

Dakota Datebook: Rattlers

By Merry Helm

Rattlesnake season is upon us, anyway for those of us who live west of the Missouri River. Rattlers will need a full meal every ten days until the weather reaches the 80s and 90s; then they only need to eat only once every three weeks. During the fall, they'll increase their meals to once every two weeks to store enough fat to get them through winter hibernation.

Rattlesnakes are less dangerous than their reputations have led us to believe. The most deadly species, the diamondbacks, aren't found in North Dakota. They reside in the Southwest and in Mexico. Their bites cause less than one death per year in the parts of Arizona where they're especially numerous.

The rattler's nasty reputation stems largely from hair-raising stories invented for gullible immigrants; they were told that a rattler's bite always led to death, sometimes within 3 or 4 minutes. They were even told that if a diamondback bit an ax handle or wheel spoke, it would swell up as big as a man's arm.

The prairie rattler's bite is, of course, a serious thing, but it's not necessarily deadly to a grown adult or animal. Small rodents, on the other hand, succumb very quickly.

Once its prey is dead, the snake unhinges its jaw, grasps the rodent by its nose, and slowly swallows it whole.

The rattlesnake gets its name from its warning signal, the vibration of the hollow horny segments at the tip of its tail. Depending on the prevailing temperature, the rattles vibrate at speeds from 20 to 90 cycles per second. Many believe that each segment in the rattle represents a year's time, but actually, a segment is added each time the snake sheds its skin, which can happen a couple times a year.

Surprisingly, rattlesnakes have very poor eyesight and no ears. They sense movement through vibrations in the ground. Their keen sense of smell is not through their nostrils, but through the tips of their forked tongues, which is why they flick them when they're alert or excited.

Between their eyes and nostrils is a small deep pit that's highly sensitive to temperature. This feature provides a means of sensing warm-blooded animals and has led to the name "pit viper." These sensors are especially useful at night and during cooler weather.

Rattlesnakes give birth to live young. Here in North Dakota, they do this every other year. They breed in the fall, hibernate during the winter, and give birth in midsummer after a gestation period of 155 days.

They hibernate in large groups and are often found traveling to their underground dens at the same time.

The observation has led to the belief that the snakes migrate, but that isn't true. They're simply converging for the winter.

Catholic Charities North Dakota Unveils New Brand Identity And Website To Reflect Statewide Growth

Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND) is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive rebranding initiative in collaboration with Spotlight Media, marking an exciting new chapter for the organization as it continues to expand its impact across the state of North Dakota.

While CCND's mission and core services remain unchanged, the organization's refreshed visual identity, messaging, and digital presence reflect its tremendous growth and evolving role in communities throughout North Dakota. With four physical office locations in Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, and Bismarck, and services reaching individuals and families statewide, the rebrand better represents the scope and strength of CCND's work today.

"At its heart, Catholic Charities North Dakota remains deeply committed to serving individuals and families with compassion, dignity, and hope, rooted in the teachings and tradition of our Catholic faith," said Kari Dew, Executive Director of Catholic Charities North Dakota. "This new brand identity allows us to better tell our story, connect with communities across the state, and reflect the incredible growth our organization has experienced in recent years."

Rooted in Mission For decades, Catholic Charities North Dakota has worked to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through compassionate services and meaningful support. CCND's mission is to serve individuals and families with compassion, integrity, and respect by providing meaningful support, fostering hope, and strengthening the well-being of the communities they serve.

As the organization has grown, leadership recognized the need for a brand identity that more accurately reflects both the statewide reach of CCND and the life-changing impact of its work. The rebrand reinforces the organization's dedication to meeting communities where they are while continuing to evolve to serve emerging needs across North Dakota.

One of the most visible aspects of the rebrand is the launch of CCND's newly redesigned website. The updated digital platform serves as a modern, accessible hub for community members seeking information, resources, support, and opportunities to engage with the organization's mission.

The new website highlights CCND's programs and statewide impact while making it easier for North Dakotans to access services, learn about community needs, and share stories of hope and transformation. Community members are encouraged to explore and share the new site as a way to help spread awareness of CCND's mission and services.

