



## Clark School Board finalizes calendar

Three agenda items were dominant at the January meeting of the Clark School Board of Education.

Going forward with preliminary capital outlay plans, including updates, monopolized the public meeting, time wise, going through the list for next year and the two following years.

A decision was reached regarding the 2019-20 school calendar, following multiple months of discussion.

January is the month for school boards to evaluate the superintendent. After the two-hour and fifteen minute public meeting, a two-hour and thirty minute, plus, executive session was held to evaluate superintendent Luanne Warren, who is in her fourth contract as Clark School superintendent. A decision on the superintendent's contract will come at a future meeting.

### School calendar

The Clark School Board had to make the decision if school should continue to begin the third week of August, as has been the schedule, or if the school year should begin after Labor Day.

In the end, a unanimous vote was given to the August 21 - May 15 school year for 2019-2020.

There were three options for the board to choose from, with this #1 option being the one preferred by the faculty as well as most similar to the current schedule.

Many variables were discussed by the board, with both options, an Aug. 21 start and after Labor Day start having pluses and minuses.

### Capital Outlay plan

As the capital outlay discussion began, superintendent Warren prefaced her remarks by saying that this capital outlay plan is in its preliminary stages, but costs, projects, priorities and a year-to-year system

needs to be looked at and discussed. Warren went through the items to be done this year, then looked at projects for 'down the road' and then went through a listing of potential capital outlay projects.

At the top of the list are new lap tops for 9-12 and faculty (\$100,000); Phase 2 of the sewer system scaling (\$152,000) and potentially erecting a wrestling room add on to the south side of the Field House.

Many additional capital outlay items are on the table, including upgrades to the Field House, locker room ventilation, elementary roof repair, bathroom auto-flushers and high definition cameras, a three-stall garage at the elementary building north parking lot, to name a few options for 2019-20, or beyond.

As the projected enrollment grows, rooms not currently used in the Voss Building, could be needed within a couple of years. Warren noted that the Voss Building project isn't in the immediate future but plans need to be made for 'sooner rather than later' in readying rooms that haven't had heat, water, etc. for more than a decade.

### School board (continued on page 4)

### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Jan. 8	37	25	0
Jan. 9	28	3	0
Jan. 10	10	2	0
Jan. 11	28	7	0
Jan. 12	32	7	0
Jan. 13	32	7	0
Jan. 14	28	20	0
2019 precipitation to date	0.05		
2018 precipitation to date	0.00		



The elevator at the Clark County Courthouse may still look vintage, but its mechanics are new and state of the art with work being done recently to upgrade the elevator. Custodian Dustin Elsen points to the new phone system alarm button on the panel labeled 'help'.

This is the scene inside the control room for the newly updated eleva-

## The elevator has been updated at the Clark County Courthouse

The Otis elevator at the Clark County Courthouse still has an older antique look as far as the doors and interior are concerned but the mechanics and the workings of the elevator have all been updated.

The inside look of the elevator walls will soon be painted as well. Tan colors and black will replace the maroon interior.

The elevator gate that closes the interior is still the same heavy duty one that has been there since 1934 when the Clark County Courthouse was built, but it now is belt-operated mechanically versus a chain system.

