

Looking Ahead: What The Loss Of Crucial Funding Will Mean For Crime Victims In North Dakota

By Seth O'Neil and Greg Kasowski

In a perfect world, crime would not exist. But we don't live in a perfect world, at least not yet.

Last year, our organizations helped more than 10,000 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse and human trafficking. Our role is to support these survivors through some of the toughest, most traumatizing moments of their lives.

The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and through it, the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), has helped us do this crucial work for decades. VOCA supports thirty-seven crime victim service providers in North Dakota, and it does so without using federal taxpayer dollars. Through this critical funding, victims of domestic violence have gotten legal support to protect them from their abuser. Children have received free services to help them heal after sexual abuse. Victims of human trafficking have received justice and protection from their traffickers.

However, the CVF has been steadily declining for several years. The fund lacks stability, as it relies on inconsistent revenue sources such as fines, legal settlements, and forfeited bail from federal cases. This instability means that services fluctuate based on the amount of funding available.

Last year, the North Dakota's Legislative Assembly generously appropriated a supplemental \$7 million to our state's VOCA fund, which has stabilized our programs and ensured we can provide uninterrupted services to child and adult victims until next year. We are grateful to state lawmakers and the Armstrong Administration for understanding our duty to take care of crime victims.

However, the state funding is only a temporary fix. To solve this problem in the long term, we must make improvements at the federal level, and the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025 (CVFSA)

gives us time to do that. This vital legislation will help us maintain current service levels nationwide while allowing more time for the CVF to close the funding gap.

Thank you to Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak and the 326 bipartisan House members who co-sponsored the CVFSA, ensuring its passage recently. In the Senate, seven Republicans and eight Democrats have co-sponsored the CVFSA, highlighting its broad appeal. We encourage Senators Cramer and Hoeven to continue their long-standing support for victims of crime by joining their colleagues in cosponsoring the CVFSA.

The uncertainty in the Crime

Victims Fund means a dire future for organizations who serve victims of crime. Some may face drastic cuts or permanently close. You may not have had to access our services yourself, but everyone knows someone who has experienced some form of violence or abuse. Victims are our friends, family members, coworkers, and neighbors. To end services now would be to abandon our loved ones when they need support the most.

Seth O'Neil is the Executive Director for North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition and Greg Kasowski is the Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota.

HHS Seeks Public Input On Medicaid Waiver

North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking public comment on an amendment to the state's Medicaid Traditional Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver. Public comments will be accepted from January 26 through February 25, at 5 p.m.

The waiver offers a range of in-home and community-based services that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the least restrictive setting.

The purpose of the amendment is to implement changes in services and programming to improve access to home and community-based services and update language changes related to internal processes.

One proposed change is adding a new service, Host Homes, which will assist families during times of crisis by providing a private home where their child can live in the interim, with reunification with the family as the primary goal.

The waiver amendment application with the proposed changes

is available at hhs.nd.gov/waivers. Copies can be mailed upon request.

Comments can be submitted by mail to North Dakota Health and Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Section, Attn: Heidi Zander, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1A, Bismarck, N.D., 58501, by email to hzander@nd.gov, or by phone at (701) 328-8945, 711 (TTY).

After the public comment period ends, the waiver will be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Based on the CMS timeframes for review and approval, the waiver amendment is expected to be effective on June 1.

Waivers are agreements between CMS and a state's Medicaid agency and serve specific groups of people. Waivers specify the number of people to be served, eligibility criteria, available services, including any limits on services, and procedures for the evaluation and re-evaluation of level of care.

View the draft waiver amendment document at www.hhs.nd.gov/waivers. A copy will be provided upon request.

AVE NW TO 91ST AVE NW)

Engineer Hennessy discussed the amendment of contract for HDR Engineering for the three different design options for relocating power poles from 102nd Ave NW to 91st Ave NW, CR4 with Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC).