As part of the rebranding effort, CCND is also announcing a new name for one of its longstanding programs. Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services (PPAS) will now be known as Strong Roots Bright Futures, a name that reflects the program's commitment to fostering resilience, stability, and hope for generations to come.

"The name Strong Roots Bright Futures reflects the strength, support, and hope we strive to provide to expectant parents, children, and families across North Dakota," said Dew. "Whether someone is seeking pregnancy and parenting support, adoption planning services, or guidance during a difficult season of life, this new name represents our commitment to helping families build strong foundations and brighter futures for generations to come."

The organization notes that this rebranding initiative is part of a larger vision for the future. Additional program enhancements and branding developments may be unveiled in the coming months as CCND continues to innovate and strengthen its presence throughout the state.

Catholic Charities North Dakota invites community members, partners, donors, and stakeholders to join in this exciting journey and continue supporting the organization's mission to serve vulnerable individuals and families across North Dakota.

For more information about the rebrand and to explore the new website, visit catholiccharitiesnd.org.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 22nd, 2026 at 8:59 A.M. via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a zoning request filed by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative for a conditional use permit on agricultural land to allow for 115-kilovolt electrical transmission to be added to an existing line one beginning at Outlot 1 of Gov't Lot 4 of Section 7, Township 153 North, Range 92 West (Knife River Township) and one beginning at Outlot 1 of W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West and ending at E½SE¼ of Section 27, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane Creek Township).

The completed Basin Electric Power Cooperative application, including route map, easement and affected landowners, can be viewed at the office of Mountrail County Planning and Zoning in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main, Stanley, North Dakota during office hours.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments can be mailed to Mountrail County Planning & Zoning, PO Box 248, Stanley ND 58784-0248 and will be accepted until Noon on Friday, June 12th, 2026. Phone: 701-628-2909 or Email: melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/730307109 You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (571) 317-3112 Access Code: 730-307-109

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: https://meet.goto.com/install Dated at Stanley, North Dakota this 29th day of May, 2026. Charlie Sorenson, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission

ATTEST: Melissa Vachal Planning & Zoning Administrator June 3, 10, 2026

Proceedings Of The Mountrail County Planning Commission

MINUTES MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION APRIL 27, 2026

The meeting of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Charlie Sorenson with Commissioners Cameron Tomjack, Trudy Ruland, Joan Hollekim, Darren LeRohf online, Arlo Borud, Tess Jarmin, and Jesse Weyrauch present. Commissioner Doug Bratvold joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m. Also present were Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Administrator Melissa Vachal, Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Assistant Malinda Gunderson, Mountrail County State's Attorney Wade Enget, Mountrail County Tax Equalization Director Kim Savage, Mountrail County Weed Control Officer Jim Hennessy and Mountrail County Auditor Stephanie Pappa online.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Moved by Commissioner Jarmin, seconded by Commissioner Hollekim, to approve the agenda. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Weyrauch, to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

1. 8:35 a.m. Gravel Products Inc. Applicant; Last Round Up Ranch L.L.P.-Landowner; (PZ-2026-0052) Conditional Use

Zoning Request/Conditional Use Permit for the following described property: a tract of land 80.00 acres, more or less, located in the Original Townsite of the City of Palermo, described as the SW¼ South of State Highway Right of Way except road to Palermo & less Outlot 1 of the SW¼SW¼ of Section 15 & NW¼ less dump grounds and Outlot 1 of the NW¼NW¼ of Section 22, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township) (Parcel# 17-0011300 & 57-0021600)

The applicant (represented by Max Schriock with Gravel Products Inc.) is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose mining gravel on land zoned Agricultural. This application is for an existing pit that they wish to expand to the west for future use. Mr. Schriock stated they will be using an existing road to access County Road 3 up to Highway 2. Administrator Vachal stated that no landowners have submitted any opposition. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Tomjack, to approve the zoning request filed by Gravel Products Inc. with concurrence from Last Round Up Ranch L.L.P.-landowner, for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of mining gravel on land zoned Agricultural on a tract of land 80.00 acres, more or less, located in the Original Townsite of the City of Palermo, described as the SW¼ South of State Highway Right of Way except road to Palermo & less Outlot 1 of the SW¼SW¼ of Section 15 & NW¼ less dump grounds and Outlot 1 of the NW¼NW¼ of Section 22, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (Palermo Township), for a period of five (5) years expiring on 4/27/2031 as Gravel Products Inc. with concurrence from Last Round Up Ranch L.L.P.-landowner, has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Gravel Products Inc. with concurrence from Last Round Up Ranch L.L.P.-landowner, complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

