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: None
City Employees present: Mayor Flaherty; Auditor Gunn; and Attorney Kelly.

Others attending: Separate sign-in sheet available
City Council operating as Zoning Board Hearing called to order at 6:00 PM

Amendments to Ch 5 Ordinances
No public comment
Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to recommend Resolution of Written Finding Regarding Zoning Changes to be

One person's property was reviewed and adjusted.

No other adjustments made
Applied Digital is now on Dickey County tax roll and is considered new growth

Homestead Credits:50 Veterans Service Credits: 10
Belgarde moves Crabtree seconds to approve Homestead Credit/Veterans Service Credits. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Lee moves, Denison seconds to approve the City of Ellendale Assessment book as presented. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Tax Equalization meeting concludes and is adjourned at 5:42 pm

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the proceedings of the City Board of Equalization of Ellendale City, Dickey County, North Dakota.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand this 13th day of April, 2026.

Nicole Gunn, City Auditor
(April 30, 2026)

approved by City Council. Roll call vote: Meidinger, Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree- aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM

(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at the next regular meeting.)

(April 30, 2026)

City Council Hearing City Council

April 13, 2026

6:05 pm – City Hall and Zoom Virtual
This meeting was held at City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.

Council members in attendance: Lee, Denison, Crabtree, Belgarde, Langeliers and Meidinger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: None

City Employees present: Mayor Flaherty; Auditor Gunn; and Attorney Kelly.

Others attending: Separate sign-in sheet available

City Council Public Hearing called to order at 6:05 PM

Amendments to Ch 5 Ordinances: No public comment
Hearing closed

(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at the next regular meeting.)

(April 30, 2026)

Regular Meeting Ellendale City Council

April 13, 2026

6:08 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, Belgarde, Langeliers, Denison via zoom and Crabtree. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: None
City Employees present: Auditor Gunn, Attorney Kelly, Police Chief Knutson, and PW Monroe via zoom.

Others attending: Separate sign-in sheet available.

Public Comment: Peggy and Tony Brandenburger concerned over charges on utility bill while they are out of town and their water is off, that garbage charges are still on. Discussed and City Hall will be putting together a FAQ's page for City website.

City Load Limits: Concerns being brought to council's attention trucks hauling dirt/gravel through residential streets and possibly violating load limits through the city. Matter was investigated and it was determined that no violations occurred.

Ellendale Food Pantry Request: Food pantry is expanding and is requesting city would donate crushed concrete for their parking lot. Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve this request. Roll call vote: Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger- yes. Motion carries.

Vacate of 14th Ave S: 14th Ave is the cul-de-sac in Davis Green Acres within city limits. All property owners have signed petition requesting this vacation. Process to begin with notices to be published and a hearing to be held later according to Century Code.

Wade: EMS Building: Final walk-thru resulted in a 3-page punch list items that need to be addressed before final payment is to be made. During that there were a few requests for change orders that will be brought to city council later. PE #11 for \$177,930.00. Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to approve PE #11. Roll call vote: Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee-aye. Motion carries.

Wade: Street Project: Public protest ends April 20, 2026, if no protest engineer can have plans and specs and other resolutions to bring to the council.

Wade: Comprehensive Plan: 75% complete, with an amendment to add a GIS layer for the City for \$7500. Lee moves, Belgarde seconds to approve this change order. Roll call vote: Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Denison- yes. Motion carries.

Water Easement: Interstate looking into a water easement the city may have had for drainage, but nothing has been found yet.

87th Ave Street Project: Request from BND to increase loan to \$3.5 million as costs for this project are turning out high-

er than originally planned. Terms/rates remain the same. Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to move forward with the loan process at the new amount. Roll call vote: Lee, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger- yes. Absent: Denison. Motion carries. This will be a special assessment of the property owner that is along that road. Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to approve Finance Resolution for this project. Roll call vote: Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee- aye. Absent: Denison. Motion carries.

Cemetery Mowing Bid: One bid submitted but was submitted past the deadline. Meidinger moves, Belgarde seconds to rebid the mowing with bid opening being set for April 21, 2026, at 5:30 pm and bids to be submitted to auditor by 4 pm Friday April 17, 2026.