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the signing of the amendment to agreement for engineering services with HDR Engineering for the CR4 Improvement Project with an increase of \$57,080 with a grand total of \$1,036,778.29 with cost split 50% Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC) and the County. Upon roll call, DeGroot, Olson, Hollekim and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

2. CR3 PROJECT NO. 03(71)23

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve signing the Construction Agreement between Jensen Brothers Construction, Inc. and Mountrail County for the Palermo North CR3 Project No. 03(71)23. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, DeGroot, Ruland and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve signing the Notice to Proceed with Jensen Brothers Construction, Inc. for CR3 Project No. 03(71)23. Upon roll call, DeGroot, Hollekim, Ruland, Olson and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

3. 2026 TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve signing the 2026 Township Annual Road Maintenance Agreement with Egan Township. Upon roll call, Olson, Hollekim, Ruland, Rice and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

4. 2026 TOWNSHIP ANNUAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

Engineer Hennessy provided the 2026 Township Annual Road Maintenance Binders.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one had any comments.

5. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 10:37 A.M. to meet in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. Accepted and approved this 20th day of January, 2026.

Trudy Ruland, Chairman
Mountrail County Commissioner

Stephanie A. Pappa, Auditor
Mountrail County Auditor

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNTRAIL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in special session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 8:00 A.M. via GoToMeeting and Emergency/Community Room, Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley ND with Commissioners Joan Hollekim, John DeGroot, Trudy Ruland, Jason Rice and Wayne Olson present via GoToMeeting. Wade Engst, State's Attorney was present. Also present was Tammy Leupp, Building Supervisor.

Chairman Ruland called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. BUSINESS

A. FOSTER CARE HOUSE

State's Attorney Enget discussed the commission fee of 6% to Reynolds Realty. Stephanie A. Pappa, Auditor discussed the offer of \$390,000 with the closing cost to be paid by the county.

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to reject the offer of \$390,000 with the closing costs of \$8,000 to be paid by the County for the County-owned land and house located at 2 Valley Dr. Stanley ND described as Lot 1, Block 3, Replat of Lot 1, Block 3, Country Meadows 2nd Subdivision, Stanley City, 42 acres due to the closing offer. Upon roll call, Hollekim, Ruland, Rice, Olson and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

All officers will be discussed at the next commissioner meeting with the request of the officers be in writing as recommended by State's Attorney Enget.

3. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 8:08 A.M. to meet in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. Accepted and approved this 20th day of January, 2026.

Trudy Ruland, Chairman
Mountrail County Commissioner

Stephanie A. Pappa
Mountrail County Auditor

AARP North Dakota Now Accepting 2026 Community Challenge Grant Applications

AARP North Dakota invites local eligible nonprofit organizations and governments to apply for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern. AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more.

Now in its tenth year, AARP will double its investment, awarding over \$8 million in grants as part of its nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"Through the Community Challenge grant program, AARP North Dakota works closely with local residents, advocates and policymakers to improve the quality of life for people of all ages, especially North Dakotans 50 and older," said Jenelle Moos, AARP ND Advocacy Director. "Many of our past projects have been the launching pad for other community enhancements, and we look forward to doing even more this year to help North Dakota communities thrive."

This year, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility cri-

teria.

- Flagship grants support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; digital connections; and disaster resilience. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to \$15,000.

- Capacity-building microgrants are paired with expert support, webinars, and cohort learning for projects to improve walkability and bikeability; implement safe, accessible home modifications; and disaster preparedness training. Awards are \$2,500.

- Demonstration grants fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year's focus is on improving pedestrian safety, with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; expanding high-speed internet access and adoption, with funding support from Microsoft; and housing choice design competitions. Awards typically range from \$10,000-\$20,000, not to exceed \$25,000.

"Over the last decade, AARP has invested in communities to help people of all ages and abilities to thrive," said Nancy LeaMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer. "The impact that our Community Challenge grants have had in cities, towns and counties nationwide is significant, supporting everything from crosswalks and home improvements to increased community engagement while also serving as a catalyst for further action. We look forward to expanding

Minutes Of The New Town City Council

NEW TOWN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2025

Members Present: Mayor Jay Standish; Council Members: Frank Sillitti, Doug Bratvold.

Absent: Jesse Baker and Nathaniel Mayer.

Others Present: City Attorney William Woods, Eileen Zaun, Laurie Giffey, Essy Mata, Scott Andersen, Patrick Samson, Jason Strand, Cal Oldenburg, Troy White Owl, Demetrius Jamerson, Carolyn Hayden, John DeGroot, Scott Satermo, Nicholas Becker.

*Agenda Change: due to the weather, will move up Ackerman-Estvold, Water plant, AE2S.