2. 8:38 a.m. Barry Olson-Applicant/Landowner (PZ-2026-0054) Conditional Use

Zoning Request/Conditional Use Permit for the following described property: a tract of land 160.00 acres more or less, located in the SE¼ of Section 17, Township 155 North, Range 90 West (Burke Township) (Parcel# 24-0007300)

The applicant (represented by Barry Olson) is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of placing a manufactured home on land zoned Agricultural. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Hollekim, seconded by Commissioner Ruland, to approve the zoning request filed by Barry Olson for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of placing a manufactured home on land zoned Agricultural on a tract of land 160.00 acres more or less, located in the SE¼ of Section 17, Township 155 North, Range 90 West (Burke Township), as Barry Olson has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Barry Olson complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

3. 8:41 a.m. Basin Electric Power Cooperative-Applicant/Landowner; (PZ-2026-0063) Conditional Use

Zoning Request/Conditional Use Permit for the following described property: a tract of land 40.86 acres more or less, described as Outlot 1 located in the W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane Creek Township) (Parcel# 39-0012105)

The applicant (represented by Ryan King with Basin Electric Power Cooperative) is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of constructing a communication tower on land zoned Agricultural. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Ruland, to approve the zoning request filed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of constructing a communication tower on land zoned Agricultural on a tract of land 40.86 acres more or less, described as Outlot 1 located in the W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane

Creek Township) as Basin Electric Power Cooperative has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Basin Electric Power Cooperative complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

4. 8:44 a.m. Basin Electric Power Cooperative-Applicant/Landowner; (PZ-2026-0064) Variance

Variance Application request for the following described property: a tract of land 40.86 acres more or less, described as Outlot 1 located in the W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane Creek Township) (Parcel# 39-0012105)

The applicant (represented by Ryan King with Basin Electric Power Cooperative) is seeking a Variance Permit for the purpose of constructing a communication tower 190' in height which exceeds the maximum allowable height set by the Mountrail County Land Development Code. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Weyrauch, to approve the zoning request filed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative for a Variance for the purpose of constructing a communication tower 190' in height which exceeds the maximum allowable height set by the Mountrail County Land Development Code on a tract of land 40.86 acres more or less, described as Outlot 1 located in the W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane Creek Township) as Basin Electric Power Cooperative has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Basin Electric Power Cooperative complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

5. 8:47 a.m. Basin Electric Power Cooperative-Applicant; Multiple-Landowners; (PZ-2026-0065) Conditional Use

Zoning Request/Conditional Use Permit for the following described property: a tract of land beginning at Outlot 4 of the E½NE¼NE¼ of Section 29, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (White Earth Township) traveling north through Sections 29, 20, 17, 8 & 5, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (White Earth Township), through Sections 31, 30, 20, 19, 17, 8 & 5, Township 158 North, Range 94 West (Bicker Township) for a total route distance of 10.9 miles, more or less (Parcel# multiple)

The applicant (represented by Ryan King with Basin Electric Power Cooperative) is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of constructing a new 230-kilovolt electrical transmission line on land zoned Agricultural. Bicker Township has approved the application that was submitted to them. Applicant has 22 out of 24 landowner signatures and is actively working on getting the last two. Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning & Zoning Board.

Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Jarmin, to approve the zoning request filed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative with concurrence from multiple landowners for a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of constructing a new 230-kilovolt electrical transmission line on land zoned Agricultural on a tract of land beginning at Outlot 4 of the E½NE¼NE¼ of Section 29, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (White Earth Township) traveling north through Sections 29, 20, 17, 8 & 5, Township 157 North, Range 94 West (White Earth Township), through Sections 31, 30, 20, 19, 17, 8 & 5, Township 158 North, Range 94 West (Bicker Township) for a total route distance of 10.9 miles, more or less, as Basin Electric Power Cooperative with concurrence from multiple landowners has met all other criteria as set forth in the Mountrail County Land Development Code and is further contingent upon Basin Electric Power Cooperative with concurrence from multiple landowners complying with all other terms and conditions of the Mountrail County Land Development Code. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

6. 8:50 a.m. Discussion with City of Ross concerning Planning & Zoning Jurisdiction

Julie Woodbury with the City of Ross was present to discuss turning over jurisdiction of the Planning & Zoning of the City of Ross over to Mountrail County Planning & Zoning. The city has already gone through all of the hearings and meetings to repeal their own Planning & Zoning. Mrs. Woodbury has done what she can to compile as much information as possible regarding the properties within the City of Ross but there are years of city council and zoning meeting minutes that she has not been able to find. There are also many properties that the owners say they have submitted permit applications for various uses but Mrs. Woodbury has not been able to find those either. Commissioner Ruland and Administrator Vachal advised Mrs. Woodbury that all non-conforming properties will stay non-conforming until the property owner does something that requires Planning & Zoning approval. Commissioner Hollekim advised that Mountrail County Planning & Zoning would have to go through the same amendment process that was taken with Van Hook Township. Discussion regarding next steps included gathering information and creating a map of current uses to present at the May 26th meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board. Mrs. Woodbury asked about the timeline for this process and was advised by Commissioner Hollekim that the process is time consuming and that it could be at least July, if not longer, before this takes effect.

Moved by Commissioner Jarmin, seconded by Commissioner Hollekim to direct Planning & Zoning Administration to begin the process of gathering the required information to prepare for Mountrail County Planning & Zoning to take over the Planning & Zoning jurisdiction for the City of Ross. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

7. 8:55 a.m. Discussion concerning building near a missile site

Justin Wickenhauser was present to discuss his plans to purchase, subdivide, and build on parcel #'s 11-0016090, 11-0015902 and 11-0016801 which are less than a half mile from a missile site. Administrator Vachal has provided the board with documentation from the Recorder's Office. Commissioner Ruland stated the military was fairly adamant about the setbacks from missile sites during the drafting process of Mountrail County's Comprehensive Plan. Administrator Vachal stated the issue with building too close to the missile sites is the military can and will close down access in and out of the area if necessary and property owners won't be able to access their property. Chairman Sorenson stated the only way for the board to allow less than half a mile would be through a Variance Permit. The board also cautioned Mr. Wickenhauser that the road to access these parcels isn't a public road and that he will need an easement from the landowner. Commissioner Hollekim pointed out that in the Mountrail County Land Development Code it states the landowner will need written consent from the military to obtain a Variance Permit.

Temporary Water Permits - New - For Board Information Only

PZ-2026-0071 - 701 Energy LLC - Applicant. JoAnne Colbenson - Landowner. State Water Permit #ND2025-23395. Period of Authorized usage: 04/17/2026 through 1/15/2027. Pump placement on a tract of land 31.10 acres more or less located in the SW¼NW¼ (Gov't Lot 5) of Section 5, Township 157 North, Range 92 West (Cottonwood Township). Pending Administrator approval on 04/17/2026

PZ-2026-0073 - H2O Connections LLC - Applicant. Roger & Darlene Vesey - Landowners. State Water Permit #ND2025-23371. Period of Authorized usage: 4/23/2026 through 3/29/2027. Pump placement on a tract of land 38.40 acres more or less located in the SW¼NW¼ (Gov't Lot 2) of Section 20, Township 155 North, Range 89 West (McAlmond Township). Pending Administrator approval on 04/23/2026

PZ-2026-0074 - H2O Connections LLC - Applicant. Curt & Summer Meyer - Landowners. State Water Permit #ND2025-23376. Period of Authorized usage: 4/23/2026 through 3/29/2027. Pump placement on a tract of land 44.00 acres more or less located in the SE¼NE¼ & NE¼SE¼ (Gov't Lot 5) of Section 19, Township 155 North, Range 89 West (McAlmond Township). Pending Administrator approval on 04/23/2026

