

Langdon City Commission | Regular Meeting

April 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission members present Jerry Nowatzki, Lawrence Henry, Darin Kaercher, Cody Schlittenhard and Chuck Downs. Department Heads present, Jason Busse, Tom Beauchamp, and Brent Beniot. Also present, Stephanie Bata – CC Tax Director, Andy and Nancy Downs, Kari Agotness, Cody & McKinzie Sivertson, Denise Otto, Kevin Stein, Sara and Chris Pritchard, Jase Ramberg Andrew Aakre – Moore Engineering, Quentin Wenzel – City Attorney, and RoxAnne Hennager – City Auditor. Pledge of Allegiance: J. Nowatzki led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Public Comment: Approval of Minutes: L. Henry made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 13 th , seconded by C. Schlittenhard. Motion carries. Additions to Agenda: Correspondence: Department Reports: Street: B. Benoit reported the sweepers will be here on Friday and they will start sweeping. Mowers are ready and the new loader will be here tomorrow. Fire Department: No report. Water and Sewer: J. Busse reported he had a sewer full of gravel and plugged on Sunday. Jetway was here to jet it. South lift station pump went

out and will be replacing that. The North station will need to be replaced soon. There was also a water break at Schroeder Furniture. Sanitation: T. Beauchamp reported containers are out and have they have moved to summer hours. Police: Activity Center: C. Schlittenhard reported that the A/C has moved to summer hours and that the flooring is scheduled to start July 6 th . Auditor: R. Hennager informed the commission that BCBS rates went up 6% this year. D. Downs made the motion to approve the rate increase, seconded by C. Schlittenhard. Motion carried. Hennager discussed the changes to the cash report that were approved at past meetings. Peddlers/transient permits have become an issue. If they pay \$25.00 per day to sell or if they are a Chamber member, not have to pay \$25.00 but don't have an established business in town. The commission stated we need to follow our ordinance. The fee is to stay loyal to our local businesses. Unfinished Business: Culverts north of town – Tabled. Moore engineering – Andrew Aakre – Citywide Street Project (Mayo Construction) We started reviewing the construction items during the week of April 20 th and planning additional visits in May.

Construction activity expected to begin in June. The 5 th Avenue/Highway 1 intersection – estimated cost was \$150k, involves drainage, improvements, closing off portions of the ditches and a concrete apron. Commission is not going to move forward with this project. Concrete crushing – 11,478 CY were measured in January. It was approximately \$78,000 to crush. Hoping to sell by the tons. The funds received will go into the Concrete crushing fund. Industrial Park Lift Station – Naastad Brothers gave a quote to fix and upgrade the Industrial Park lift station. The quote is \$149,750 with an option to increase the new dry pit from 84” to 96” for an additional \$12,500. C. Downs made the motion to accept the bid seconded by L. Henry. Motion carried. P#61145030 – Jace Ramberg – more discussion of the lot and whether the city would sell all as one parcel or if they want to sell off the lots in the example plat. Also, the amount of money to get water and sewer to the properties. Tabled.

Christmas Deco – Hennager presented a new quote and the rate for container is \$7000 for 1 door and \$8000 with a door on each end. This is for delivery and setup. Tabled.

Water Rate – C. Downs made the motion to up .50 per one thousand gallons, seconded by D. Kaercher. Motion carried.

Revise Disconnect Policy – C. Downs made a motion to increase the disconnect amount from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and re-connect from \$25.00 to \$75.00 for re-establishment of service. Seconded by C. Schlittenhard. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Andy and Nancy Downs presented the commission with a letter as a formal petition to de-annexation of their agricultural property, P#61438000. Quentin will research the process of de-annexation.

2. Kevin Stein presented the plat map for the development across from Schroeder Furniture. The cul- de-sac needs to be a 96ft diameter for fire code.

3. Cody and McKinzie Sivertson – were present to discuss the assessment on the lot behind their house. It didn't receive any improvements and feels it should be at the 50% assessment. C. Downs made the motion to assess at the 50% to parcel#60823-001, seconded by L. Henry. Motion carried.

