

Baseball fence, new house hook-up and economic development all discussed at city hall

Dr. Craig Spieker represented the Clark Rotary Club at the February meeting of the Clark City Council, Monday. Spieker told the council that the dugouts have been paid for and this year's project is the outfield fence. "We would like to put up a permanent fence in the outfield," said Spieker. Starting in right field the height of the fence would be 12 feet, then eight feet, then four feet of fence throughout the rest of the outfield. The city is going to apply for a Minnesota Twins grant to help finance this project.

Brandon and Cassi Kottke were next on the agenda, talking water and sewer connections and road to their potentially new house. The Kottkes are planning on building in the southwest part of Clark on S. Dakota Street. The city will run a two inch waterline up to the property line. The house could have a septic tank system.

Mayor John Pollock next read a letter from U. S Justice Department Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Resident in Charge, Kurt Wheeler. Wheeler commended Clark Chief of Police Jeremy Wellnitz in the role he played in the apprehension of Jeron Williams, a week ago Friday.

Fixing the bathroom, or rather remodeling the ladies golf clubhouse bathroom was the next item of business. Many 'fixes' are needed at the Clubhouse and the council felt that the ladies bathroom was where the focus was needed. Councilman Brian Cook volunteered to do the labor. The council approved to do this and has \$10,000 set aside for this project, even though the bathroom project won't cost \$10,000.

A moment of disagreement occurred, or rather was a recurrence from the January council meeting. At the January meeting, council person Kerry Kline questioned Mayor John Pollock about his hiring

of Clausen Construction to help with snow removal in late December. Pollock answered, at that time that it needed to be done quickly and the cost made it 'doable' for approximately what it would have cost if the city had done it alone.

Monday, Kline brought this matter to a head, voicing that because she was the council person in charge of streets, she should be involved in the respective decisions as to have outside help with snow removal. Pollock said he would take this matter under consideration and wanted it left at that.

Snow removal budget numbers aren't available at this time as winter is far from over and February and March can be 'snowy'. To this point in 2018, snow pack numbers are below normal.

The city will hire two individuals for summer help, to paint and mow.

Councilman Cook then talked economic development with the council. Cook would like to see a plan for economic development. He would like the Industrial Development board to be financially able to erect a building, if a potential firm wanted to come to the industrial park. Currently that couldn't happen Cook said, as the money just

City (continued on page 3)

WEATHER				
Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer				
	HI	LO	PR	
Jan. 30	34	15	0	
Jan. 31	29	-2	0	
Feb. 1	6	-5	0	
Feb. 2	21	-1	0	
Feb. 3	19	-9	tr	
Feb. 4	3	-12	0	
Feb. 5	9	-11	0	
2018 precipitation to date			Tr	
2017 precipitation to date			0.17	

S.D. Public Utilities Commission hosts public hearing 2.0

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) public hearing on the application to construct the Crocker Wind Farm - 2.0, or call it round two.

Whatever the name, the second Crocker Wind Farm public hearing in front of the PUC, held Monday evening at the Clark American Legion Hall was very similar to last September's meeting at the Clark Elementary.

But, even though it was of a repetitive nature, take nothing away from the emotion, civility, well-prepared speeches and important atmosphere of the four-hour long public hearing. Both sides wanted their voices heard and testimonials proved that.

The PUC public input hearing regarding the proposed Geronimo Energy Crocker Wind Farm brought out approximately 160 interested patrons, with more than 40 individuals speaking for and against the project.

Chris Nelson, along with six members of the PUC, was the only PUC commissioner in attendance, moderating the hearing. Gary Hanson had a scheduling conflict and Kristie Fiegen was ill.

Nelson began the hearing setting the ground work explaining the purpose of this hearing. He then read the legal description of the Geronimo Energy Crocker Wind Farm, explaining the process, deadlines, compliance and the fact that no decision would be forthcoming at this meeting, but rather at a special hearing, in Pierre, in May.

