



The voice of Clark County since 1880

Municipality of Clark purchases street sweeper

The March meeting of the Clark City council was highlighted by the purchase of a street sweeper from Sanitation Products, out of Sioux Falls, for \$201,922.

Randy Schmidt, of Sanitation Products, went over the purchase/leasing agreement with the council and before he spoke of the financial specifications, Clark street superintendent Roger Collins went over numbers with the council if the city hired street sweeping done.

Collins met with a Poppen Construction representative, out of Castlewood, and quoted prices for a spring, fall street sweeping cost, per time, monthly and annually.

"The annual cost would be \$17,555 and that doesn't include special events," Collins stated and when he finished Mayor Larry Dreher noted that he liked Schmidt's proposal, felt it important that the city owned their own street sweeper, as the sweeper would be used almost daily, now through the month of June.

Finance officer Jackie Luttrell noted that \$50,000 had been set aside in the budget, as the annual payment is \$30,408. After five years there will be several options; a balloon pay-off, turn back in, or re-finance.

The council then approved this purchase unanimously. Voting in favor of the street sweeper were Kerry Kline, Belinda Hanson, Andrew Zemlicka and Dennis Larson (by speaker phone). Vicki Orris and

Louann Streff were absent.

Also during department updates water/sewer superintendent Darin Altfillisch requested a variable frequency drive for the water pump, as it is too efficient.

"It's just too efficient and for our old pipes we need to slow down the unit," he said and the council approved the \$7,500 for a variable frequency drive pump.

Next up was police chief Jeremy Wellnitz and during his update, Mayor Dreher asked about drug related issues and on-going investigations. City attorney Chad Fjelland interjected, "Drug cases are up; meth is the big one here and sex cases are up."

Wellnitz then explained that it is important to have two patrolmen and he told the council he couldn't tell about any cases, but "these on-going cases don't close tomorrow, it takes time," and then he spoke of recent vehicular burglaries and that most crimes of this type are meth related.

In his monthly report, Wellnitz recorded 807 miles traveled, 39 calls for service with 14 of them being traffic stops. Eleven warnings were issued with the majority being speeding and two citations were issued for speeding.

In other business:

▲ An executive session was called for personnel and contractual

Clark

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Cyclones keep rolling - fans enjoy the ride

Riley Schmidt, donning his #33 Larry Bird jersey, leads the fans 'getting fired up' during a fourth timeout in the Cyclones 68-63 Region 2A semifinal victory, Thursday at the Clark High School gym.

Clark-Willow Lake earned a spot in the Sweet 16, playing Tri-Valley Tuesday, for an opportunity to qualify for the State A Tournament next weekend in Sioux Falls, March 16-18.



Headstones in the Richland Cemetery date back to 1888 and served the early pioneers of Richland Township. In fact the township managed the cemetery up until 2006 when a cemetery association was formed. The cemetery is located along the Carpenter road

(415th Avenue) and 187th Street in a serene country setting.

Shown above representing the Richland Cemetery board are, left to right, Jeff Grann, Heidi Madsen and Jim Opsahl.

Richland Cemetery serves the Carpenter area

Editor's Note: Studying old records and visiting Clark County cemeteries reveals not only the final resting place of hundreds of early settlers, but also gives a partial glimpse of pioneer life when this area was still known as "Dakota Territory". Along with the large town and church cemeteries are those abandoned, forlorn private cemeteries that dot the landscape in this county. The following story is one in a series of histories of the twenty-eight graveyards in Clark County. Persons knowing of cemeteries that might be missed in this report, or have history material connected with cemeteries in the locality are urged to contact the Courier.

Located along the Carpenter road (415th Ave.) at the intersection of 187th Street is a cemetery which has a long history in the area - the Richland Cemetery.

Records show that Annie Scott (and William Scott) signed an official document in February of 1892 selling fifty dollars worth of land to Richland Township to be used as a cemetery.

The cemetery which has never been affiliated with a particular church, instead has belonged to and been managed by Richland Township board members. The earliest date of death in the cemetery is in 1888 according to the headstone

of eight-month-old Carrie Stanley. Earliest burial recorded was that of 30 year old Belle Davis in 1890.

On young Stanley's grave is the verse: "Dearest of all babies thou art; that play today, tomorrow depart. Thou hast left this world for the realms above, where the angels will care for the darling we love."

On the Holden and Ruth Lundy gravestone is a cross in the center with the saying "Hail the cross - our only hope". Holden died in 1972 at 81 years old with his wife Ruth's burial two years later in 1974 at age 76.

"Rest mother and father. Rest in quick sleep while friends in sorrow, over thee weep." This is the verse

on the taller, urn topped headstone at the gravesite of John (J. W.) Kelley and his wife Frances Elizabeth (F. E.) Kelly. He died in 1898 and she died in 1896 according to the dates still legible on the headstone.