Building Permits: #5574 Chris Bredesen, #5575 James Hoffarth, #5576 Titiana Davis, #5577 Dale

Plummer. L. Henry made a motion to approve all building permits, second by C. Schlittenhard. Motion carried.

•81326-81343/62676-62683 Payroll & Liab. 39346.79 •62673 LANGDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1500.00 •62674 RUN/WALK LANGDON 1500.00 •62675 BRENT BENOT 163.80 •62685* ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS 1113.08 •62686 COREY SCHNEIDER 14.00 •62687 FERGUSON ENT. DBA POLLARDWATER 6709.47 •62688 FLEXIBLE PIPE TOOL COMPANY 406.10 •62689 HIWAY LAUNDRY 196.80 •62690 JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL 78.10 •62691 LANGDON FIRE EQUIPMENT 160.00 •62692 MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES 1435.55 •62693 NIHCA 449.00 •62694 NORTHEAST REGIONAL WATER 24688.02 •62695 RUTENDO NYAMUSAMBA 500.00 •62696 SANITATION PRODUCTS 4140.00 •62697 THOMAS BEAUCHAMP 69.00 Review and Approval of bills - D. Kaercher made the motion to approve all bills presented, seconded by Chuck Downs with C. Schlittenhard abstaining from the vote. Motion carried. Adjourn – L. Henry made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Jerry Nowatzki, President RoxAnne Hennager, Auditor

Langdon City Commission

Equalization Meeting | April 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission members present Jerry Nowatzki, Lawrence Henry, Darin Kaercher, Cody Schlittenhard and Chuck Downs. Department Heads present, Jason Busse, Tom Beauchamp, and Brent Beniot. Also present, Stephanie Bata – CC Tax Director, Andy and Nancy Downs, Kari Agotness, Cody & McKinzie Sivertson, Denise Otto, Kevin Stein, Sara and Chris Pritchard, Jase Ram-

berg Andrew Aakre – Moore Engineering, Quentin Wenzel – City Attorney, and RoxAnne Hennager – City Auditor. Pledge of Allegiance – J. Nowatzki led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jerry asked who was there for the equalization meeting. Kari Agotness stated she felt that her property at 1324 10 th Street was over assessed. Kari had some comparisons for the commission and discussed some

items that are not correct on her evaluation. Steph replied that this property could be looked at. Denise Otto at 1201 12 th Ave also felt her assessment was high, her property will also be looked at. Darin Kaercher 1213 5 th Street, #P61335-000 would like his rental looked at. RoxAnne Hennager would like her property at 1504 11 th Street to be on the list.

Chris and Sara Prichard questioned why there taxes have fluctuated so much. Steph explained this is due to when the property was completed and the City's incentive for a new build. They would like their property to be looked at also. Cody and McKinzie Sivertson would like their property reassessed. Stephanie discussed there were 43

sales and commercial properties didn't change this year; ag land will stay the same. With no questions from the commission L. Henry made the motion to accept the property tax assessment as presented, seconded by Cody Schlittenhard. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

North Dakota small business owners lament rising healthcare costs, credit card swipe fees

By: Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor

Small business owners expressed concerns about rising healthcare costs and credit card transaction fees during a roundtable discussion Monday with North Dakota Rep. Julie Fedorchak and Sen. John Hoeven.

The discussion organized by the North Dakota chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business focused on tax benefits for businesses through passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. But when participants got a chance to speak, a majority of the business owners said health insurance costs and transaction fees are eating into their bottom lines.

At Riverwood RV in Mandan, about six full-time employees get their health insurance covered by the business, said Jim Miller, owner/partner.

“That’s about \$82,000 that comes right off the top,” Miller said.

Tricia Schlosser, a broker and owner of Century 21 Morrison Realty in Bismarck, said she recently lost an employee to a different employer because the business couldn’t provide a comparable health insurance plan. She added many of the realty office’s independent contractors also struggle to find affordable health insurance.

Fedorchak, a Republican, said the cost of healthcare has skyrocketed since the Affordable Care Act was implemented.

“Obviously, there’s a lot of work to be done there,” Fedorchak said. She added some healthcare reforms could be included in a 2026 tax reconciliation package that would require a majority vote in each chamber of Congress.

