

PHOTOS WORTH 1,000 WORDS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Katie Taylor, of International Falls, shared these photos of a bald eagle and geese she'd taken in late April. She captured the photo of the eagle off the Ray North Road as it attempts to pick up the tail of a beaver from a nearby carcass. She captured the photos of the Canada goose on its nest and the pair swimming off Highway 11-71.



CITY COUNCIL

► continued from A1

Mayor Bob Anderson suggested the city consider seeking a second appraisal to address questions about the actual value of the property. He said an appraisal with a lesser value could be used to renegotiate the agreement calling for the brokerage fee payments. In addition, he said a lesser value placed on the property could be used to renegotiate the section of the agreement calling for a trail to be constructed and maintained through the property.

The city has \$30,000 remaining to be paid in two \$15,000 payments, which are to be made this year and next.

Instead of a second appraisal, Councilor Gail Rognerud suggested the city use the assessed value to renegotiate.

Rognerud, however, said the council had earlier agreed not to spend more money on the property other than what's needed to fulfill the agreement with the Donahue Trust.

Jaksa reiterated the property is an opportunity to expand the city in the only possible direction — west. She credited the forward thinking of the council for accepting the property “as an investment” in the city and its future.

“If you think you can increase the contribution (of the Donahue Trust) to the city for a greater amount — go for it,” she said. “But I won't pay for another appraisal.”

Councilor Paul Eklund said a second appraisal may put to bed controversy over

“We've bent over backwards to address the concerns.”

Cynthia Jaksa
International Falls City Councilor

the property, though he said he appreciated Rognerud's idea of basing renegotiation efforts on the county's assessed value.

Jaksa said she believes the controversy surrounding the property is because people resent the tax deduction Matt Donahue received, not the “wisdom” of accepting the land.

“We've bent over backwards to address the concerns,” she said.

James Rundell, during an audience portion of the meeting, said the land was for sale 10 years ago for \$160,000. He said he purchased nearby land from Donahue and his property has not increased in value at the same rate. He, and others, asked about wetlands and river frontage.

Anderson said the 122 acres is from 40 to 60 percent wetlands based on an Arro of the North estimate. In addition, he said 15 to 20 acres of the land has Rainy River frontage.

Councilors Pete Kalar, Rognerud and Eklund said it costs nothing to find out the price of a second appraisal. After that, they said, the council will consider whether to move forward.

Special meeting

In other business Monday, the council agreed on a 4-1 vote to meet in special session at 9 a.m. Monday to consider submitting an application for a LightSpeed grant from the Blandin Foundation to improve the

recording system in the council chambers used for the cable access channel and to stream the feed on the Internet.

Jaksa said quotes show the improvements could range from \$30,000 to \$50,000, with the costs to be split between the grant and the city. Jaksa said she will prepare the application to meet a June 13 deadline.

Anderson voted no to setting the special meeting, saying the city has “a host of projects” of higher priority on which to spend. He pointed to a need for improvements to streets, street lights, and alleys before a need to record meetings and presentations in the room on the city's website and the cable public education channel.

Jaksa said she has proposed placing two to three cameras in the ceiling of the room, placing a podium with projector at the side of the room to allow audience in the room as well as viewers on cable and the Internet to see materials provided to the council. The audio system would be improved, and lights would be replaced with more energy efficient ones.

A Blandin grant officer indicated she was enthused the city would use the grant to improve the city's resources to provide the public with government information, Jaksa said.

She pointed out the city's strategic plan, which the

council adopted earlier in the meeting on a 4-1 vote, calls for the transparency in government and increasing use of technology.

Anderson voted against adoption of the plan and said he sees no lack of transparency, noting staff from the local newspaper and often two radio stations attend and report on meetings. He said councilors can improve the quality of the sound by speaking directly into microphones already available and should make available copies of materials for the audience.

“This has low priority at this time,” he said.

Jaksa pointed to a recent council-authorized expenditure of up to \$52,000 for purchase of a Zamboni for a city ice rink.

