



Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

Council members Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

2. Approval of Minutes for City Council meeting Sept. 15, 2025, Fire Advisory meeting Feb. 26, 2025, Planning & Zoning Commission meeting July 7, 2025, DAHS meeting July 22, 2025, Red Rooster Committee meeting Aug. 26, 2025, Dassel City Council EDA meeting Sept. 15, 2025.

Attachments:

- **City Council meeting Sept. 15, 2025** (Draft_Regular_City_Council_Meeting_Minutes_09-15-2025.pdf)
- **DAHS meeting July 22, 2025** (DAHS_Minutes_July_22_2025.pdf)
- **Dassel City Council EDA meeting Sept. 15, 2025.** (Dassel_City_Council_EDA_Meeting_Minutes_9-15-2025.pdf)
- **Fire Advisory Meeting Feb 26, 2025** (Dassel_Fire_Advisory_Board_Minutes_02-26-2025.pdf)
- **Planning & Zoning Commission meeting July 7, 2025** (Planning_Zoning_Commission_Minutes_07-07-2025.pdf)
- **Red Rooster Committee meeting Aug. 26, 2025** (Red_Rooster_Minutes_08-26-2025.pdf)

3. Public Hearing(s)

4. Open Forum

(The City Council invites residents to share new ideas or concerns related to city business; however, individual questions and remarks are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No City Council action will be taken, although the Council may refer issues to staff for follow up or consideration at a future meeting. The Mayor may use discretion if speakers are repeating views already expressed or ask for a spokesperson for groups of individuals with similar views. Speakers should state their name and home address at the podium before speaking.)

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Payment of Claims \$283,443.28**
- b. **Approve MN Lawful Gambling permit for Dassel-Cokato Wrestling Boosters to hold raffle at Thirsty's Tavern, 241 Atlantic Ave W, Dassel on Feb. 7, 2026**
- c. **Approve the Retail Registration for Lower-Potency Hemp Edible-Retail (LPHE-R) for the Dassel Municipal Liquor Store for one year starting**

November 1, 2025, for \$125.00 pending MN Office of Cannabis Management approval.

- d. **Approve Resolution 2025-025 Accepting a Donation to the City of Dassel for the Fire Department - Paula Trisko**

Attachments:

- **Resolution 2025-025 Accepting Donation for Fire Department from Paula Trisko** (2025-025_Resolution_Accepting_a_Donation_to_the_City_of_Dassel_for_Fire_Department.pdf)

- e. **Approval to set Public Hearing for December 15, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. certifying for assessment delinquent garbage, water and sewer, and mowing bills to Meeker County.**

- f. **Accept the Resignation from Bill Ward from the Heritage Preservation Commission.**

7. Council & Committee Reports

- a. **DAHS meeting, Tues. Sept. 23, 2025 - Eckerly**
- b. **Red Rooster meeting, Mon. Sept. 29, 2025 - Gaertner**
- c. **Special City Council meeting, Tues. Sept. 30, 2025 - Lalone**
- d. **Dassel Cokato Rec Center meeting, Mon. Oct. 6, 2025 - Eckerly**
- e. **Dassel-Cokato Trail Committee meeting, Mon. Oct. 13, 2025 - Landrus**

8. Staff Reports

- a. **Museum Director**

Attachments:

- **Museum Director Report** (Museum_Directors_report.pdf)

- b. **Liquor Store Manager**

Attachments:

- **Liquor Sept 2025** (Liquor_Sept_2025.pdf)

- c. **Fire Chief**

Attachments:

- **Total Calls for September 2025** (Total_Calls_for_September_2025.pdf)

- d. **Public Works Director**

Attachments:

- **Monthly Report** (Public_Works_Report_October_2025.pdf)

- e. **City Engineer**

Mitchell Lease, Bolton & Menk will be presenting applying for a grant through the MN DEED under the BDPI grant to address the wastewater limitations on 3rd Street South for

Spectralytics, a Cretex Medical Company.

Mayor Lalone, Administrator Eckerly and Mitchell Lease met at Spectralytics on Sept. 23, 2025, to discuss the situation.

Attachments:

- **10-15-2025 Memo to Council Regarding Spectralytics Wastewater Expansion Utilizing DEED BDPI Grant** (10-15-2025_Memo_to_Council_Regarding_Spectralytics_Wastewater_Expansion_Utilizing_DEED_BDPI_Grant.pdf)

f. City Administrator

Attachments:

- **20251017 City Administrator Report** (20251017_City_Administrator_Report.pdf)

g. Sheriff's Department

Attachments:

- **Monthly Report** (Meeker_Co_Sheriffs_Monthly_Stats_-_September_2025.pdf)

9. Business Items

- a. Motion to declare the 2005 Ford Ranger (VIN 1FTZR15E35PA93134) as surplus property and authorize advertisement for bids using _____ with a minimum bid of \$_____**

Kyle Moy, Public Works Director will report on the information to be put in the blanks whether to use MinnBid and what a minimum bid amount should be.

b. Discuss new Fire Station

The Fire Advisory Board met on September 10, 2025, and passed a motion to recommend to the Dassel City Council to move forward with the planning of a new fire station. The motion was approved 5 entities (Dassel Township, Ellsworth Township, Kingston Township, City of Kingston, City of Dassel) in favor and 1 Darwin Township opposed. 2 entities were absent City of Darwin and Collinwood Township.

Dave Johnson, Fire Chief and the Firefighter Committee researching a new fire station will be in attendance to discuss. Some members of the Fire Advisory Board may also be in attendance.

Attachments:

- **10-10-25 Article in Dassel Cokato Enterprise Dispatch Regarding Fire Station** (10-10-25_Article_in_Dassel_Cokato_Enterprise_Dispatch_Regarding_Fire_Station.pdf)

- **9-19-25 Email from Jeff Atkinson Darwin Township Regarding New Fire Station** (9-19-25_Email_from_Jeff_Atkinson_Darwin_Township_Regarding_New_Fire_Station.pdf)
- **Draft Dassel Fire Advisory Board Minutes 09-10-2025** (Draft_Dassel_Fire_Advisory_Board_Minutes_09-10-2025.pdf)
- **New fire hall Presentation PDF** (new_fire_hall_Presentation_PDF.pdf)

c. Motion to approve the Predevelopment Agreement with Away Out Sober Living at 22851 MN Hwy 15.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

MN Assn Small Cities meeting, Thurs. Oct. 23, 2025, 2:00 p.m. in Paynesville, MN
 Meeker County Justice Center Open House, Wed. Oct. 29, 2025, 4:30p.m. Litchfield, MN
 Charter Communications, Spectrum Channel Lineup and Programming Changes/Additions.
 CGMC 2025 Fall Conference, November 13 - 14, 2025, Grand Rapids, MN.