Motion by Sillitti, seconded by Bratvold to approve the agenda as corrected.

All voting Aye. Absent: Baker, Mayer.

1. Minutes

Motion by Sillitti, seconded by Bratvold to approve the minutes from November 17th, 2025 meeting.

All voting Aye. Absent: Mayer, Baker.

Motion by Bratvold, seconded by Sillitti to approve the minutes from the November 3rd, 2025 meeting.

All voting Aye. Absent: Mayer, Baker.

2. Financials:

Motion by Sillitti, seconded by Bratvold to approve the financials and bill set as presented.

Voting Aye: Sillitti, Bratvold

Voting Nay or Absent: Baker, Mayer

Bills

First Of The Month: CK#046001 American Welding & Gas \$90.50; CK#046002 Andersen, Scott \$25.50; CK#046003 Cottingham Insurance \$69,079.00; CK#046004 Dakota FTC \$50.00; CK#046005 FEDEX \$21.57; CK#046006 Herbal, Heather \$2,066.74; CK#046007 Huntington National Bank \$105,600.00; CK#046008 Lowes Printing \$582.00; CK#046009 MVEC \$8,685.82; CK#046010 RHC \$2,455.00; CK#046011 Goettle, Shane C \$1,140.00; CK#046012 Visa \$18.30; CK#046013 Visa \$1,541.22; CK#046014 Woods, William \$3,500.00; **Total Checks: \$194,855.65**

Council Bills: CK#046015 AE2S \$61,418.98; CK#046016 Aire-Master Of North Dakota \$120.00; CK#046017 American Welding & Gas Inc \$11,536.86; CK#046018 Armor Interactive \$3,203.83; CK#046019 Banyon Data Systems \$614.00; CK#046020 Barnes & Noble \$930.33; CK#046021 Braun Interc \$1,134.00; CK#046022 CEI Electrical Contractors \$9,377.01; CK#046023 Cenex Fleet Card \$123.55; CK#046024 Church, Katherine \$101.12; CK#046025 Core & Main \$3,444.25; CK#046026 Dancing Bull, Cedar \$125.00; CK#046027 Elan Financial Services \$704.84; CK#046028 Elan Financial Services \$341.10; CK#046029 Flowpoint Environmental \$325.71; CK#046030 Gaffaney Of Minot \$1,239.22; CK#046031 Groundbird, Bonnie \$250.00; CK#046032 Graymont \$9,438.18; CK#046033 H. A. Thompson & Sons \$2,179.98; CK#046035 Herbal, Julie \$100.80; CK#046036 Information Technology Dept \$350.95; CK#046037 Iron Crow Energy Services \$250.00; CK#046038 Keeswood, Reginald \$250.00; CK#046039 Lara, Adriana \$250.00; CK#046040 Lavalie, William \$250.00; CK#046041 Main Electric \$19,837.51; CK#046042 Mandan, Renetta \$250.00; CK#046043 Merandall Mobile \$775.00; CK#046044 Minot Plumbing & Heating \$11,635.56; CK#046045 Mountrail County Promoter \$423.60; CK#046046 Mountrail County Treasurer \$125.00; CK#046055 Premier Partners \$4,200.00; CK#046056 Rietway Business Forms \$995.65; CK#046057 Rolac \$769,536.64; CK#046058 Satermo Hardware \$165.27; CK#046059 Standing Alone, Rowena \$250.00; CK#046060 Uniform Center \$853.91; CK#046061 United Quality Co-operative \$694.84; CK#046062 United Quality \$1,784.74; CK#046063 United Quality \$897.34; CK#046064 United Quality \$452.40; CK#046065 United Quality \$3,523.08; CK#046066 Valint Construction \$704,766.32; CK#046067 Vivanco, Joel \$128.21; CK#046068 Vondall, Margie \$250.00; CK#046069 Young Bird, Cortlyn \$250.00; **Total Checks: \$1,666,360.14**

Pay Period-25: CK#93048 to CK#93091 **\$104,857.77**; Pay Period-26 CK#93096 to CK#93127 **\$67,146.48 Payroll:** CK#04681, 04682, 46070, 45079, 46080 **\$4,617.00**

*Nathaniel Mayer arrived: 5:08 P.M.