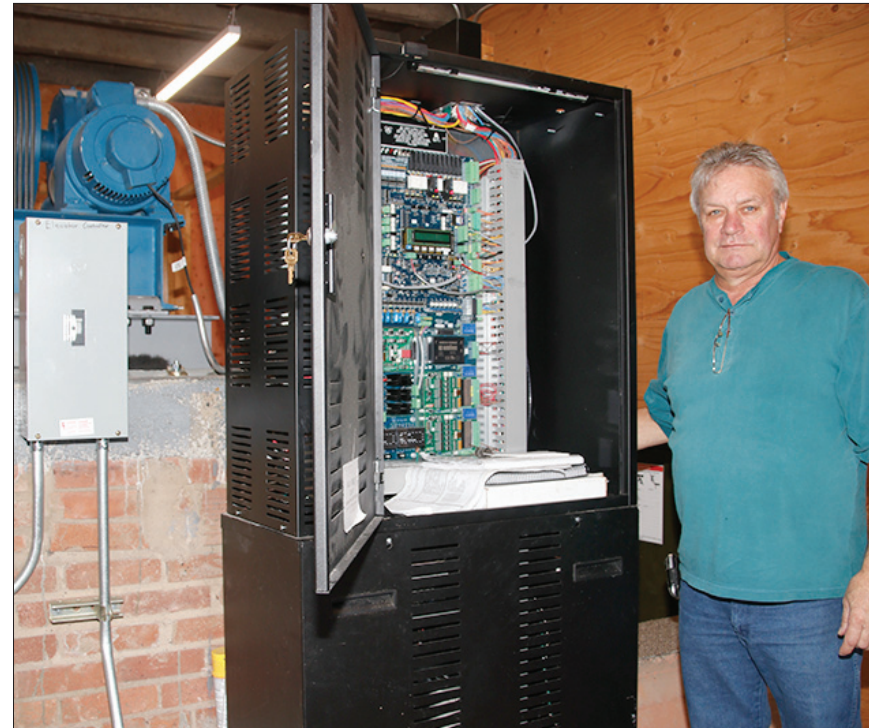
"It's the same old elevator cab, it just has new cables and new equipment running it," stated Dustin Elsen who is custodian of the building. "We wanted the building to stay on the National Register of Historic Places, so we worked with the construction companies to keep

it original as much as we could. We would have lost our status on the list had we done it differently."

The doors that open manually on the other side of the gate on each floor are also staying original although some kick plates may be added on the bottom parts of the doors, noted Elsen of future work.

The traction elevator modernization was done by the Schumacher Elevator company out of Sioux Falls. Gray Construction out of Watertown assisted with the modifications on the area above the fourth floor - the control room for the elevator. With a new motor and an elevator computer in the control room, heat and air conditioning were installed, new insulated walls and lights and an outside door to the roof was added. A window was also added.

Work started in November of 2018 and it took 17 working days to



tor inside the courthouse. Custodian Elsen stands beside the computer component and to the left of that is the new motor that runs the belts that lift and lower the 'cab' or 'car' of the elevator. Part of the elevator update was insulating, heating and air conditioning this room to accommodate the working of the new computer system.

finish.

The elevator is a geared traction passenger elevator that has five stops including the basement and four floors. It's speed now is 125 feet per minute and it's holding capacity is 1500 pounds.

"It's been a long process and we had to wait for our turn to get the job done," said Elsen who started the ball rolling back in 2017. "HKG Architects were brought in to draw up the specs and then they put out bids for the project.

"The timing seemed to come together in the end as the old elevator mechanics officially 'died' for good in October of 2018," added Elsen.

Basically it's a giant computer that runs everything now it was explained by Elsen.

The alarm system has been updated with a 24/7 phone system in the form of a help button that calls the elevator company. They will

then fix the problem from their location to get it moving again. "If they can't, they'll get someone on the way." Before there was an alarm bell that rang and someone from one of the offices would have to come out and assist in getting the custodian.

Twenty three steps and equipment installations were done in the process of updating the old elevator in the courthouse.

The elevator cab or car also has new digital floor indicators inside as well as out in the corridor and new floor passing chimes.

Large buttons remain the means to get from one floor to another however and the 'feel' is the same as one easily glides up from one floor to another.

Or...those desiring a cardio workout can still take the stairs.



Clark County totaled \$16,774,788 in construction costs this past 2018 with a large share being in the ag production sector. Nine new home permits were taken out in the county.

1. Sean and Betty McGraw will be residing with a nice view from on top of a hill along County Highway 46 a few miles south of Clark.

2. Dean and Anna Kirkeby built this home with an attached airplane



hanger/garage across from the Clark Municipal Airport north of Clark.

3. Brandon and Cassi Kottke's new home is along South Dakota Street in Clark.

4. Timothy Kuhlman is finishing up on this new home at the south end of Commercial Street.

## Vacancies are listed on local governing boards

Several notice of vacancies for positions on local governing boards will appear this week and next week in the *Clark County Courier*. In addition to area town board seats, registered resident voters may file petitions for the Henry School Board. The municipal elections this year fall on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Petitions for any of these boards may be obtained from the town finance officer or in the case of the Henry School, from the business manager at the school office.

Petitions may be circulated be-

ginning Friday, January 25 and need to be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2019.