DAHS meeting, Tues. Oct. 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center

Special City Council CLOSED meeting, Tues. Oct. 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall

Red Rooster Committee meeting, Thurs. Oct. 30, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall

Discover Dassel, Downtown Trick or Treating, Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Veterans Day, Tues. Nov. 11, 2025 - City Hall Closed - Holiday

Dept Head meeting, Wed. Nov. 12, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall

City Council meeting, Mon. Nov. 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

11. Adjourn

The agenda packet with all background material is located at the side table for viewing by the public. The agenda is subject to change without notice. Information and materials relating to the above items are available for review at city hall by appointment.



DRAFT Regular City Council Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lalone at 6:03 pm.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Lalone

b. Roll Call

Council members Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

Minutes:

Council members present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone.

Members absent: None.

2. Approval of Minutes for City Council meeting August 18, 2025, Special City Council meeting August 25, 2025, Dassel-Cokato Trail Committee meeting June 30, 2025, Red Rooster Committee meeting August 14, 2025

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy Ato approve the Minutes for City Council meeting August 18, 2025, Special City Council meeting August 25, 2025, Dassel-Cokato Trail Committee meeting June 30, 2025, Red Rooster Committee meeting August 14, 2025. Motion carried.

3. Public Hearing(s)

4. Open Forum

(The City Council invites residents to share new ideas or concerns related to city business; however, individual questions and remarks are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No City Council action will be taken, although the Council may refer issues to staff for follow up or consideration at a future meeting. The Mayor may use discretion if speakers are repeating views already expressed or ask for a spokesperson for groups of individuals with similar views. Speakers should state their name and home address at the podium before speaking.)

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Lalone to approve the agenda with the addition of 9e. Daston Mechanical quote for the HVAC unit at the History Center in the amount of \$43,345.00 and 9f. Resignation from City Attorney Kurt Greenley and the bill submitted by Greenley for the work recently done on the Heritage Preservation Committee. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion carried.

- a. **Payment of Claims \$245,968.24**
- b. **Accepting the resignation of Andrea Juneau, part time Administrative Assistant, effective September 4, 2025.**
- c. **Approving Liquor license and Sunday Liquor application for Thirsty's Bar & Grill LLC for October 1, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2026.**

7. Council & Committee Reports

- a. **Fire Advisory Meeting, Wed. Sept. 10, 2025 - Thurn**

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported the Board met on September 10, 2025, and toured the fire hall. Collinwood Township and the City of Darwin were absent. The Firefighter Committee put together a presentation with information from other communities and the costs of their projects. A motion was made to move forward with Darwin Township being the only entity opposing. Eckerly will email the presentation out and there will be an opportunity for elected officials to tour the fire hall on October 6th at 7:00 pm during the Officers meeting. A report was given on the new fire truck, they will be meeting next May to go over specifications and looking at 1st quarter of 2028 for delivery, Eckerly has been working with USDA to get financing options for a new fire hall if it is decided to go that route.

- b. **Cokato Dassel Lions/Rotary picnic table project, August 2025 - Landrus**

Minutes:

Council member Landrus reported that he, Public Works Director Moy and City Clerk Bergum met with Dan and Beth Janish to discuss the options for the picnic area. It was explained why the area in front of City Hall is not a good option and looked at an area in Breeds Park that would work. City Administrator Eckerly received an email stating the area in Breeds Park did not fit the Lions/Rotary vision.

8. Staff Reports

- a. **Museum Director**

Minutes:

Director Holje reported they are still experiencing issues with their HVAC unit and have received some estimates to have the unit replaced.
Upcoming programs and exhibits include: Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept. 21. 2:00 No Charge Elaine Nordlie – Norwegian Celebration, 200th Anniversary of the Start of Norwegian Emigration Oct. 11, 9 am. Rosemaling classes, Paper heart making, Straw Ornaments, Lunch, Displays or exhibits. What's in a Name? Dassel, Minnesota 55325. -- Aug. 16-Sept. 14, Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept.20 -Oct. 19, Kurt Meyer – Sept. 7 – Oct. 25, levels 1, 3 and the Lobby. Asian Fusion Asian. Wall art and fabric, fans, poetry. Can touch. Install Janice and Joyce. Tea. Saki, Poetry, Fungus Fall

Play – Cyrano de Bergerac Opens Nov. 7.

b. Liquor Store Manager

Minutes:

Manager Moy reported sales are down a little over the previous month. A couple of quotes were received to repair the gutter issues on the building. Moy's recommendation is the quote from Vos Construction, this will be decided later on in the agenda.

c. Fire Chief

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported 38 calls for the month of August 17 within the city limits. This brings the calls for the year to 308, 60 higher than last year. The department held training in which they were able to tour a residential property as well as a commercial property which are both currently under construction.

d. Public Works Director

Minutes:

Director Moy reported in Streets: The completion of the parking changes on 2nd St. by the Fire Hall. Have been sweeping as needed. Will be having to repaint all crosswalks along Hwy 12 due to MNDOT not including this in the project. Have had lots of clean up this year due to storms. The construction company hired us to sweep Hwy 12 prior to Red Rooster Days Water: ISO was out in town for some hydrant flow testing. Regular maintenance and testing are being done, and we have ordered the new screen for our testing machine. Wastewater: We were able to pump a lot out last month into the fields. This has put us in a much better position to finish out the season. We have also lost a lot of trees in the fields to be cleared this fall. We had to have a company out to repair Pivot 3. We had an issue with Maple Lift Station that we ended up having a repair company out to repair. Parks: The trees at Bandstand and Breeds Parks have been removed. With the rain, we have been holding off removal of the stumps to reduce damage. Summit Park hydro seeding has been taking off well. We will be installing the benches at Summit Park this week. Equipment: We spent a lot of time last month repairing the cooking grates and baskets for Red Rooster Days. We have been continuing to maintain and repair equipment as needed. Buildings & Property: The seeding has been taking off at the city shop.

e. City Engineer

Minutes:

Engineer Lease stated they are now just waiting on trail contracts to come through.

f. City Administrator

Minutes:

Administrator Eckerly reported Tracey Bergum, and I attended League of MN Cities webinar on Paid Family Leave. I will be working on updating the

Personnel Policy and scheduling a Personnel Committee meeting. Working with departments to utilize Banyon to clock in/out for auditing trail for Family Leave. Tracey Bergum and I are working on updating security at City Hall due to staff and vendor changes. Met with Chuck DeWolf and Mitchell Lease, City Engineers regarding Spring Lake environmental issues status. Met with Chuck DeWolf, Mitchell Lease, Kyle Moy and new owner of Lakeview Ranch property regarding water access for sprinkler system. Administrative staff has been working a lot on Red Rooster Days celebration. The last week of August was crazy busy. Red Rooster Days Weekend was a success! Special thanks to Nolan Nelson, Public Works for his help with the refer semi for the chicken. I attended the following meeting: Trail bid opening, Joint Trail meeting, Special City Council meeting, Red Rooster meeting, DAHS meeting cancelled in August, Department Head meeting and the Fire Advisory. Tracey Bergum has reached out to Michael Koop but has not received a call back regarding the Heritage Preservation Commission. I had a great information sharing meeting with Lisa Graphenten, Meeker County EDA Director. We are going to work on a couple of projects to see if they are a fit for Dassel such as a Small Cities Redevelopment grant. The City of Dassel was awarded \$100,000 for the Greater Minnesota Small Cities (Tier II Cities) for the Housing Program. The Administration staff is short-handed and is working hard to adjust the additional work between us to get everything covered. I have been working on the Dassel Frolic set for Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. I have been working on preliminary 2026 budget.