Anderson said the purchase involves a health issue — a different subject.

Other councilors said an opportunity to gain grant money to match with city money to improve technology and communication with the public shouldn't be missed.

City Attorney Steve Shermoen suggested the council approve submitting the grant at that time, and approve expending matching funds after it is known if the grant has been awarded, alleviating the need for a special meeting.

But the agenda noted discussion, not action, on the item and Jaksa said she didn't want to go through the application effort if there was a chance an awarded grant would be rejected by the council. She said she would seek \$20,000 in grant money.

FIND DEALS
in
The Journal
Classifieds



For the most current information on
Rainy and Namakan Lake levels,
visit the following:

ijc.org/conseil_board/rainy_lake

(click on the 'Data' link)

OR

boiseinc.com



BOISE Paper
A Division of Packaging Corporation of America



Bennett Repair LLC.
SNOWMOBILE, ATV AND
SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

- 24 Hour Emergency Service -
- Full Line of Amsoil Products -

Paul Bennett Jr. 218-343-4451
pjbennett71@hotmail.com



Cammy Dittaro

MAY 1, 1954 - MAY 31, 2013

*No one knows how much we miss you,
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered, since we lost you
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly, tender, fond and true.
There is not a day dear wife and mother,
That we do not think of you.*

Forever and Always Loved,
Rick, Angelique and Nicole



The family of
IAN KLEMENTSEN

would like to thank all
the businesses, family,
friends, The Junction,
everyone who helped
with the benefit & all
who came. What a great
community we live in.



Thank you!



City Drug
Bridal Registry

Shannon Belding & Philip Armstrong
May 24, 2014

Catherine Hebig & Joel Pawelk
June 14, 2014

Rachel Tveit & Andrew Mannausau
June 14, 2014

Amanda Kennedy & William BJ Lahmayer
June 14, 2014

Lucy Nevanen & Ladd Corrin
June 21, 2014

Stephanie Norton & Austin Lockhart
July 19, 2014

Sarah Anderson & Sethen Ettestad
August 16, 2014

Jenny Olsen & AJ Tucker
August 30, 2014

Jamie Pearson & Bruce Conat
August 30, 2014

Kristen Lund & Steffan Tveit
September 13, 2014

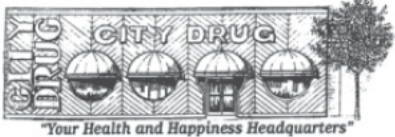
Melissa Fisher & Nick Hagen
September 27, 2014

Baby Shower Registry
Sunday, June 29

Parents: Bobbi & Kenneth Mathews

Free gift wrapping & a large selection of **Hallmark** cards.

283-3061
www.citydrugstore.com
314 3rd. St.
M-Sat 8 a.m.-6 p.m.



WATER

► continued from A1

Littlefork and Bigfork rivers are also high, he said, and flowing extremely fast, at nearly historically high rates.

People who have property and docks on the shorelines of area lakes and rivers should start taking precautions, Grim said, as the water levels are expected to continue to rise.

“People should be pre-

pared to take care of their docks,” Grim said. “They should be protecting their property as much as they can.”

Boaters and anglers who still want to get out on the lake during these high-water days have to make sure they have good, accurate maps, Grim said. Boaters can't just rely on GPS systems, he said, as they aren't always reliably accurate.

Boaters also should realize they might not be able

to see familiar landmarks like islands and reefs when the water level is this high, Grim said.

“You can easily lose your orientation when you lose your normal sights you rely on,” Grim said. “If you lose those, you can get lost.”

Dock owners should use barrels or sandbags to make sure their docks are secured, and don't float away, Grim said. People with floating docks should be fine, he said, as their

docks will rise with the levels as they increase.

Contrary to popular belief, Grim said it's not snowmelt that can cause water levels to rise quickly, but rainfall. Until it stops raining and water can move through the system's constriction at the Ranier bridge, he said, the levels will remain high.

“That bridge really controls how much water gets out of the lake,” Grim said. “It's not really the dam, like people think.”