“I think the healthcare system is broken because the people who are using it are completely disconnected from the process,” she said. “I think the central piece of the solution in healthcare is putting the people who are getting the healthcare back in the driver’s seat, not the insurance companies.”

The enhanced premium tax credits for people purchasing health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace expired at the end of 2025, leading to higher cost plans in 2026. Fedorchak said healthcare costs continued to increase after the enhanced premium tax credits were implemented in 2021 and were not working to lower costs.

Hoeven, also a Republican, said implementing a test to ensure those with lower income levels have access to the credits and sending the tax credit to the individual instead of the insurance company would allow consumers to purchase the coverage they want.

“That’s empowering the individual,” Hoeven said.

At Balancing Goat Coffee Co. in Mandan, credit card fees of 2.6% plus a 10-cent fee per transaction are costly for the small business, said co-owner Dawn Hager.

“Our transactions are small and that 10 cents adds up with every transaction,” Hager said. “That’s almost like \$10,000 just with the 10 cents added up, and that’s what we’re paying to the credit card companies.”

She said if the transaction fees remain unchanged, it could lead to increasing coffee prices for customers. “In order to make up for that, we’re going to have to start charging \$5 to \$7 for a cup of coffee, and nobody wants to pay that much for coffee,” she said.

Hoeven said consumers have benefited from the cash back and other benefits attached to their credit cards, but a solution to increasing swipe fees needs to be fair to the consumer and the business.

“We need to keep working on it and come up with something that works,” Hoeven said.

Mike Rud, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association, said the association has been trying to fight credit card transaction fees for the last decade.



Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., center, speaks during a small business roundtable next to Rep. Julie Fedorchak, R-N.D., and Don Larson, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business North Dakota, at Balancing Goat Coffee Shop in Mandan on May 4, 2026. (Photo by Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

In 2025, about \$198 billion was collected in swipe fees for credit and debit cards from American consumers, an increase of about \$11 billion over 2024, according to Merchants Payments Coalition. The coalition began tracking transaction fees in 2009 when the swipe fees collected was \$62 billion.

“Right now, on a \$4 gallon of gas, our members are paying 12-cents per gallon in processing fees,” Rud said. “That’s \$2.40 on a 20-gallon tank.”

Don Larson, state director for the NFIB, said swipe fees are a big issue

for small businesses, and most people in North Dakota are employed by small businesses.

“It’s a complex issue and there’s not an easy solution,” Larson said. He added the NFIB supports the Credit Card Competition Act, which would give small businesses options when selecting a credit card processing network.

North Dakota Monitor reporter Michael Achterling can be reached at machterling@northdakotamonitor.com.

HHS recognizes May as Foster Care Awareness Month

Bismarck, ND - North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is recognizing May as Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to highlight the resilience of children involved in the state’s foster care system and the dedication of those who support them.

On any given day, about 1,050 children are in foster care in North Dakota. More than 700 licensed foster care providers and nearly 200 relative caregivers open their homes to provide stability and support for children until reunification or another permanent plan can be achieved.

This year’s theme, “It takes all of us: Caring for children, supporting families and strengthening futures,” em-

phasizes the importance of strong, collaborative communities in ensuring the safety, well-being and long-term success of children. The theme highlights the role of partnerships across organizations, with families at the center of the work.

Everyone involved in the child welfare system plays a critical role in supporting the safety, permanency and well-being of children in care. This includes relatives, foster care providers, public agencies, juvenile court, child welfare professionals, schools, community service providers and other partners working together to support families and promote reunification whenever possible.

“Foster care is a temporary service

designed to ensure child safety while supporting families,” said Chelsea Flory, HHS Children and Family Services director. “May is a time to recognize everyone involved in the child welfare system. This year’s theme highlights the importance of all who play a role in engaging with and supporting families. Together, we strengthen connections and help create brighter, more stable futures.”

Individuals interested in becoming licensed foster care providers are encouraged to call 833-FST-HOME (833-378-4663). For information about providing respite or emergency shelter care, contact the Children and Family Services Licensing Unit at 701-328-2322 or email cfslicensing@nd.gov.