PZ-2026-0075 - H2O Connections LLC - Applicant. Clayton Howell - Landowner. State Water Permit #ND2025-23170. Period of Authorized usage: 4/23/2026 through 6/15/2026. Pump placement on a tract of land 40.00 acres more or less located in the NE¼NW¼ of Section 13, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (Idaho Township). Pending Administrator approval on 04/23/2026

PZ-2026-0076 - H2O Connections LLC - Applicant. Curtis Footh - Landowner. State Water Permit #ND2025-23272. Period of Authorized usage: 4/23/2026 through 10/21/2026. Pump placement on a tract of land 40.00 acres more or less located in the SW¼SE¼ of Section 27, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township). Pending Administrator approval on 04/23/2026

Temporary Water Permits - Non-Transferable Renewals - For Board Information Only

Sundre Sand & Gravel Inc - State Water Permit #ND2025-23472 / PZ-2026-0062
Sundre Sand & Gravel Inc - Applicant. Jeffrey Ranch Trust - Landowner. NW¼SW¼ of Section 22, Township 155 North, Range 94 West (Unorganized Township). Period of Authorized usage: 4/01/2026 through 3/31/2027. Parcel #28-0011010. Approved by P&Z Administrator

West Dakota Water LLC - State Water Permit #ND2026-23576 / PZ-2026-0069
West Dakota Water LLC - Applicant. Point of Diversion is in Burke County. Beginning in Mountrail County at NW¼NW¼ (Gov't Lot 4) of Section 3, Township 158 North, Range 93 West (Powers Lake Township) ending in the W½SW¼ of Section 10, Township 158 North, Range 93 West (Powers Township). Period of Authorized usage 3/20/2026 through 5/01/2026. Approved by P&Z Administrator

Magnus Services LLC - Lay Flat Hose Permit only - Permit Number - State Water Permit #6224 / PZ-2026-0057. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose. Magnus Services LLC - Applicant. GI Investments L.L.P. - Landowner. S¼S¼S¼SW¼ less Outlot 1 of Section 34, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township) ending in the NW¼NW¼ of Section 10, Township 157 North, Range 91 West (James Hill Township). Period of Authorized usage: 3/24/2026 through 4/24/2026. Approved by P&Z Administrator

Magnus Services LLC - Lay Flat Hose Permit only - Permit Number - State Water Permit #6224 / PZ-2026-0058. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose. Magnus Services LLC - Applicant. GI Investments L.L.P. - Landowner. S¼S¼S¼SW¼ less Outlot 1 of Section 34, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township) ending in the SE¼ less tract of land of Section 28, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township). Period of Authorized usage: 3/24/2026 through 4/24/2026. Approved by P&Z Administrator

West Dakota Water LLC - Lay Flat Hose Permit only - Permit Number - State Water Permit #7015 / PZ-2026-0080. Pumping of industrial water by lay flat hose. Magnus Services LLC - Applicant. GI Investments L.L.P. - Landowner. S¼S¼S¼SW¼ less Outlot 1 of Section 34, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township) ending in the SE¼ less tract of land of Section 28, Township 158 North, Range 91 West (Lostwood Township). Period of Authorized usage: 3/24/2026 through 4/24/2026. Approved by P&Z Administrator

Accepted and approved this 26th day of May, 2026.
Charlie Sorenson, Chairman
Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission
Melissa Vachal, Administrator
Mountrail County Planning & Zoning

Electronic recordings of full meetings are kept in the office per NDCC 44-04

Building Permits 2470-2478
2470 - PZ-2026-0055 - Barry Olson - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #24-0007300. SE¼ of Section 17, Township 155 North, Range 90 West (Burke Township) 14'x50' modular home. Pending approval of CUP.

2471 - PZ-2026-0059 - Caleb Bates - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #16-0025400. Outlot 2 less a 100' square tract in NW¼ of said Outlot 2, Original Townsite of Blaisdell, located in the SE¼NE¼ of Section 14, Township 156 North, Range 89 West (McGahan Township) 16'x80' mobile home, 13'x22' addition & 13'x10' deck.

