

EDITOR’S COLUMN

Tick season arrives: Stay safe while enjoying the outdoors

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With summer almost officially here, many of us are heading outdoors to take in the fresh air, sunshine, and all that nature has to offer. But with the change in season comes a growing concern—ticks. These tiny pests are more than just a nuisance, and this year they seem to be more common in our region than in years past.

Ticks prefer shady, moist environments and are often found close to the ground. They typically cling to tall grass and low shrubs, lying in wait for a passing host. Around homes, they’re commonly found in lawns, gardens, and along the edges of tree belts.

The most commonly encountered species are the American dog tick, the Rocky Mountain wood tick, and the blacklegged tick, also known as the deer tick. These species are known carriers of bacterial diseases such as tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Lyme disease.

A tick bite often appears as a small, painless red bump. If you discover a tick attached to your skin, it should be removed carefully by using tweezers or tissue to grasp it

as close to the skin as possible. It’s important to pull upward with steady, even pressure without crushing the tick. After removal, the area of the bite and your hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Symptoms of tick-borne illnesses may take several weeks to appear. These symptoms can include fever, chills, headaches, muscle or joint pain, rashes (either around the bite or on other parts of the body such as the arms or legs), and swollen lymph nodes. If you notice any of these symptoms, it’s important to contact your doctor promptly and mention any recent tick bites or outdoor activity.

To help prevent tick-borne illness, people should take precautions when spending time outdoors. Wearing insect repellent with DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 can help protect exposed skin. Clothing treated with permethrin offers additional protection. After spending time outside, especially in wooded or grassy areas, it’s important to thoroughly check your body for ticks. Parents should carefully inspect children, particularly in areas such as behind the knees, under the arms, around the waist, inside the ears and belly button, and in the scalp. Pets should also be checked regularly and treated with appropriate tick pre-



vention methods, as ticks can easily hitch a ride into your home on furry companions.

With some awareness and simple precautions, you can protect yourself and your family from tick bites and continue to enjoy all the outdoor experiences that summer has to offer.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SHARON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Sharon City Council Meeting was called to order by mayor Bergenheier at 6pm, June 9, 2025, second Monday Sharon Community Building. Minutes were read, motion to approve by Sundeen seconded by Lee. Present were Mayor Bergenheier, Council Member Lee, Council Member Sundeen, Auditor Zentz and Rachel Martinson.

Petition from the public: Rachel asked if she could buy the gas mower, motion to approve by Lee seconded by Sundeen.

Old Business: Dumpster for spring cleanup. Street repairs, accepted the bid from Opp Construction, motion to approve by Lee seconded by Sundeen. Rachel will do the moving.

New Business; Estimate to repair the City Garage motion to approve by Lee seconded by Sundeen. Electric rates will not change for now. The City of Sharon has a leash law. Please keep your dogs on a leash. Ordinance #26 states that no fowl or livestock allowed in City Limits. You can receive a fine up to \$500.00.

Motion to pay bills by Sundeen seconded by Lee: Auditor 601.87, Martinson 629.18, Titan 60.00, NCP 31.41, MLGC 147.39, L&P payroll 601.87, Nodak 1,304.75, Minnkota 484.00, WAPA 2,835.80, W&S Payroll 401.25, DRWD 1,493.85, City of GF 26.00, Zaun rolloff 1,975.00.

Motion to adjourn by Lee seconded by Sundeen. Next City Council Meeting is July 14, 2025, 6pm, 2nd Monday, Sharon Community Building.

SCP June 13, 2025 **#346074**
May 6th, 2025,
Steele County Commission Meeting

The Steele County Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Commissioners Perry Brown, Brandon Krueger, Richard Strand, Brandon Oxtan, and Chris Grandalen were present. Auditor Jana Flaten and DES manager Ben Gates were also present.

Commissioner Krueger motioned to approve the April minutes, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

There is one addition to today's agenda- Co Rd 10 ditch.

The Steele County Park Board meeting began at 8:16 am.

The Steele County Commissioner Meeting reconvened at 8:22 am.

