



Trish Ladner

Representative District 30

Property Tax Reform... I'm on it!!

As the desire to leave the urban congestion behind them, South Dakota, and especially the Black Hills has been experiencing a huge influx of people moving here from all over the United States. I understand why they would want to relocate from places that are becoming undesirable to live and raise a family. However, because of the influx of people moving here and purchasing property and homes, we are experiencing a huge increase in our property tax assessments. This impacts all of us and in some cases, for those folks are on a fixed income, it could actually tax them out of their homes!

So, obviously, the elephant in the room is increased property taxes. My husband always asks, how do you eat an elephant? The answer is one bite at a time! So, this past legislative session my "first bite," was focused on HB 1039: A Grassland Tax Relief bill for the ranchers. Because of a proposed soil survey done by the Department of Revenue in conjunction with the South Dakota State University, ranchers could have been

facing an increase in their property taxes of up to 300%. HB 1039 made it through the House but was defeated in the Senate Taxation Committee. My colleague, Representative Chaffee presented a champion bill, HB 1325. In this bill, the assessors were given the ability to reassess up to 20% of Class 4 soils per year and soil types would be established using the USDA and NRCS soil reports. This was a huge win for our ranchers and was successful because of the public outcry and the momentum garnered by HB 1039. HB 1325 passed through the House and the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Noem.

Second bite? This past legislative session we also raised the limits on the income level and property values for the elderly and disabled to qualify for a property tax freeze. The bill was signed into law by Governor Noem.

So, you might ask, what's the third bite? Bite number three is a pretty big bite, property taxes for residential, business property, ranches, and farms. As many of you know, I am on the Executive

Board and during the interim between sessions, the Executive Board conducts summer studies that delve deeper into issues facing the state. Each year legislators are asked to submit suggestions for the interim studies. Last year for example, we conducted studies on workforce housing and marijuana. There was some great legislation introduced as a result of those studies. This year I requested that we conduct a study that looks into the property tax issue. The topic was approved by the Executive Board, and I have been nominated to chair the study. We will be meeting in Pierre next week to clarify the topic, the scope of the study and assign legislators to participate in the statewide study.

South Dakota has never faced growth like this in the history of our state. With this growth, there are going to be new issues that arise that we will have to face and solve. Right now, increased property tax is the critical issue facing our citizens, and one that needs to be addressed. I am anxious to roll up my sleeves and get to work for you!

Unofficial Kadoka Area School District Election Results

Ross Block

Rebecka Roghair

Dawn Rasmussen

Teresa Shuck

Kadoka Topics

continued from 1

the Pioneer-Review. The Council appointed the Pioneer Review as the official newspaper.

Jeff McCormick, P.E. for Schmucker, Paul, Nohr and Associates, informed the Council of a meeting scheduled for April 12 for water and sewer project funding from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He received a request from the SD-DANR to have a City representative attend the meeting, either physically or virtually. McCormick reported contractor delays in projects caused by material shortages, causing project delays until 2023. In addition to shortages and delays, McCormick commented upon costs, noting "construction is expensive right now." He also requested consent to prepare a letter on behalf of the City addressed to the state. The City hopes to develop property located at the intersection of Maple Street and Tenth Avenue, formerly known as the Scholl property, into six site-ready building lots. McCormick plans to prepare a letter to the state seeking approval for use of a septic sewer system, explaining projected costs for installing sewer lines exceeded the allocated funds. The Council approved his request.

In the next matter of new business, Mayor Weller noted the Council conducted its first reading of Title Nine: Animals. The second reading of the ordinance will be

conducted at the next Council meeting followed by a vote.

The Council received bids for the 2022 street paving project. The City received three bids for hot mix and two for chip seal. The Council discussed the options and moved to accept the bid from Dakota Asphalt, LLC, for hot mix and the bid from Simons Contractors for chip seal. Huffman commented, "they [the bids] came in a lot higher than we anticipated." The Council decided to decrease each quotation by 25 percent of the total tonnage to stay within budget. Patrick Solon, public works employee, said, "we have to figure it out differently, but it is doable."