Position openings include:

**Henry School:** Henry School District #14-2 holds their election the same time as city elections. One three-year term is open with the incumbent being Nicole Watson. Gail Thompson is the business manager at Henry School. Clark and Willow Lake schools hold their school board elections in June.

**Vacancies (continued on page 4)**

## Gov. Kristi Noem delivers her first State of the State address

By Dana Hess  
Community News Service

Gov. Kristi Noem proposed an aggressive line-up of policy proposals during her State of the State speech on Tuesday. She promised to tackle improved internet access in rural areas, increased pheasant habitat and a crackdown on methamphetamine use.

Noem pledged that her administration would live up to the state's tradition of fiscal responsibility while she also said she would work to make life better for the next generation of South Dakotans.

"I want to be a governor who improves South Dakota," Noem said.

### Better internet access

Noem noted that South Dakota's rural way of life keeps its citizens connected to the land but often at the expense of internet connectivity.

"Internet access is taken for granted in urban areas," Noem said. "As I see it, this is a statewide issue."

Noem said she refused to put the issue aside when told that it could cost as much as \$15,000 per mile to



lay fiber optic cable. She said the state would work with private industry to incentivize investment in better rural internet connectivity and map out the gaps in coverage throughout the state.

**Gov. Noem (continued on page 10)**

## An estimated \$16,774,778 spent in 2018 Clark County construction

Clark County tallied \$16,774,778 in estimated building project costs in 2018. This figure includes 94 permits total, 65 in county and 25 within the city of Clark and four in Willow Lake.

This compares to 83 permits in 2017 with an total of \$11,756,250. In 2016 there were 108 permits taken out and \$10,510,365 worth of construction.

In the past year new construction in Clark County (out of city limits) tallied \$16,156,556 according to the 65 permits taken out in 2018.

In the city of Clark, according to the 25 permits acquired for building or adding on to properties within the city limits, the total came to \$527,872.

In the city of Willow Lake, four permits within the city totaled \$90,350 in construction costs.

One may note that these numbers are approximations in estimat-

ing the cost of construction usually being on the low side. These are amounts estimated by property owners when taking out their permits and not the assessed values of the finished projects.

Construction in the amount of \$6,131,000 is ongoing at the Fordham and Mayfield colonies with shop additions, homes and additional barns in ag production and at the Hillcrest Colony a new sign was added.

The largest project is a \$4.9 million ag production building being built at the Fordham Colony site. Another big ticket project was NorthWestern Energy's \$3.9 million substation built north of the city limits on the edge of Clark.

Grain bins were increased by 18 on farms within the county according to permits taken out.

Hog barns totaling \$1,500,000 will be built by Renae Burke and

Chris Arthur in the county.

Nine new home permits were taken out by Jarred Lamb, Levi Flora, Mark Foster (2), Ron Dylla, Dean Kirkeby, Sean McGraw, Warren Armbruster and Greg Janisch. Total cost in new homes was estimated at \$1,617,000.

Home additions for Margie Brewton, Jim Paulson, Forrest Grimes, Dennis Arnold, Michael Borg, Todd Altfillisch and Clinton Efraimson, totaled \$257,500 in the county.

Shop additions were added to the properties of Marlowe Lamb and Wade McGraw totaling \$310,000. Storage buildings totaling \$370,000 will be built for Bobby Postal, Thomas Hallberg, Marshall Edleman, Tim Mehlberg, Todd Warcken-thien, Ray Olson, Tony Vandersnick and Wayne Fuller.

Pole barns, sheds and a hoop barn totaling \$392,297 will be constructed for Larry Lynch, Nicole Nelson,

Bob Schmidt, Jim Thoreson, Brian Holiday, Verdon Kretzschmar, Mad-sen Farms, Linda Larson and CJ Beving.

Work permits were taken out by Crown Castle to modify equipment on the communication towers west of Clark.

### City of Clark

In the city limits of Clark 25 permits were taken out totaling \$527,872. Two permits being new homes for Timothy Kuhlman and Brandon and Cassi Kottke with a total of \$470,000.

IntelliFarms took out a permit to add a sign to their building and Alan Yexley added new awning and siding to his building - both along US Highway 212 or 1st Ave. East.

New garage and garage additions were taken out by Roger and Beth Mitchell and Norman Schmahl for

**Construction (continued on page 8)**