Eckerly asked council which dates work best for them for a Special City Council meeting to take action on a variance request that is having a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, September 24, 25 or 30th. Council chose September 30th at 6:00 pm.

g. City Attorney - not in attendance

h. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:

Deputy Bonnicks reported 93 calls for service for the month of August which included 1 theft, 2 DWI arrests and 42 traffic stops.

9. Business Items

a. Motion to approve the quote from Vos Construction of \$3,500.00 to mitigate the issues with the gutter system on the Liquor Store building. Money from account 609-49750-401.

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Thurn to approve the quote from Vos Construction of \$3,500.00 to mitigate the issues with the gutter system on the Liquor Store building. Motion carried.

b. Discuss Amy Gaertner, Shear Elegance Salon Revolving Loan Request

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to approve the Loan Agreement & Promissory Note to Amy Gaertner in the amount of \$5,000.00 at zero percent

interest for a term of 60 months. Motion carried with Gaertner abstaining.

c. 2026 Preliminary Budget & Setting Truth In Taxation Hearing date

Minutes:

Motion by Lalone, seconded by to set Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. as the date and time for the cities Truth In Taxation Hearing. Motion carried.

d. Discuss Draft Chapter 96 Ordinance Prohibiting Hunting, Discharge of Fire Arms and Use of Dangerous Weapons

Minutes:

Council decided to table the ordinance and individually review it and return with recommendations.

e. Daston Mechanical History Center HVAC quote \$43,345.00

Minutes:

Eckerly reported that Museum currently does not have a Capital Improvement account for repairs this would come out of the General Fund. Museum Director Holje stated the option to share the bill with the city is something she is willing to take to the DAHS board which meets again on September 23, 2025. It was decided that this will be put on the Special Council meeting agenda for September 30, 2025, for action.

f. Resignation of City Attorney Kurt Greenley & Heritage Preservation Commission bill

Minutes:

After some discussion council decided to send a letter to Greenley opposing the Heritage Preservation Commission bill. Eckerly will bring an RFP for Attorney services.

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Suchy to accept the resignation of City Attorney Kurtis Greenley. Motion carried.

10. Announcements / Dates to Remember

Minutes:

Eckerly reported the following announcements and dates to remember: Xcel Energy - Notice of Application to increase Electric Rates CGMC 2025 Fall Conference, November 13 - 14, 2025, Grand Rapids, MN. Charter Communications, Spectrum Channel Lineup and Programming Changes/Additions. Dassel Fall Frolic Craft & Flea Market Festival, Sun. Sept. 21, 2025, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm on Atlantic Ave W Planning Commission Meeting, Tues. Sept. 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. DAHS meeting, Tues. Sept. 23, 2025, 10:00 a.m. History Center Red Rooster Committee meeting, Mon. Sept. 29, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall Dept Head meeting, Tues. Oct. 14, 2025, 7:00 a.m. at City Hall City Council meeting, Mon. Oct. 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

11. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Gaertner, seconded by Lalone to adjourn at 7:21 pm. Motion carried.

Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454)

Dassel Area Historical Society
Board of Trustee's Meeting
July 22nd, 2025 10am

In attendance:

Executive Board: Ron Hungerford, Paul Settergren, Jon Benson, Rae Gayner

Board of Trustees –

Voting members: Galen Nyman, Mechele Pitchford, Mary Jensen, Susan Anderson

Non-Voting attendees: Carolyn Holje, Therese O'Fallon, Janis Rannow, Bill Ward

The monthly meeting of the DAHS was called to order by Ron Hungerford at 10:11am

Secretary's meeting minutes (June) presented by Rae.

Rae noted the presentation during the June meeting from Dan Hoisington regarding four layers of upgrading the Ergot Exhibit and the DAHS building. She also read the two motions that were made and approved by the Board of Trustees at the end of the meeting.

Minutes were approved with a motion from Paul and a second from Mechele. Motion passed.

Treasurer/Financial report (EOM June) given by Jon.

- Income \$4,561.32 and expenses \$3,281.89.
- Treasurer Report for income/expenses and other:
 - Checking account: \$44,628.70 Edward Jones: \$81,197.88
 - Total non-dedicated funds \$125,826.58
 - We've received \$1,700 interest to date on the Edward Jones accounts

Treasure Report approved after motion made to accept by Galen with a second by Paul. Motion passed.

Director's Report: Carolyn presented the Director's Report

- Landscaping is being done around the building, it's done twice a year and the expenses are shared with the city.
- There have been a few air conditioning issues, but they've been resolved.
- The Berkey exhibit has been very well attended by many, not just local people.
- Per Ron, another way to "get the message out" is via UTube shorts.

Upcoming/Future Programs/Concerts, Events, Exhibits:

Programs/Scheduled Exhibits/Concerts:

- Airborn – Aug 7
- Crow River String Band – Aug 16
- "What's In A Name" – Aug 16 – Sept 14
- Galen Johnson will be the Red Rooster speaker – Aug 30
- Reading of Our Town – Aug 31
- Lydia Henry / Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept 19
- Kurt Meyer Sept 13 – Oct 25
- Norwegian Celebration – Judy Remmington. Elaine Nordby will also be speaking

Exhibits:

- Brekey Star Wars exhibit
- Jim Stewarts buildings are currently set up on the big table in the office. He built them based on his memory and driving around Meeker County.
- Hildred exhibit remains on 4th floor
- Kermit Swanson exhibit is on 2nd floor – Items from the Fagen Museum in Granite Falls
- "What's in a name – Dassel" is currently on 2nd floor
- Magnus Johnson and Peterson Pharmacy continue

Future Exhibits:

- Printing exhibit.
- Dakota Uprising tour
- Old Christmas decorations

Directors Report approved after motion made to accept by Mary with a second by Jon. Motion passed.