Gates discussed the Jacobson Lawn care quote and said that if we let them know if it is approved, they could mow today. Commissioner Strand motioned

to approve the Jacobson Lawn care quote, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The commissioners discussed the option for the current lawn mower: should sealed bids be accepted or an auction? Also mentioned that Northwood Lawn spraying would not be needed, as it is on the Jacobson Quote.

Ben Gates and Mike Bassingthwaite (Interstate Engineering) discussed graveling; about 33.5 miles will be done, and they want to get bid paperwork out. They will award the bid in June. An incentive date will be in early August to complete the gravel jobs. Commissioner Brown motioned to have Mike get the bid packet together and send it out, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Gates talked about the summer help. One guy started yesterday, and two more will begin on May 19th. The road crew is working extra hours to seal cracks during the nice weather. There have been no qualified blade operator applications.

Gates asked the commissioner to reimburse Kyle's cell phone. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve Kyle's cell phone reimbursement, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Gates also discussed the Burn ban/Fire declaration and would like the commissioners to adopt/ approve this. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve the fire declaration, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

A discussion was held about architectural firms that have sent a proposal regarding outside repairs. The committee includes Wayne Beckman, Ben Gates, and Commissioner Grandalen. There will be a meeting/interview in May for these four firms. Gates will report back in June.

Commissioner Oxtan went over the ambulance meeting board. Everything went well, Brandon Oxtan, Kyle O'Brien and Mike Stromsodt are members from Steele County.

Golden Lake is asking to approve this summer's raffle for the Association. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve the raffle, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The

motion carried.

The state sent out a revised PRC list to include trust applicants. Flaten is asking the board to approve the list and will get the new paperwork submitted to the state and update it in Taxwise. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve the updated PRC list, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Flaten discussed the abatements that Casey Olson had for the commissioners to approve. Commissioner Krueger motioned to approve the abatements, seconded by Commissioner Brown. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Flaten discussed new hours for the courthouse. It was discussed to reduce lunch to a half-hour instead of one hour and to get rid of summer hours and have regular hours throughout the year. She proposed Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., with no lunch. This would be a total of 37 hours a week instead of 37.5 hours. Flaten talked with all employees and received positive reviews from everyone. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve the new courthouse hours starting on May 27th, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Grandalen. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Dennis Kubischta asked the commissioners to sign a 50th anniversary proclamation for the Steele County Vietnam Veterans. Awards will be given at the memorial services. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the declaration, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Mike Bassingthwaite (Interstate Engineering) discussed the seal coating bids. Bids came in lower than normal, which is great. Fog coat was discussed, and we can use Prairie Dog funding to fund it. The pros and cons were then discussed. This can be added when they do the chip sealing this summer.

Discussions were held about the Fugleberg drain. The commissioners have decided to go with the recommendation of the water board. Discussions about the water drainage and the culvert are getting worse and will need to be replaced by the county.

Sheriff Beckman asked the commissioners to pay Sady for her work done in the sheriff's office, now that she is the treasurer, but

she has been taking on more duties in the sheriff's office. He is asking for \$3,600.00 to be added to her salary for her office work. Commissioner Strand motioned to approve the added salary, which Commissioner Grandalen seconded. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Megan Vig called the Steele County Weed Board to order at 9:15 am. Discussing the noxious weeds and reviewing the Steele County list, it was decided to add water hemp to the list. Commissioner Grandalen motioned to add water hemp to the noxious weed list, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Strand motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oxtan. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The Weed board adjourned at 9:20 am.

The Steele County Water Board gave an update on ongoing projects. Elm River Dam is great and asked Townships for updates. A discussion was held about beaver dam permits, drain tile and all FEMA projects are wrapping up. They also gave an update on the Fugleberg drain and Hanson Drain.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Commissioner Strand. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Strand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. There was no further discussion, and all members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.

Brandon Oxtan- County Chairman
Jana Flaten -County Auditor

SCP June 13, 2025 **#346077**
REGULAR MEETING
(unapproved minutes, subject to change)

The Finley City Council met Monday, June 2nd, 2025 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Present were Mayor Brian Tuite and Council Members, Merle Ferry, Chad Aberle, Tyler Midstokke. Absent, Tori Archer. Also, present Laurie Tuite, Wayne Beckman and Steve Fiebiger.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved. Park Board Report was given by Chad Aberle.