3. Allo Tower - Rob Viera: Tabled.

4. Water Plant Updates-Cal Oldenburg:

Day before the meeting SWC commissioners called and had questions about

the program and its cumulative results over the next ten years."

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$24.3 million toward 2,100 livability projects (including \$358,172 in North Dakota) across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP North Dakota works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together and providing resources and expertise to help make North Dakota's counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages. In North Dakota, grants have revitalized parks in Grand Forks, supported digital literacy programs, created easier access to outdoor recreation in the Sheyenne River Valley and made community spaces brighter and safer through an array of mural projects.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4, and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Eastern, March 4, 2026. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2026. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

bent during construction, and in need of replacement. A few other curb stops need to be either raised or lowered to grade. Topsoil and hydroseeding work need to be done by the meter pits, by Glenda Good Bird's sidewalk, and at the alley driveway on Eagle Drive. Concrete cracks need to be routed and sealed, the interior of the doghouse meter pit needs to be cleaned out. Fire hydrants on Eagles Loop and 5th St N don't have tracer wire boxes installed yet. The 12" gate valve riser on 5th St N needs to be lowered to grade. No more weekly construction progress meetings will be held until spring 2026. Tonight, we are presenting two copies of the as-built record drawings Luke and Roger have prepared for the project, for the city's files.

New Town 2027 Street & Utility Improvements (Phase 3): AE2S has performed the topographical survey of the Phase 3 streets and utilities, and can begin the design work in 2026.

Material Testing Services has also conducted their soil boring work in the field, and are in the process of preparing a geotechnical report for the project. This project is scheduled for construction in 2027.

7. Ackerman-Estvold - Patrick Samson:

All work on Central Avenue has been substantially completed. Sprinkler will need to be tested in the spring. CO-04-Balancing Change Order: Balancing change order includes the patching of College Drive, includes additional patching and overlay area on East Avenue. Recommend approval of Change Order 04 in the amount of \$20,403.70.

Motion by Sillitti, seconded by Bratvold to approve the 2025 Central Ave. Improvements, (\$20,403.70).

Voting Aye: Sillitti, Bratvold, Mayer, Baker

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Recommend Final pay app #4 2025 Berthold Paving Inc., West Central Improvements (\$136,225.45).

Motion by Bratvold, seconded by Sillitti to approve Final pay app #4 Berthold Paving, West Central Street.

Voting Aye: Sillitti, Bratvold, Baker, Mayer

Voting Nay: None. Motion carried.

Venue Updates - Ryan Anderson:

Progress Update - The battens at the exterior siding are installed.

The contractor has installed the tongue and groove siding and trim at the main space and the restroom hallway. All of the chandeliers have been lowered. A contractor is cleaning the tile at the loft restrooms. The south patio is a temporary shelter with tarps at the walls. The contractor has more temporary heating units to help heat up the building. The flooring installation for the main floor has been pushed back until next weekend. The installed windows have foam backer rod installed at the perimeter.

Some of the equipment in the mechanical room has been connected. There is a large hole outside the northeast of the building where the contractor is connecting the water lines.

Progress City Hall - Ryan Anderson:

Majority of metal stud framing complete, issued some changes to Rolac resulting from city walkthrough of the building. Hollow metal doors and frames are being set. Exterior wall furring and batt insulation started. Council chambers ramp and platform being formed for concrete. No response from Rolac on the 14-day extension offer, with review again in Spring.

8. City Foreman - Scott Andersen:

We had some issues with the sanders but have them up and running now. Mayor Standish, if you have so much trouble with the old sander, I think we need to start looking into a new one, Scott will check in to this. I would like to move Alex up on his pay as he has really stepped up.

9. Police Updates:

Grants- NDDOT for DUI enforcement started this month and will continue in January.

Personnel- Officer DeCoteau graduates the academy on Friday and will participate in field training

Patrol Vehicles- Dismantling two patrol units to prepare them for sale.

Calls of Service: 443

***Public Comment:**

Nicholas Becker- States he wants the Chief of Police and Officers terminated due to several traffic stops he was involved in. City Attorney William Woods asked Mr. Becker if he got a ticket for any of the stop?