MISC Of Interest –

- Cole O'Brien is interested in a QR Code program for historical sites in Dassel

Ongoing Scheduled activities –

- Mondays 10am – 3pm Playing Mahjong
- Tuesdays - 1:00 Card club
On the Last Tuesday of the month there is music and line dancing (all are welcome).
- Wednesdays 1 – 4pm Senior Citizens, games and coffee
- Thursdays – 9am and 6pm Country Western Line Dancing
Fellowship gathering in the afternoon; discussions about local area history

City News – No city representation at the meeting

FungusAmongus: presented by Jon

- New 25' – 26' announced:
Fall – Cyrano de Bergerac
Winter – A Sherlock Carol
Spring – Neil Simon's Fools
Summer – Newsies. The budget for the production is \$36K and a grant is currently being written for \$10K.
- Childrens summer theater will be holding rehearsals at DAHS in July and performances will be at the high school. Last year was approximately 40 kids and hoping with the participation of the high school theater director, hopefully many will continue in theater.
- Some other local theater company's are doing great performances: Buffalo – Urine Town, Litchfield – Guys and Dolls, Hutchinson – Sponge Bob The Musical

Old Business:

- Newspaper archiving:
 - No new news, seems to be coming to a close
- Last week, Bill Ward sent an email/letter to Carolyn and Ron, it was then forwarded to the Board of Trustees. Comments:
 - Mechele noted that many points in the letter were valid.
 - Jon noted that we didn't terminate discussion about the little theater, it was only postponed. No full budget proposal has come to the board.
 - Carolyn commented about how exhibits come to fruition at DAHS: An idea is presented. People with expertise come forward. Approval is great but it's also nice to let things come forward. She noted that people will stop giving if we don't spend it.
 - Mechele – we seem to be at a crossroads. We're making important decisions. What is our job as a board? Who is the decision-maker?
 - Jon – some projects have ballooned and I feel it's our job to approve larger expenditures. I don't mind spending \$50K on something as long as we know where it's going.
 - Is there a time limit on the grant? Answer from Bill – The grants are submitted, reviewed and approved quarterly. If we submit it now, it'll be reviewed in October 2025. If approved, we'll have one year to spend the money.
 - Cole O'Brien can video the temporary exhibits. It will be an additional cost to have him do that.
 - Ron – our function as a board is to keep the lights on and to also be visionaries. New Ulm has a theatre on the Indian uprising. It holds approximately 8 people, it's very small. He remarked that it constantly refers to other parts of the museum.
 - Carolyn noted that we have to look at the whole picture. Reminder that most museum visitors are cruisers, grazers and readers. We should use local people when we can.
 - Ron sees our footprint as expanding.
 - Mechele asked for more detail about the Ergot upgrade, Carolyn explained who will be at the meeting tomorrow and what they'll be doing.
 - Paul noted that he'd been to several museums in Chicago and San Francisco. Watched all of the videos but not time to read panels. He remembers a theater in the Grand Rapids museum dedicated to Judy Garland.

- Ron said he was glad that Fungus did The Crucible as he's heard there is a tie to Ergot.
- Jon – there's a lot to be excited about
- Ron remarked that there are so many technical ways to promote stuff. Where is the best way to do that?
- Per Mary, members have a vested interest in the community.
- **After much discussion, Ron made a motion to supersede last months approved motion for the one year suspension of the grant proposal for the little theater. We should proceed with submitting the grant proposal for the states October review process. The motion was seconded by Galen. Motion passed by the Board of Trustees.**
- Paul noted that with a story to tell it's easier to raise money. Maybe something can be put together to get the word out about our plan to upgrade the Ergot exhibit.
- Mary noted that the library where Eli Lilly kept the "Dassel story" is no longer there.

New Business:

NA

Meeting adjourned at 11:16

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 26th, at 10am



Dassel City Council EDA Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lalone at 5:31 pm.

a. Roll Call

Members Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone

Minutes:

Member present: Gaertner, Landrus, Suchy, Thurn & Mayor Lalone. Members absent: None

2. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

3. Business Items

a. Discuss Amy Gaertner, Shear Elegance Salon Revolving Loan Request

Minutes:

Eckerly stated at this time there is \$32,000.00 in the EDA account that is available for businesses who would like to apply for a revolving loan fund. Eckerly explained the process to apply through DEED for a revolving loan which would help build the City's account through the interest. Council discussed the creation of a template for future guidelines

Motion to by Landrus, seconded by Suchy to approve the Loan Agreement & Promissory Note to Amy Gaertner in the amount of \$5,000.00 at zero percent interest for a term of 60 months to the City Council. Motion carried with Gaertner abstaining.

4. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Landrus, seconded by Gaertner to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 pm. Motion carried.

Contact: Renee Eckerly (renee.eckerly@dassel.com 320-275-2454)



Dassel Fire Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by Chari Josh Johnson at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

Members present: Jim Nielsen-City of Kingston; Josh Johnson-City of Darwin; Jeff Atkinson-Darwin Township; Bob Christofferson-Kingston Township; Kari Amundson-Dassel Township; Marie Thurn- City of Dassel. Members absent: Collinwood Township; Ellsworth Township. Also present: Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Dave Johnson, Fire Chief; Firefighters: Eric Dickey, Jaiden Bunn.

3. Secretary's Report - Approve January 29, 2025 Minutes

Approval of Minutes

Minutes:

Motion made by Amundson, seconded by Atkinson to approve the January 29, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Minutes:

No additions were made to the agenda.

5. Open Forum

Minutes:

No one was in attendance to speak.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Minutes:

Chief Johnson reported there has been 80 calls in 2025. There are 2 new members that started this month, one of which has 13 years of experience. There are 21 Volunteer Firefighter members. There is 1 more going through the process. The new extrication tools that were purchased in November 2024 for approximately \$50,000 have arrived. The department is looking into getting new services doors which cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000.

7. City Administrator's Report

a. Review 2024 YE Revenues & Expenditures

Minutes:

Eckerly, City Administrator, reviewed the 2024 year to date revenue and expenditures reports. She reviewed why there was two State Aid payments in the same year. She explained that Hose Testing is a professional services so it should not be coded to New Hose line item. The amounts in Capital Improvement and Interest Earned are entries made by the City Auditor in March 2024.

b. Review & discuss preliminary 2026 budget and contracts

Minutes:

The preliminary 2026 budget and contract costs were reviewed. A motion by Atkinson, seconded by Amundson to approve the 2026 budget of \$368,198.53 and Fire Contract fees. Motion passed unanimously.

c. City of Dassel - 2025 Auto, General and Work Comp Insurance Premiums and Breakdowns

Minutes:

Eckerly, City Administrator, gave a verbal report on how the City of Dassel breakdowns the property and casualty insurance and worker compensation to each city department and which line items in the expense budget are affected. She reported a call from Brian Zeglen, Collinwood Township, requesting the group not schedule meetings on Wednesdays due to church meetings.