The Council approved a building permit submitted on Ninth Avenue for a single car garage. The Council approved a request for the City to raze a building on Bayberry Street and transfer the rubble to the landfill. In the last matter of new business, Keith Knutson, senior audit manager for Wohlenberg, Ritzman & Company, presented the Council with the 2020 audit, noting "LaTasha does an excellent job. I reviewed her reports. They are spot on." The Council approved the audit report.

The Council proceeded to departmental reports. Code Enforcement Specialist, LLC (CES), submitted reports listing properties in violation of ordinances. Buchholz informed the Council, "there are new violations," as CES reports contained an updated assessment. The Council discussed the properties requiring a letter from CES,

which informs the property owner of the violation and the time allotted to correct the deficiency. The Council moved to have CES mail the letters.

In departmental matters, Weller informed the Council of plans to commence with the water and sewer project on Cedar Street within the next two weeks. Stolley asked if the City received applications for temporary help at the transfer station and landfill. The City has not received any applications for the position. On Saturdays during the month of May, the landfill will not charge residents to dispose of rubble, excluding household trash and tires. Solon presented quotations for a new blade for street department use. The Council requested a representative from John Deere attend the May Council meeting. Colby Shuck, pool manager, informed the Council that Handrahan Construction will complete concrete work prior to installing flooring. Robert Book, public safety director, presented a report to the Council documenting calls for service including several regarding animals. Mayor Weller also reported receiving calls from Kadoka residents regarding animals. The Council entered executive session and after returning to regular session, moved to hire four lifeguards, a t-ball coach and a little league baseball coach for the summer of 2022.

The next meeting of the Council will be on May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Kadoka City Annex.

The Kougar Column

Robert Lukens - MS/HS Principal

Dear Kadoka Area,

This week the topic of the Kougar Column is a safe and welcoming culture by giving everyone a seat at the table. It is an often-overlooked portion of your culture, passing (the short break when students are walking between classes) and lunchrooms, and how it sustains our growth towards our goals of 1% growth every day to a safe and welcoming place. Remember there isn't one thing in our school that can make us better than our past in the infinite education game, but the little things in executing bring up the level of your staff and students to compete in the competition of education.

Giving everyone a seat at the table in your school starts in the lunchroom. Kadoka Area is one of the largest school districts by area in the state; many of our students will attend one of our Elementary/Middle School systems and then come together in their first

year of high school. Add to that the diverse backgrounds of our families and the never-ending interests of teenagers in Generation Z. It can be a challenge to make students feel like they matter. Lunch is a bedrock for showing them they do matter. Can they find a place to sit? Can they meet with their friends? As a lunch supervisor (yes, I supervise lunch as a principal), can you remember their name and make them feel better about themselves. No matter where you come from and what you believe, we try at Kadoka to let you have a seat at the table as much as possible in all instances. The lunchroom is the starting point of that.

Why emphasize passing times between classes and lunchtimes? School learning builds on relationships. Passing and lunch are often the only times some of our kids will see or hear from specific teachers. If a student forges a re-

lationship with a teacher, it must be serviced at some point each day; how is it possible to do that if they don't have the student in class? Finding ways to get our staff and I in the hallways and lunch area to interact with our students is essential to building and maintaining a safe and welcoming culture for all who enter our building to enjoy.

It isn't one thing in a school that builds a safe and welcoming culture. A lot of little things play into the formation. The culture must take advantage of the lunchroom to have the most success in a school and give kids a seat at the table. Secondly, interaction in the short times between classes, and passing times, must be thought through as we help kids find themselves in a school.

Sincerely,
Mr. Lukens

Norris News Carol Ferguson | carolferg46@hotmail.com

What a beautiful Easter morning! A pre-service breakfast started the day at St. John Lutheran, then a good crowd gathered for services afterward. Visitors were Deb Ring, Randy Heinert and the Alex Heinert family. The Heinerts were out spending the weekend at Gary and Anne Heinert's ranch.

Charlie Hibbs stopped to visit Robert Ring on Tuesday.

Easter dinner guests at Robert and Sharon Ring's home were Deb Ring of Spearfish and Torey, Linda and Tyler Ring.