It must again be noted that this is the second PUC public hearing meeting held in Clark. The Crocker Wind Farm project has been in the works for over a decade. Last spring the Clark County Board of Commissioners put the setbacks to residences to 3/4 mile. Geronimo Energy took that issue and other considerations to court, starting last July. Geronimo filed a writ of certiorari over the Third Circuit Court's decision that stated that



Individuals line-up to 'say their piece' at the PUC public hearing held Monday evening at the Clark American Legion Hall.

PUC commissioner Chris Nelson was the lone PUC commissioner in attendance and is third from the left on the stage. Approximately 160 people attended with over 40 presenting opinions.

Clark County Commissioners were within their right to extend setbacks for each wind tower to three quarters of a mile to a residence.

In September, the first PUC public hearing was held, at Clark Elementary, a night similar to this past Monday.

On October 25, 2017, the South Dakota PUC dismissed the Geronimo Energy Crocker Wind Farm application.

On December 5, in Pierre, the PUC turned down the request from Crocker Wind Farm for reconsideration, bringing about the project going back to the PUC public hearing stage.

This hearing, held Monday at the Clark Legion Hall, dealt with the proposed Crocker Wind Farm, a wind energy facility, located on approximately 29,331 acres of land, eight miles north of Clark. The proposed project includes up to 120 wind turbines.

This rhetoric sounds repetitive, but needs to be made such, as the

PUC wanted a detailed single plan and that is where Geronimo's new application required a public hearing.

The passion, on both sides of this issue, remains proven and witnessed with advertisements, letters to the editor and insertion circulars in the *Clark County Courier*. Monday was a new chance for both sides to let their opinions be heard by the PUC.

The first 45 minutes of the hearing was given to Geronimo Energy. Senior permitting specialist Melissa Schmidt began with a power point presentation on the physical aspects of the wind farm, the economic impacts to the landowner and to the community.

Schmidt detailed Geronimo Energy's timeline, hitting on all phases of construction, finishing with detailed decommissioning.

Proponents and opponents were then given six minutes, per individual. From roughly 5:45 p.m. until just before 9:00 p.m. forty individ-

uals came to the microphone, wanting their opinions heard.

It is difficult to paraphrase or summarize four hours of testimony and impossible to print all of the comments. The PUC tape is available to listen to on the internet.

Some examples of testimony:

- Proponent Jeff Haverly of the South Dakota Office of Economic Development began the individual comments, telling the crowd that wind energy has tremendous economic development potential and South Dakota ranks in the top five of wind producing states.

- Concerned citizen Shad Stevens, who lives 16 miles northwest of Clark questioned Geronimo's findings and he specified detailed problems he found in the 855 page application. "Geronimo is hell bent on starting construction in 2018 and there are just too many unanswered questions," he said.

PUC (continued on page 3)

Kranz barn neared century mark

▲Former dairy barn lost in fire



This is the hip-roofed barn that was built in 1920 - that nearly made it to 100 years old on the Lavern and Betty Kranz and Jeff and Mary Nelson farm. Located across the road from Central Plains Industries and Lakeside Auto along US Highway 212, six miles east of Clark, this barn succumbed to fire December 27, 2017.

The above photo was taken in 1968 with Mike Kranz and his cousin Trisha on the three-wheeler in the foreground.

When one hears of a barn fire that takes an old barn off of the farmsite - they try to remember what it looked like before.

The photo above is the large hip-roofed barn that stood for nearly 100 years on the farmsite of Lavern

and Betty Kranz and Jeff and Mary Nelson.

This photo was taken in 1968 it is assumed according to the age of young Mike Kranz and his cousin Trisha from California who was visiting her cousins - Mike and Mary.

At the time the barn was white with a green colored trim. Before that paint job, the barn was red with white trim that matched the chicken coop and hog house nearby with a windmill in between similar to the one that is restored at the Clark Museum complex near the Beauvais House.

In fact a G. A. Beauvais is the fellow who Lavern Kranz wrote the check to back in 1958 when he bought the farmsite approximately six miles east of Clark along U. S. Highway 212.

Before Lavern bought the farm, his brother Charles and Eileen had rented the farm for a few years. Lavern saved money since returning from the service in 1952, raising pigs to earn enough for the down payment for this farm. He began dating Betty Snaza in 1960 and the couple was married in 1962.