2472 - PZ-2026-0060 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #39-0012105. Outlot 1 of the W½SW¼ of Section 26, Township 153 North, Range 91 West (Crane Creek Township) 28'x70' electrical substation control building. Pending approval of CUP.

2473 - PZ-2026-0061 - Terry Clayton - Applicant. LVH-15 LLC - Landowner. Parcel #45-0009000. Replat of Outlot 6 being a portion of Outlot 6 located in the SE¼SE¼ of Section 17, Township 152 North, Range 91 West (Van Hook Township) 32'x40' addition.

2474 - PZ-2026-0072 - Matthew & Bobbi Jo Hanson - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #51-000644. Lot 5 of Brendle's Third Subdivision, located in the SE¼NE¼ of Section 10, Township 151 North, Range 91 West (Liberty Township) 40'x80' home with covered patio & attached garage & 8'x16' deck.

2475 - PZ-2026-0077 - Alan & Paulette Estvold - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #51-0000100. NW¼NW¼ of Section 1, Township 151 North, Range 91 West (Liberty Township) 58'x32' home with attached garage & patio.

2476 - PZ-2026-0078 - Shelby Stein & Cody Long - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #42-0012301. Outlot 1 of NW¼NW¼ of Section 28, Township 152 North, Range 88 West (Plaza Township) 12'x24' garden shed. (Informational purposes only)

2477 - PZ-2026-0079 - Jessie & Rita Locken - Applicant. Mountrail County Park Commission - Landowner. Parcel #45-0019219. Lot 1, Block 19 of Traynor Park located in the S¼SW¼ of Section 29 & N¼N¼ of Section 32, Township 152 North, Range 91 West (Van Hook Township) 14'x32' storage building.

2478 - PZ-2026-0082 - Robert & Kristin Grant - Applicant/Landowner. Parcel #15-0006610. Outlot 6 being a portion of Outlot 3 & all of Outlot 4 located in the NE¼NE¼ & NW¼NE¼ of Section 12, Township 156 North, Range 88 West (Egan Township) 60'x60' garage/shop.

Moved by Commissioner Borud, seconded by Commissioner Ruland, to approve building permits 2470-2478. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS
Gravel Pits-remains ongoing-CUP checklist has been updated
Green Acres Subdivision-Hyrum Zetting plan of action for Green Acres Subdivision

Data Centers and Battery Storage Facilities-currently under moratorium
Animal Feeding Ordinance-currently under moratorium

STAFF UPDATES
* Administrator Vachal and Commissioner Ruland provided the board with an update on the second reading of the amended Mountrail County Land Development Code with the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners. The process has been tabled and moved to their May 19th meeting due to objections to the requirement of data center operators to bring their own power. Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative was asked to present wording for the large load power.

* The Subcommittee on the Animal Feeding Moratorium is scheduled to meet June 2nd at 2:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Mountrail County Courthouse and via GOTOMEETING.
* Administrator Vachal presented the board with an informational letter from the North Dakota Ag Commissioner.
* Administrator Vachal had a phone conversation with a representative of Minot Air Force Base and they are concerned about the setbacks of properties surrounding missile sites and will be gathering easement information so that they can provide better information to those who inquire about it.

* As the weather continues to improve, staff will begin conducting inspections throughout the county.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

BOARD CONCERNS
* Commissioner Ruland asked if Administration has been able to get in contact with a trucking company that purchased land south of New Town. They are building and storing frac tanks and while the property looks good, they need to be made aware there are applications they need to fill out. Administrator Vachal will work on getting in touch with them about it. Commissioner Bratvold brought up a concern about the people living in the house on the same property. The property may need to be platted to separate the zoning of the trucking operation and the living quarters.

The Board adjourned at 10:03 a.m. Next regular meeting of the Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission is **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Mountrail County Courthouse and via GOTOMEETING.

Accepted and approved this 26th day of May, 2026.
Charlie Sorenson, Chairman
Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Commission
Melissa Vachal, Administrator
Mountrail County Planning & Zoning

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