8. Business Items

a. Election of Officers

Minutes:

Members discussed that Collinwood Township had assigned Brian Zeglen in place of Randy Holm. There was a discussion if anyone was interested in any of the Officer positions. Motion by Atkinson, seconded by Nielsen to appoint Josh Johnson (City of Darwin) Chairperson and Kari Amundson (Dassel Township) Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Next meeting date - August 27, 2025 7:00 p.m., Dassel Fire Hall

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Amundson, seconded by Atkinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Dassel, MN

Planning & Zoning Commission

Minutes

Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Chair Sexton at 6:01 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Corbin, Landrus, Nelson, Sexton, Suchy

Minutes:

Members present: Nelson, Landrus, Suchy and Chair Sexton. Members absent: Corbin. June 16, 2025 City Council appointed Al Suchy to the Planning Commission with term 2025 to December 31, 2026.

Others present:

Roger & Sandi Toft 139 Highland Circle Geri Nyman 137 Highland Circle Janice Pederson 127 Highland Circle Donna Mattson 129 Highland Circle Mary Ann Krol 125 Highland Circle Deb Suchy 22257 730th Ave

3. Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2025

Minutes:

Motion by Sexton, seconded by Landrus to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. Public Hearings - Amendment to Planned Unit Development - Highland Circle Block 5 lots 1-4 & 25-28

Minutes:

Chair Sexton opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 pm Residents of Highland Circle Roger & Sandi Toft, Mary Ann Krol, Geri Nyman and Donna Mattson all spoke on issues irrelevant to what was on the agenda including parking, what would be developed in the center and facade of future structures.

Sarah Swedburg, City Planner reviewed the proposed Amendment stating The Applicants seek to amend the PUD to allow single family structures on Lots 1 through 4 and Lots 25 through 28, Block 5, Highland Meadows. The proposed property line adjustment is to accommodate the full building envelope of each single-family structure, the Applicants have also submitted a lot line adjustment to enlarge Lots 1 through 4 and Lots 25 through 28, Block 5, Highland Meadows (see attached lot line adjustment survey for full detail). This lot line adjustment creates lots approximately 38' wide by 85.41-90' long. This lot line adjustment does not change the number of units that would be developed in this area.

Chair Sexton closed the Public Hearing at 6:47 pm.

5. Additions or Omissions to Agenda

6. Business Items

- a. Motion to approve the PUD Amendment and Lot Line Adjustment for

Highland Circle Block 5 Lots 1-4 & 25-28 and recommend to the City Council.

Minutes:

Motion by Sexton, seconded by Landrus to approve the request for single-family structures with 3' side yard setbacks on Lots 1 through 4 and Lots 25 through 28, Block 5, Highland Meadows should be subject to the following conditions: 1. The requested lot line adjustment by the same applicants is approved by Planning Commission. 2. The requested easement vacation by the same applicants is approved by City Council. 3. The applicant shall record the appropriate documents in the Office of the County Recorder within 120 days after the date of City Council approval and furnish the City Clerk with a copy of the recorded documents prior to issuance of a building permit. 4. All structures shall be constructed on the lots of record. No overhangs or construction over property lines shall be allowed. 5. All development in Highland Circle must comply with all city and state requirements, inclusive of building and fire codes, and must be issued a building permit with an approved grading plan prior to construction. Motion carried.

Motion by Sexton, seconded by A. Suchy to approve the lot line adjustment as presented in the attached Certificate of Survey with the following conditions: 1. The requested PUD amendment by the same applicants is approved by Planning Commission and City Council prior to recording. 2. The requested easement vacation by the same applicants is approved by the City Council. 3. The applicant shall record the appropriate documents in the Office of the County Recorder within 120 days after the date of Planning Commission approval and furnish the City Clerk with a copy of the recorded documents prior to issuance of a building permit. 4. All structures shall be constructed on the lots of record. No overhangs or construction over property lines shall be allowed. 5. All development in Highland Circle must comply with all city and state requirements, inclusive of building and fire codes, and must be issued a building permit with an approved grading plan prior to construction. Motion carried

b. Discuss Board members terms of appointment.

Minutes:

Motion by Sexton, seconded by Nelson to approve the extension of the following appointments. Al Sexton term expires 12/31/2026 Isaac Nelson term expires 12/31/2027 Motion carried.

Administrator Eckerly will reach out to Corbin to discuss the extension of his appointment.

7. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Sexton, seconded Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. Motion carried.

MINUTES
Red Rooster Committee
August 26, 2025, Dassel City Hall Community Room

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Hungerford at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Ron Hungerford, Kurt Jacques, Randy & Marcia Dischinger, Gwen Hallquist, Amy Gaertner, Angela Schrupp, Becky Nguyen, Kyle Moy, Renee Eckerly and Tracey Bergum.

Secretary's Report & Approval of Minutes: Motion by Jacques, seconded by Hallquist, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried

Events:

Egg Hunt: the first set of clues has been posted and will be posted daily until the egg is found.

Bike Ride: Jacques stated volunteers should meet at Breeds Park at 8am, Al and Julie Sexton will be helping with the bike ride along with Renee Eckerly. Jacques has someone to donate the granola bars and freeze pops for the event. Eric and James Dickey will take care of marking the route.

Parade: the parade roster is finished and will be printed added to the website.

Amy Gaertner stated No Parking signs are needed for the East side of Breeds Park for Joah's Ark to park their trailer. Public works will get no parking signs out on Friday and will have a hose and water hook up ready.

Hungerford stated he scheduled pick up of the chicken between 1-3 pm on Sunday and will check with Marketplace to see if there is an option to pick up the chicken on Monday morning. Hungerford stated Andy Nelson has volunteered to use his cab to pick up the trailer, if Andy is unable to it was mentioned Nolan Nelson would be another option to drive the truck. The plan is to park the refrigerated truck on the North side of the bus barn.

There will be a runner for those who enter through the handicap side of the barn, they will not need to go to the end of the line to purchase a ticket.

Kurt will talk to Max Johnson about the placement of the timing equipment for the Run/Walk.

Ron informed Angela he is unable to hand out the scholarship so she will find someone else to do it.

The porta potties and trash receptacles have been scheduled and Eckerly will be reach out to CK Septic to add 2 handwashing stations.

Kyle Moy asked what last supplies were needed and Hungerford asked for more paper towels. Moy will also be moving the dumpster from the shop to the fire hall for the water ball event and will move picnic tables to Saints Field area for the coronation and chicken feed.

Eckerly stated next year the committee will be in contact with the ministerial committee to ensure everyone is on the same page for the Community Worship event.

City Staff have all the money set for each of the events. The chicken dinner tickets have been delivered.

Jacques will have a table near the vendors to sell shirts.

It was decided that ticket prices will remain the same if there is an item that runs out. Anything left over that is unopened will be donated to the food shelf except for the cases of water.

There are large tents at City Hall in case of rain that can be set up for people to stand under while waiting in line.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the city hall.

Adjourn: Motion by R. Dischinger, seconded by Gaertner to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.
Motion carried.

Submitted by Tracey Bergum, City Clerk - Treasurer

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF DASSEL

WHEREAS, the City of Dassel is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens, and is specifically authorized to accept gifts.