"Well, it was just warnings", so why are you fighting this? You got no warnings, no tickets, what are you looking for. Well, I think I was unfairly treated and the officer have it out for me and my family and falsifying information. Beckers phone number was never given to the police, so they could not get ahold of him, for further questioning. The police department with follow-up on this.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 P.M.

Jay Standish, Mayor

Eileen Zaun, Auditor

Proceedings Of The Board Of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNTRAIL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in the Emergency/Community Room, Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley ND with Commissioners Trudy Ruland, Wayne Olson, Joan Hollekim, John DeGroot present and Jason Rice present via GoToMeeting. State's Attorney, Wade Engst was present.

Chairman Ruland called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. BUSINESS

A. AGENDA

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Olson, to review and approve the agenda as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

B. MINUTES

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the special minutes of December 31, 2025 meeting. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

C. PAYROLL

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the salary increase form for completing a successful satisfactory probationary period for Brehm Wiley as a Sheriff Deputy with the Sheriff to the amount of \$33.17 per hour/\$69,000 per year. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, DeGroot, Ruland and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the regular full-time employee classification for Breanna Fethkenher as a Family Service Specialist III with Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone in the amount of \$30 per hour/\$62,400 per year. Upon roll call, DeGroot, Hollekim, Rice, Olson and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

D. FOSTERCARE HOUSE

Discussion was held on the possibility of selling the foster care house due to not being utilized. Comm. Hollekim stated she contacted the Human Service Zone Director, Desiree Sorenson, and she understood the reason for wanting to sell the property. The Board discussed obtaining an appraisal price before offering for sale.

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to start the process of selling the foster care house located at 2 Valley Drive, Stanley, ND with the appraisal value coming from Kim Savage, Tax Director. Upon roll call, Olson, Ruland, Hollekim, DeGroot and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

Tax Director Savage presented the appraisal value for the foster-care house. The tax appraisal value was \$46,200 for the land and \$342,300 for the structure for a total of \$388,500. It was explained that once a realtor is hired, the realtor will also evaluate the selling price.

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the hiring of Reynolds Realty to sell the County-owned land and house located at 2 Valley Dr. Stanley, ND described as Lot 1, Block 3, Replat of Lot 1, Block 3, Country Meadows 2nd Subdivision, Stanley City, 42 acres. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, Hollekim, DeGroot and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

A Resolution of the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners pursuant to N.D.C.C. §11-27-03.1 for the sale of real property WHEREAS, Mountrail County owns the following described real property in the City of Stanley, Mountrail County, North Dakota, to-wit: Lot 1, Block 3, of the Replat Lot 1, Block 3, Country Meadows 2nd Subdivision, WHEREAS, that Mountrail County had constructed a single family home on the above described property for the purpose of housing person(s) who would provide foster care services; and, WHEREAS, that said residence has remained empty for a long period of time

in that there was a lack of interest if any person(s) to live in the home and provide foster care services; and, WHEREAS, the Mountrail-McKenzie Human Service Zone has indicated that they do not have need for such home at the present time or the immediate future; and, WHEREAS, Mountrail County desires to sell the home through the use of a licensed real estate broker pursuant to the provisions of N.D.C.C. §11-27-03.1; WHEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of N.D.C.C. §11-27-03.1, it is hereby resolved that the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners engages the services of Reynolds Realty to list for sale the above-described real property through a non-exclusive listing agreement, for the commission paid to Reynolds Realty being six (6) percent of the sales price, and with the right of the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners to reject any and all offers deemed insufficient. This resolution of the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners

Trudy Ruland, Chair
Mountrail County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Stephanie A Pappa, Auditor

E. WAIVER OF SOUTH COMPLEX RENTAL

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the waiver of the rental fee of the South Complex on January 10th to the Mountrail County Pink Ladies with the transfer of insurance and cleanup deposit still required. Upon roll call, Olson, Rice, Hollekim, Ruland and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

F. BILLS

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve the bills totaling \$313,492.34 & December 7 through December 20 payroll, checks #20171-20175 and direct deposits #1-165 totaling \$611,548.91. Upon roll call, Hollekim, Ruland, Olson, Rice and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried. (A complete list of bills is posted on a regular basis on the Mountrail County website @ www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the County Commissioner heading and/or are available for review in the Auditor's Office during normal business hours).

3. APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED

9:15 A.M.