Tricia Amiotte, her 3 boys and Bridger's friend Wyatt from college came to spend Easter at the Tim and Tammy Merchen ranch. Merchen's daughter Taylor, Kevin, and Tre Coy, Ty and Val Merchen and Tammy's dad, Ken Wilmarth were out as well. They had a great time together!

The whole clan met at Pete and Marla Ferguson's home for Easter dinner. The little ones had an Easter egg hunt earlier in the morning. Then Pete made prime rib, Olivia brought salads, I made pies and Marla made the rest of the feast and supervised. The little ones were given their Easter baskets as they went out the door and the rest of us left stuffed.

Sonny and Noreen Krogman had Easter out. They went to Darrin and Amber Krogman's for dinner then to Blaine and Louann Krogman's for supper.

Dan and Susan Taft were in Kadoka on business early last week. On Thursday, Susan drove to Martin and picked up her mother, Judy Simmons and then on to Rapid City. They spent the night with Samantha Taft and returned home on Friday.

We have two little kittens at our home now. Until they are a bit bigger and can fend for themselves, they are living in the porch. I'm leaning towards "Otis and Otto" as names but that's still undecided. Late one evening recently, Jes heard a "clap, clap, clap" out in the porch. He went to investigate and found one of the cats had stepped in a sticky mousetrap. I'd tucked a couple of these odd traps in corners around the porch some time ago in case a mouse found its way in. Harold and Charity had used this type of trap in the family cabin by Rockford. These were the spares I'd inherited with all the odds and ends of my aunt and uncles' things. I just set one out at home to see if they'd work.

With some effort we freed the kitten's paw and I put the traps on the washing machine for the night. If these traps can catch a cat, they can surely catch mice!

I was still up the following night when Jes hollered from the porch again. The second kitten had found his way to the top of the washer and had his two hind feet firmly planted in one trap and his front feet in another. He was going nowhere. It took considerably longer to free this cat, but he is back to normal, and the traps safely put away.

Ed's oldest brother Charles passed away this week in South Carolina. He was Bestman at our wedding. In a way, he was Ed's incentive for traveling. Every so often, Ed wanted to "go see Chuck." The family lived for a time in Colorado, and we went out to see him there. Then they moved to Lexington, South Carolina, and we made many trips there, with and without the camper. Chuck took us several times to the ocean and always had suggestions of places to go and things to see in that beautiful state. He will surely be missed.

Have a good week.



Gateway Apartments I & II
Affordable & Convenient living in Kadoka

1 Bedroom Units
Rent based on income.
Apply Now!

Please call
605-837-2505

J&S ReStore
Kadoka, South Dakota • 837-2376
Full Service Mechanic Shop!

On-the-farm Tire Service!
A/C SERVICE AND REPAIR
Car, Pickup, Truck & Trailer tires

HOURS:
Mon - Fri: 7:30 to 5:30
Saturday: 8 to Noon

*We're here for all your vehicle maintenance!
Give us a call today!*

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS

JACKSON COUNTY

VOTE

Amiotte for Sheriff



23 years experience in law enforcement

Born and raised in Jackson County

Sheriff for ALL

SHERIFF

VOTE JUNE 7TH Paid for by candidate

ELECT

Brett L Nieman

Your Republican District 1
Haakon County Commissioner

Paid for by candidate

We are looking for someone in the Midland area to provide us with the

Midland News

in our Social section of the Pioneer Review

Give us a call at 605-859-2516

Midland News by...

Exact Contracting

Services include, but not limited to:

New Construction, Garages, Additions, Remodeling, Pole Buildings, Shingling, Steel Roofing, Siding, Decks, & Sheet Rock

Chris Grillo,
owner
Kadoka
605-890-2696

Selling over 300 000 acres, scaling \$380 million in sales for 2021

LAND BROKER
Lynn Ward
LICENSED IN NEBRASKA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

VOTED BEST BROKERAGE 2011 - 2021 - THE LAND REPORT



CONTACT LYNN WARD
605-685-3238
ward@clarklandbrokers.com
Facebook #lynnwardlandbroker
www.clarklandbrokers.com

CLARK & ASSOCIATES
LAND BROKERS, LLC

To place an ad in the Pioneer Review, email us at ads@pioneer-review.com