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the city:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Paula Trisko	\$25.00

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to the city for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DASSEL, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donations described above are accepted and shall be used to establish and/or operate services either alone or in cooperation with others, as allowed by law.
2. The city clerk is hereby directed to issue receipts to each donor acknowledging the city's receipt of the donor's donation.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, the resolution was adopted and unanimously carried, this 20th day of October, 2025.

ATTEST:

Bob Lalone
Mayor

Tracey Bergum
City Clerk/Treasurer

**Directors Report
Dassel History Center
Dassel Area Historical Society**

October 2025

It is more than history at the History Center. Programming, music, theatre and art bring visitors to Dassel and the History Center. It is a partnership between DAHS and City

Air conditioning issues.

Working on evaluation of the spaces in the History Center for exhibits. Enhancing the ergot exhibit

**Programs, Music, Theatre
Scheduled**

Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Good turnout, interesting

**Elaine Nordlie – Norwegian Celebration, 200th Anniversary of the Start of Norwegian
Emigration Oct. 11, 9 am. Rosemaling classes, Paper heart making, Straw
Ornaments, Lunch, Displays or exhibits- Everyone loved it**

Exhibits – Temporary

We work to have changing exhibits to bring new information so that visitors will come often.

Scheduled

Level 2

Lydia Henry – Manhole Cover Rubbings – Sept.20 -Oct. 19.

Level 3

**Kurt Meyer – Sept. 7 – Oct. 25, the Lobby. Asian Fusion
Asian.**

Fungus Fall Play – Cyrano de Bergerac Opens Nov. 7

Liquor Store

	Cost of Good		Gross Profit		Growth %	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
	2025 Gross Sales	Sold	Gross Profit	%								
Jan	\$ 79,068.15	\$ 57,285.85	\$ 21,782.30	28%	0%	\$ 78,902.39	\$ 83,519.07	\$ 86,497.18	\$ 103,006.56	\$ 84,851.41	\$ 83,468.67	
Feb	\$ 74,933.06	\$ 53,787.42	\$ 21,145.64	28%	-5%	\$ 79,114.27	\$ 88,229.64	\$ 88,822.30	\$ 93,595.13	\$ 84,679.83	\$ 77,335.16	
Mar	\$ 83,986.37	\$ 60,276.87	\$ 23,709.50	28%	-6%	\$ 89,400.77	\$ 96,207.42	\$ 94,419.40	\$ 105,366.78	\$ 125,469.96	\$ 93,680.21	
Apr	\$ 90,944.43	\$ 65,505.31	\$ 25,439.12	28%	1%	\$ 89,932.83	\$ 101,729.09	\$ 101,990.20	\$ 111,477.81	\$ 135,457.28	\$ 95,525.43	
May	\$ 112,153.13	\$ 80,822.59	\$ 31,330.54	28%	-11%	\$ 125,343.99	\$ 133,711.11	\$ 125,300.13	\$ 137,816.79	\$ 166,196.43	\$ 119,647.00	
Jun	\$ 98,177.71	\$ 71,067.41	\$ 27,110.30	28%	-13%	\$ 112,939.87	\$ 146,918.07	\$ 143,156.80	\$ 142,970.10	\$ 152,792.72	\$ 124,815.85	
Jul	\$ 114,826.81	\$ 82,704.68	\$ 32,122.13	28%	-8%	\$ 125,446.41	\$ 135,529.73	\$ 148,990.37	\$ 157,498.35	\$ 170,289.30	\$ 134,229.90	
Aug	\$ 108,925.03	\$ 78,651.42	\$ 30,273.61	28%	-5%	\$ 114,273.28	\$ 121,073.47	\$ 121,411.40	\$ 126,696.75	\$ 146,544.48	\$ 133,046.50	
Sep	\$ 90,754.49	\$ 65,153.98	\$ 25,600.51	28%	5%	\$ 86,769.92	\$ 117,082.11	\$ 125,522.69	\$ 118,904.19	\$ 126,685.79	\$ 97,976.90	
Oct			\$ -	#DIV/0!	-100%	\$ 89,274.25	\$ 98,507.27	\$ 106,315.17	\$ 114,317.15	\$ 122,201.79	\$ 96,634.58	
Nov			\$ -	#DIV/0!	-100%	\$ 91,941.22	\$ 100,091.46	\$ 104,464.97	\$ 105,407.93	\$ 117,977.05	\$ 97,387.40	
Dec			\$ -	#DIV/0!	-100%	\$ 105,066.39	\$ 113,228.84	\$ 117,422.03	\$ 122,868.03	\$ 139,890.73	\$ 111,026.33	
YTD	\$ 853,769.18	\$ 615,255.53	\$ 238,513.65	28%	100%	\$ 1,188,405.59	\$ 1,335,827.28	\$ 1,364,312.64	\$ 1,439,925.57	\$ 1,573,036.77	\$ 1,264,773.93	
Annual % Growth								-2%	-6%	-8%	24%	5%

I contacted Vos Construction, gutter work will be scheduled when the new piece for the South side is delivered
 Sales on seasonal items like Octoberfest beers, Pumpkin flavors and Egg Nog are increasing
 We have been doing end of the season clean out and organizing in our inventory room

Please contact me with any question and concerns
 Thank you

Heather Moy

Total Calls for September 2025

Incident Type Report (Summary) with Zones

Basic Incident Type Code And Description (FD1.21)	Total Incidents	Total Incidents Percent of Incidents	Total Property Loss	Total Content Loss	Total Loss	Total Loss Percent of Total
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident						
3009 - Person Down	1	2.86%				
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	27	77.14%				
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2	5.71%				
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	1	2.86%				
	Total: 31	Total: 88.57%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 5 - Service Call						
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1	2.86%				
	Total: 1	Total: 2.86%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 6 - Good Intent Call						
611 - Dispatched and cancelled en route	2	5.71%				
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1	2.86%				
	Total: 3	Total: 8.57%	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00%
	Total: 35	Total: 100.00%	Total: 0.00			

Public Works Report

Streets

- We have completed repainting crosswalks along HWY 12. They did not include this in the sidewalk project that they completed.
- We have also been out painting curbs and parking lines all around town.
- We have been out street sweeping and will be doing so often once leaves really begin to fall.
- We reinstalled the RRFID at 2nd ST and HWY 12. We will be adding a section of post to it in near future to raise it little for clearance of snow removal equipment.
- While the bike path was being done we had them bring in a bunch of the milling to the gravel section of Pacific Ave. We were able to do a good portion of the leveling until our loader had issues. We did end up having Meeker County come in and finish leveling with a road grader.
- We were paid again as part of the DOT project to sweep HWY 12.
- We will be charging MNDOT and Meeker County again this fall for sweeping of their roads.
- We have been out vac and jetting storm sewer basins and lines all around town.
- We were out vaccing the storm vectors. We have completed all of them except one. With the moister in ground we can't get to it without destroying the yard right now.