City lots for sale: One bid received for city lots 13-14 Original Plat. Mark Fiechtner bids \$1000 for both lots to demo current buildings and build commercial/mixed use space. Lee moves, Langliers seconds to accept this bid. Roll call vote: Meidinger, Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree- yes. Motion carries.

Agenda Additions: None
Police Report: A lot of traffic everywhere. New officer passed all courses and will begin rotation for patrolling.

Public Works Report: Repairing/fixing different things. Grinding a lot of stumps. City wide clean up to be published for 2026 where landfill will be open more often.

Building Permits: Belgarde moves, Lee seconds to approve all building permits except for Custom Touch Home permit- Belgarde motions, Meidinger seconds to amend that motion to also go over Bombersbach permit. All in favor- Denison. All nay- Meidinger, Belgarde, Langeliers, Lee, Crabtree- yes. Motion fails. Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to approve all building permits altogether but discuss V. Jordan. T. Bombersbach and Custom Touch Homes separately. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meidinger moves, Belgarde seconds to approve V. Jordan to put up a shed and small concrete pad at 16th Ave N, contingent upon owner working with public works in finding the 5 ft in property line, with taking fence off of this building permit to resubmit at a later date. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to approve Bombersbach permit for a new build house at 116 2nd St SW as presented. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Lee moves, Meidinger seconds to approve Custom Touch Homes on commercial lot on south side of Ellendale under the contingency that they provide specs for the garages to be submitted to City Hall. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Raffle Permit: Meidinger moves, Belgarde seconds to approve Raffle Permit for St. Helena's Church. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Minutes: Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to approve meeting minutes from:

Operating Statement: Meidinger moves, Belgarde seconds to approve operating statement. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

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

Dickey County: MDU needs payment in advance prior to moving poles for 87th Ave Street Project and county may need assistance with funds in order to be reimbursed from approved grant funds for this project. If City assisted they would be reimbursed from grant or loan proceeds. Meidinger moves, Lee seconds to loan these funds if Dickey County needs them as long as bond attorney can clarify if that is appropriation of

funds. Roll call vote: Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee-yes. Motion carries.

Senior Center Remodel: Applied for Applied Digital Cares grant for assistance to remodel Senior Center. Building needs extensive remodeling/updating. Council authorizes Council member Belgarde to receive a formal bid.

BCBS Renewal: 7% increase from last year. Meidinger moves, Langeliers seconds to approve to keep the BCBS plan that the city currently has. Roll call vote: Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger- yes. Motion carries.

Computer Express Quote: Computer needed for EMS Building. Quote from Computer Express for \$1185.00. Meidinger moves, Belgarde seconds to approve this quote. Roll call vote: Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger- yes. Motion carries.

DRN Security/phone quotes: City Hall/Water Plant needs security upgrades as current system is outdated. Received quotes for that and also to upgrade city phone system. Funds to come from Capital Improvement. Lee moves, Langeliers seconds to approve the quote for security upgrade for \$9,458.54 and for phone upgrade for \$9,469.15. Roll call vote: Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee-yes. Motion carries.

Midwest Inspection Report: Continuing weekly inspections on ELN-03, building primarily enclosed. Working with construction companies and Applied, working towards temporary occupancy permit to be issued hopefully soon. ELN-04 foundation is almost complete, pre-cast continuing nicely, work is progressing.

Lease Agreement: Rough draft of lease for Fair Board and Ellendale Public School for property belonging to the City that both entities use at different times during the year. Request from EPS requesting dirt work needing to be done on that property. Discussion on improvements being made, where they will pay for the supplies and the City will level off. Attorney Kelly to draft lease, to be given to EPS and Fair Board for review.

First Reading: Rezone Bell's Addn: Lee moves, Langeliers seconds for the First Reading to rezone Bell's Addn. from Commercial to Mixed-1. Roll call: Belgarde, Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Denison- yes. Motion carries.