The barn was a 1920s structure which soon became bigger with the addition of a lean-to on the west side and the north side.

Betty and Lavern milked 60 Holstein cows in the barn, morning and night.

Betty recalls coming out to the farm on weekends and helping with the milking before they were married. "And I still married him," she giggled.

The old barn had a pulley system along the roof where ropes were used to pull up loose hay stacks in through the large door and back into the barn. In Lavern and Betty

Kranz barn (continued on page 3)

H3N2 - dominant influenza strain in Clark County

"The typical flu season is hitting its peak in the county," noted Louann Streff, PA at the Clark Community Clinic regarding the number of ill people who came through the door two weeks ago. A lesser peak is expected usually the end of February into March.

"The majority of the cases coming through our door are H3N2 or Influenza A. This is the one that is more novel of a virus it seems. The one that is responsible for about 90% of the hospitalizations.

"People are getting this who normally don't get the flu," added Bev Splinter of the Clark Community Pharmacy who has seen a lot more Tamiflu go out of her pharmacy this winter.

"This year with the generic version, Tamiflu is more affordable. The first 48 hours of the flu is the best time to take it to make a difference."

A lot of RSV, strep throat and bad colds have also come into the clinic with similar symptoms more difficult to sort out. "We typically don't test for RSV over age five," noted Streff. "A nasal swab test is used to determine which influenza strain - A or B or RSV one may have. The nasal swab identifies the DNA of the respiratory virus. A and B both have similar symptoms.

"Secondary pneumonia and dehydration are the bigger dangers with this strain," continued Streff. "They very young, the very old and those with compromised health conditions like lung diseases, cancer, or diabetes should take extra precaution. For high risk caregivers, a preventative regimen of Tamiflu

may be administered, added Streff.

The H3N2 strain in the county lasts about one week for those affected. Muscle pain in the back, neck, legs or arms, fever, chills, no appetite, headaches, sinus problems and a mucous - filled cough are symptoms. Light sensitivity, one's voice changing and being lethargic in general are also symptoms felt by some.

Time, rest and a lot of fluids are the best one can do, if after the first 48 hour window has passed. Even with Tamiflu, some still have the virus for seven days - although symptoms may be more tolerable. It may shorten the duration, but everyone is different in how they are affected noted the physician assistant.

Aspirin is not recommended for a virus.

Ibuprofen or acetaminophen may be used as a fever reducer for symptoms, but a fever is the body's natural defense for the virus. Also one may mask the symptoms and still be contagious and not realize it with fever reducers.

PA Streff advised that one with the flu is contagious unless one has been fever free for the last 24 hours at the end of their sick time down with the flu.

"The economics of the flu season is tough on families," added Streff. "It runs through several members of the family it can take a parent out of the workforce for a week or two.

"To date we've been fortunate in our town that influenza has not entered our care center or assisted living centers."

An intestinal flu bug was preva-

lent around this area around Christmas this year stated Streff and added that the flu shot does not prevent the gastrointestinal version although both are termed the flu.

The flu shot this year offered less protection, as low as 10% it has been estimated with many reporting getting the flu even though they had the shot.

"When you get the flu, it's a matter of degrees," said Streff. "In theory we think getting the shot will offer some level of protection, maybe being not as ill."

After an uncovered sneeze, particles can remain contagious on a hard surface up to 24 hours. If in doubt, stay home if you think you may still be contagious. Bleach wipes may help curtail the spread of one to another at home.

According to statistics from the SD Department of Health at the sd.gov website ending on January 20, lab confirmed cases in the state number 1,064 for Type A unspecified, 207 for Type A-H3, five of Type A H1 and 132 for Type B unspecified. There were 19 cases of B Yamagata Influenza reported. That week was number nine of the 16 week flu season. These are numbers for the flu season to date.

County by county - Clark County is prevalent with lab confirmed Influenza A. Nearby Hamlin and Spink counties are also prevalent with Influenza A while Codington County has lab confirmed Influenza A and B.

As of the week ending January 20, Hamlin and Codington County have had one hospitalization each due to influenza.

Get Vroom High-Speed Internet From



Because... Life Runs Better on ITC

Follow us at www.facebook.com/itccoop/