Sheriff Report was given by Wayne Beckman.

Finley Days was discussed. It was moved by Midstokke, second-

ed by Aberle to approve payment for extra security for Finley Days as well as the flushable bathroom rentals. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ferry, seconded by Aberle to suspend the alcohol ordinance from Thursday to Sunday for Finley Days Celebration. Motion carried.

It was moved by Aberle, seconded by Ferry to designate the Steele County Press as the city's official newspaper. Motion carried.

It was moved by Midstokke, seconded by Aberle to set the bond of the City Auditor at \$246,773.00 Motion carried.

New auditorium plans were reviewed and discussed, city determined to scratch the previous plans and go with the remodeling of the previous grocery store building with an addition for city hall and a wellness center addition. Plans for a citywide informational meeting will be held in the near future explaining the new idea and costs for the same.

Drainage and curbing were discussed and it was decided to get estimates on costs to clean out several drains in town as well as fixing damaged curbing areas.

Neighborhood snake problem has seemed to arise, although this is a homeowner's problem, Alderman Ferry advised that Dennis Carlson has a remedy.

It was moved by Ferry, seconded by Aberle to approve the bills.
-99243 BRAVERA1801.10
-99242 Heartland Payment Systems.....33.50
-99241 STEELE COUNTY JDA.....500.00
34640 STEVE FIEBIGER.....249.99
34644 ACME TOOLS.....17.97
34645 Advanced Business Methods.....143.33
34646 BRAGER DISPOSAL SERVICE 2646.50
34647 Colonial Life153.52
34648 DAKOTA RURAL WATER DISTRICT6515.95
34649 FINLEY FARMERS ELEVATOR 68.00
34650 FINLEY LUMBER & SUPPLY.

.....16.39
34651 Grand Forks Utility Billing..26.00
34652 Midco37.50
34653 MLGC449.20
34654 NEW CENTURY PRESS.....199.92
34655 POWERPLAN3635.06
34656 STEELE COUNTY1800.00
34657 THOMAS R. MOE.....150.00
34658 TOWN & COUNTRY COOP.3352.45
34659 George Braun III.....2250.46
34660 STEPHEN FIEBIGER 1714.67
34661 Marci Johnson.....1070.84
34662 Marci Johnson.....277.05
34663 CUMMINGS SALES & SERVICE2526.27
34664 ND SEWAGE PUMP & LIFT..2161.20
34665 OTTER TAIL POWER CO.2570.96
34666 State of ND Chemistry Lab20.39
34667 VESTIS.....309.96
34668 Chad Aberle.....161.61
34669 Tori Archer161.61
34670 George Braun III.....2250.45
34672 Merle Ferry161.61
34673 Marci Johnson.....1070.84
34674 TYLER MIDSTOKKE.....21.24
34675 Brian Tuite.....230.87
34676 HEALTH INS1291.20
34677 HEALTH INS1291.21
34678 HEALTH INS1291.00
34679 FIT.....3395.50
34681 STEPHEN FIEBIGER 1650.25
34684 CHEMISTRY LAB.....20.39
34685 CUMMINGS SALES & SERVICE343.56
34686 FERGUSON WATERWORKS #251636.84
34687 NESS PLUMBING.....145.00
34688 NODAK REC. INC.....266.65
34689 STEELE COUNTY ROAD DEPT120.00
34690 VESTIS.....351.21
34691 BRAVERA300.00
34692 BRAVERA548.31
34693 FINLEY PARK BOARD 572.36
34694 STEPHEN FIEBIGER..658.15

There being no other business Aberle moved to adjourn at 7:45.

Next city council meeting was set for Monday July 7th, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Finley City Hall.

SCP June 13, 2025 **#346084**

Golden Lake Township Meeting

Jeff Nelson Rezoning
June 30, 2025 at 7:00pm
Richard Strandis Shop

360886