Water

- We have completed quarterly sampling for MDH.
- I have completed updating MDH on lead and copper service line inventory. This will be a yearly requirement going forward.
- At 1st and HWY 12 there is a pressure reducing valve that has a slight leak going on. The parts are on order and when they come in they will be coming to repair it. The cost for this repair \$1,875.
- We had an issue with our water testers touch screen as reported last month. We were able to order a replacement touch pad and had Computer Samurai install it. It was a success.

Waste Water

- We have finished the siding project on the Main Lift building. It turned out very nice. We do have a couple pieces of trim to paint yet if we get weather to do so.

- We had Quality Flow out to do our yearly inspections and maintenance on the lift station pumps. All came back in good condition.
- Flow Measure will be out to do our meter calibrations. We have to have this done twice a year per permit.
- We will be continuing to spray irrigate until November. After that we will be winterizing the fields for the year.
- I have been working on getting bids for generator maintenance contracts. Will have recommendation next month.
- We will begin sewer flushing in the next week or two.

Parks

- We were able to get the park benches and bike rack installed at Summit Park. The grass has taken off very well.
- We have winterized Sellards bathroom and is closed for the season. The mini biffs will be remove next month.
- We had an issue with a contractor for someone else's project out of town. They backed across Veterans Memorial to get water and in doing so rutted up the yard. The company had not gotten permission to get bulk water from us. We will be getting a company to repair this and billing them for it.

Equipment

- We have received the remaining road salt and sand that we were contracted for this year.
- We have gotten all our required trucks to DC diesel for yearly DOT inspections.
- We have begun servicing plow trucks for the upcoming season. We will also be installing the plows and snow equipment in coming weeks.
- I have put the loader plow on consignment with MCqueen equipment to try and sell it. There is couple other companies I have reached out to that are also trying to sell it.
- We had Nuss out to repair and service loader for the year.
- We have begun winterizing summer equipment and preparing for winter.

Personnel

- Dale's last day for this season will be 10/24/25. We are planning to have him return again next year.
- We will keeping Stan on for a few more weeks to help with leave cleanup and other projects.
- I have begun looking into places to send Mason to get his CDL to be able to operate plow trucks.

Buildings and Property

- We have been cleaning up and doing a lot at the Compost. Lots of material has been coming in. We also took in a good amount of the millings from the bike path project that we will be using as gravel around town.
- We had company out to do yearly fire extinguisher maintenance on all city properties.
- We had to remove the mural off the old Red Rooster building. We will be storing until spring. The plan is to have it refurbished and find new place to install it.
- We borrowed a trailer air compressor from Brian Dalman to blow out and winterize all of our irrigation systems for the year. We have also winterized the Mushroom Building for the year.

Motions

- Need a motion to surplus the Ford Ranger so we can sell it.



Real People. Real Solutions.

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 15, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor Lalone and Members of the City Council
City of Dassel

From: Mitchell Lease, P.E.
Project Manager

Subject: Spectralytics BDPI Grant
City of Dassel, MN

Spectralytics, a Cretex Medical Company, has engaged City staff to explore the feasibility of extending public infrastructure to accommodate gravity sanitary sewer service for their facility located at 125 3rd Street South. This request is in response to current limitations with their existing private sanitary sewer pump station, which is unable to support their planned expansion.

Several meetings have been held with representatives from Spectralytics, and the City to discuss both current and future infrastructure needs. At present, the facility is served by a small lift station that pumps wastewater approximately 260 feet north to the existing sanitary sewer line on 3rd Street South. Spectralytics has identified that this system is experiencing capacity constraints and reliability issues, which pose challenges to their expansion plans.

To address these concerns, a new lift station is proposed to be installed at a regional low point located at the south end of 3rd Street South. This strategic location would not only serve Spectralytics but also provide sanitary sewer service to future commercial and industrial developments south of the existing system. Additionally, it would enable service to an undeveloped 93-acre parcel located east of 3rd Street South, thereby increasing the overall utility service area and supporting long-term growth.

In coordination with City staff, we have explored funding opportunities to assist with the financial requirement of the proposed improvements. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) offers the Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) program, which provides financial assistance for public infrastructure projects that support business expansion. The proposed sanitary sewer improvements meet the eligibility criteria for this program and would directly support Spectralytics' growth while enhancing the City's infrastructure capacity. The program offers grants up to 50% of eligible construction costs.

If the Council wishes to move forward with the BDPI grant application, we will continue to work with City staff and Spectralytics in preparing the necessary documentation and engineering estimates.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cc: Renee Eckerly, City Administrator
Chuck DeWolf, P.E., City Engineer

The Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program

Providing the public infrastructure necessary for private investment



 Erik Simonson
easimonson@flaherty-hood.com

 @GreaterMNCities

 greatermncities.org



What is BDPI?

- The BDPI program provides grants to cities in Greater Minnesota of up to 50% of the capital costs for the public infrastructure necessary to expand economic growth, retain or create jobs, or increase the tax base (§ 116J.431).
- Greater Minnesota cities depend on the BDPI program to attract new businesses and create jobs in their communities.

BDPI since 2010:

- 167 BDPI grants to Greater Minnesota cities and counties
- More than 5,000 jobs created and 9,500 retained
- More than \$75 million awarded

2025 BDPI Proposal:

- \$20 million in General Obligation bonds
 - Senate File 584 (Jasinski) / House File 334 (Johnson)
- Increase base General Fund appropriation to at least \$2.5M/year
 - Senate File 582 (Jasinski) / House File 335 (Johnson)

“

"DEED is dedicated to economic development in all cities across Minnesota."