First Reading: Amendment Ch. 5 Ordinances: Meidinger moves, Crabtree seconds to approve First Reading Ch. 5 Amendment Ordinance. Roll call: Langeliers, Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Denison, Belgarde- yes. Motion carries.

Dickey County Mitigation Plan: Dickey County Hazard Mitigation Plan sets out plans and goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property when there are county emergencies such as floods and natural disasters for the County to be able to receive assistance. Meidinger moves, Langeliers seconds to approve Resolution of the County of Dickey Adopting the Dickey County ND Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2026. Roll call: Crabtree, Meidinger, Lee, Denison, Belgarde, Langeliers- yes. Motion carries.

Correspondence: Manhole's along 281 will only be raised by ND DOT if there is a 281 project that goes through the city limits, or the city could pay to have them raised. NDDOT has a project in 2027 along HWY 11, let them know of any objections. Request map of project.

Applied Digital Sign Request: Applied Digital requesting to put a sign up that would be located on their property facing 96th St going E from 87th Ave. that

is a minimum maintenance road declaring it as such and no construction traffic. Council approves putting the sign up.

Next meeting: Special Meeting: April 21, 2026 @5:30 PM; Special Meeting Monday April 27 @ 6 PM; Regular meeting May 11, 2026 @ 6 PM

City Hall closed for NDIRF HR Training: April 22-23

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM
Bills

Postmaster	\$370.00
Void	0.00
Ellendale Motor Vehicle	\$25.50
Landrie Schmidt	\$67.00
Nicole Gunn	\$438.00
Donald Flaherty	\$421.00
Nathan Poolman	\$14.68
Ellendale Park Board	\$1,617.78
Assured Part. Of Minnesota	\$750.00
ND Dept. of Environ. Quality	\$105.00
Simple Wolf	\$1,271.88
Ferguson Water Works	\$785.54
Matheson Tri-gas	\$123.08
HR Collaborative	\$300.00
MDU	\$5,759.85
Metro Billing Services	\$625.00
NDLC	\$180.00
Mertz Construction	\$2,275.00
Ferguson Water Works	\$417.19
Eco Lab Pest Elimination	\$181.61
Dickey Co Hwy Dept	\$75.00
Ellendale Grocery	\$37.62
Amazon	\$152.97
BCBS of ND	\$11,270.28
Galls LLC	\$79.93
John Deere Financial	\$64.92
Visa	\$3,196.67
Post Board	\$25.00
Council	\$831.12
Mayor	\$317.77
City Employees	\$33,829.70
Ambulance	\$19,511.07
IRS	\$15,158.34
NDPERS	\$6,500.77
NDPERS	\$421.93
Peggy Brandenburger	\$81.00
Jonathan Juhula	\$50.00
Anne Vande Hei	\$20.00
JohnRay August	\$60.00
Postmaster	\$270.50
ND State Tax Commissioner	\$636.16
USDA - RD	\$49,684.00
Lorena Lynde	\$240.00
Strengthen ND	\$2,000.00
Southeast Water Users	\$15,000.00
Vestis	\$155.83
Aflac	\$620.98
281 Repair	\$366.47
Computer Express	\$2,381.94
DRN	\$1,110.39
Mertz Construction	\$190.60
Napa	\$5.66
NDLC	\$500.00
MDU	\$3,063.88
Railroad Management	\$458.76
Software Innovations	\$1,200.00
Ellendale True Value	\$153.23
Recycle ND	\$28,298.80
Amazon	\$21.98
Syn-Tech Systems	\$550.00
Starion Bank - Bis North	\$1,729.00
Verizon Wireless	\$570.49
Farmers Union Oil	\$1,587.31
Butler Machinery Co.	\$1,210.44
Rapid Response	\$275.00
Chad's Electric	\$125.65
Team Laboratory	\$1,012.00
Ellendale Concrete	\$175.00
Information Tech. Dept.	\$428.19
Total:	\$221,434.46

Donald Flaherty, Mayor
Nicole Gunn, Auditor

(Minutes subject to corrections and approval at next regular meeting.)

(April 30, 2026)