There are seven burials in the cemetery that pre date the year 1900 with the family names of Stanley, Davis, Simpson, Kelley and Cox.

Family names with multiple burials in the cemetery are: Wicks (16), Davis (13), Madsen (eight), Boyd (seven), Opsahl, Board and Bottger (six) and Berry, Dudley, Grann, Kelley, Lundy, Meier and Stanley (five).

Family stones denote the Wicks, Hanna, Berry and Board families. Alex and Augusta Wicks who homesteaded in Hague and then Richland Township in 1909 had nine children, many of whose descendants are still in the area.

Martin and Caroline Opsahl were early pioneers in Richland Township and Martin joined his brother John Opsahl in business in the early years in Carpenter. Martin is the

Richland Cemetery (continued on page 6)

The Crocker Wind Farm public hearing proved to be very interesting

Editor's Note: This was a tough day to be in this profession. The story, for Clark County, is huge. The meeting lasted four hours. Then the story had to be hurriedly written. Then the paper put to bed. Another deadline - the 5:00 p.m. Sweet 16 boys basketball game in Brookings.

Tuesday was a very interesting morning at the Clark American Legion Hall!

On tap, was the \$300-350,000,000 Geronimo Energy Crocker Wind Farm public hearing. The Clark County Board of Commissioners went into Board of Adjustments mode and laid the ground rules for the four-hour hearing.

Both proponents and opponents wanted their side heard.

Much emotion from both sides was aired and shared and it is impossible to publish all that was said.

The Clark County Board of Commissioners consist of chairman Vi Wicks, vice chairman Bob Bjerke, Chris Sass, Richard Reints and Francis Hass. Wicks was absent from the hearing due to illness, so vice chairman Bjerke presided. States Attorney Chad Fjelland, Director of Equalization Jarvis Reidburn, auditor Chris Tarbox and Luke Mueller of First District Association of Watertown were also on the podium.

This Crocker Wind Farm conditional use permit (CUP) is a very large, important action being taken by the commissioners and at the hearing more than a score of both proponents and opponents wanted to be heard.

Geronimo Energy, with Jay Hesse as the project spokesman talked



Luke Mueller, of First District Planning, in Watertown and Bob Bjerke, both standing, finish going over housekeeping strategies for the Clark County Board of Adjustments Crocker Wind Farm conditional use permit hearing. The American Legion Hall was full of interested patrons.

Others pictured on the podium include, left to right, commissioner Richard Reints, Director of Equalization Jarvis Reidburn, Mueller, Bjerke, States Attorney Chad Fjelland and commissioner Chris Sass. Commissioner Francis Hass is not pictured, as he was next to Sass.

benefit, project area and history of the project.

In a nutshell, 200-400 megawatt turbines, totaling 219, covering an area of 31,000 acres and 60 signed up landowners is the proposed project.

The wind farm location is northwest of Clark, with a 'footprint' in five Clark County townships, basically in the Crocker Hills.

The seven-person Geronimo Energy team outlined: environmental review, wildlife, noise, shadow flicker, property values and airspace.

When Geronimo Energy's 30-minute time frame was up, proponents were allowed to speak, up to three minutes per person.

Proponents of the wind farm commented: "Wildlife will not change, positives outweigh the negatives, 'live and let live', this is a wonderful opportunity, being respectful is

a must and the increase in tax revenue is a must."

As opponents got their turn, many passionate concerns were aired.

Dave Adam, a leader within the concerned citizens against this project summed things up for the group. "We've heard many testimonies with many problems, including: an incomplete permit, the towers are too close, the setbacks are not in the best interest. This really has a negative effect on my family. We moved here 10 years ago and built our dream house. Health, safety and welfare are big concerns. Please deny this CUP. Nancy Tarbox, Shad Stevens and Doug Paulson took the lead for this group, rejecting many Geronimo guarantees

Crocker Wind Farm (continued on page 6)

Pops concert is Tuesday

The Clark Music Department under the direction of Lola Bartels, band and Tera McDonnell, choral, will present a pops concert on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.

The concert band will perform "The Rolling Stones on Tour featuring Paint it, Black; Ruby Tuesday and I Can't Get No Satisfaction", "Home" recorded by Phillip Phillips

and "Jump in the Line" recorded by Harry Belafonte.

The 7-12th grade combined choir will sing, "Man in the Mirror (Michael Jackson)" arranged by Ed Lojeski, "A Tribute to Queen", arranged by Mark Brymer, "Africa (Toto)", arranged by Roger Emerson and "It's Time (Imagine Dragons)", adapted by Mark Brymer.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Feb. 28	29	18	tr
Mar. 1	28	14	tr
Mar. 2	24	9	0
Mar. 3	32	14	0
Mar. 4	49	21	0
Mar. 5	60	37	0
Mar. 6	61	23	tr
2017 precipitation to date		.42	
2016 precipitation to date		1.32	