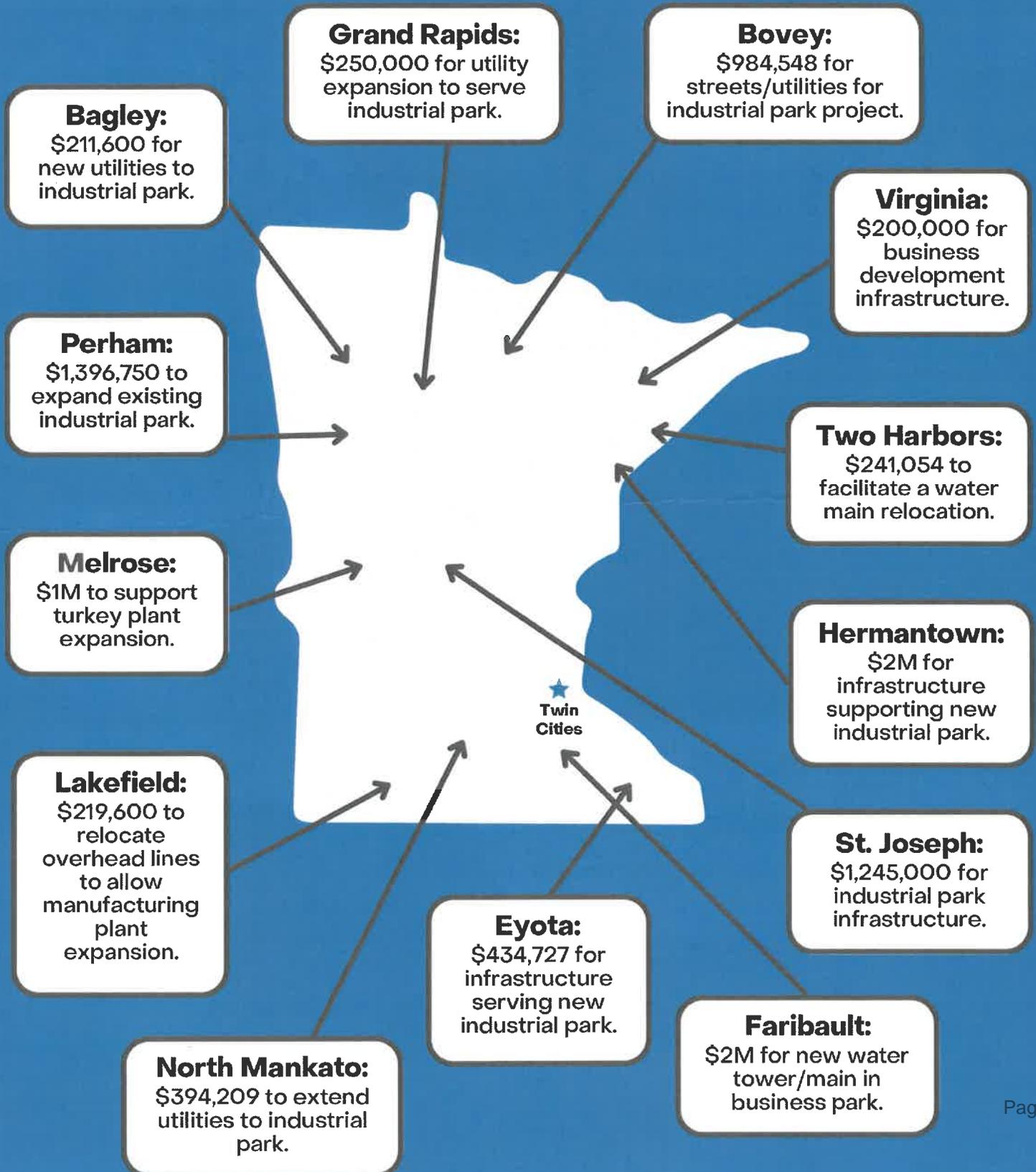
Our Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program is one of the many ways we invest in our growing local economies."

— DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek,
2/9/2024

”

Support the Greater Minnesota BDPI program and help Greater Minnesota's economy grow!

How are BDPI grants being used across Greater Minnesota?



The BDPI Grant Program has helped more than 80 Greater Minnesota communities grow in the past 10 years alone!



City	Year	Amount	City	Year	Amount	City	Year	Amount
Arlington	2016	\$66,275	Grand Meadow	2015	\$310,000	Owatonna	2014	\$240,221
Austin	2023	\$1,650,175	Grand Rapids	2021	\$250,000	Owatonna	2016	\$177,190
Bagley	2019	\$211,850	Harmony	2021	\$256,279	Owatonna	2020	\$176,624
Becker	2018	\$1,446,361	Hendricks	2018	\$153,000	Paynesville	2019	\$1,889,993
Bemidji	2023	\$1,509,300	Hermantown	2024	\$2,000,000	Pelican Rapids	2014	\$254,065
Bovey	2016	\$82,625	Hibbing	2016	\$143,007	Pequot Lakes	2020	\$164,700
Brooten	2017	\$1,025,000	Howard Lake	2016	\$180,122	Perham	2019	\$1,293,663
Brooten	2022	\$856,179	Hutchinson	2019	\$322,650	Princeton	2021	\$575,000
Cambridge	2015	\$1,800,000	Hutchinson	2023	\$53,821	Redwood Falls	2022	\$1,164,200
Carlton County	2016	\$106,228	International Falls	2020	\$346,669	Rockville	2015	\$55,094
Chatfield	2018	\$116,416	International Falls	2022	\$122,084	Royalton	2017	\$135,599
Chisago City	2024	\$302,757	Isle	2022	\$450,968	Sauk Centre	2021	\$1,243,363
Claremont	2016	\$318,212	Jackson	2018	\$44,124	Sleepy Eye	2019	\$985,587
Cohasset	2015	\$250,000	Kenyon	2019	\$562,889	Spring Grove	2017	\$325,918
Cokato	2022	\$432,691	La Prairie	2014	\$175,000	Spring Valley	2019	\$608,966
Cold Spring	2019	\$951,330	Lakefield	2019	\$219,600	St. James	2022	\$382,067
Deiano	2024	\$1,334,000	Lester Prairie	2023	\$1,459,522	St. James	2024	\$259,956
Detroit Lakes	2014	\$87,031	Luverne	2015	\$90,714	St. Joseph	2018	\$1,245,000
Dodge Center	2019	\$529,735	Luverne	2017	\$1,982,000	St. Michael	2022	\$609,720
Ely	2015	\$109,165	Luverne	2022	\$467,422	Staples	2014	\$23,230
Ely	2016	\$750,000	Marshall	2017	\$2,000,000	Stewart	2016	\$450,519
Eyota	2020	\$250,675	Melrose	2016	\$1,000,000	Thief River Falls	2017	\$1,600,000
Fairmont	2019	\$336,432	Moorhead	2022	\$2,000,000	Two Harbors	2017	\$241,054
Faribault	2018	\$1,057,000	North Branch	2019	\$400,575	Villard	2015	\$166,291
Faribault	2021	\$2,000,000	North Mankato	2018	\$352,912	Virginia	2014	\$775,708
Faribault	2016	\$843,957	North Mankato	2024	\$1,108,100	Virginia	2015	\$250,000
Fosston	2023	\$960,460	Otsego	2018	\$704,724	Wadena	2019	\$600,211
Grand Marais	2015	\$250,000	Otsego	2015	\$288,247	Waseca	2020	\$522,086





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Created for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities by Flaherty & Hood, P.A. 2/17/25.



City Administrator October 2025 Report

1. Mayor Lalone, Mitchell Lease and I attended a meeting at Cretex regarding their need to attach to the city's wastewater due to their expansion. I attended a virtual meeting with MN DEED to research if the city would qualify for a grant. This is on the Council agenda for action.
2. Met with Mitchell Lease, Sarah Swedburg and Derrick Haase regarding the further development of the former Lakeview Ranch property.
3. Met with Mitchell Lease, City Engineers regarding the tile line that goes across Tom Fischer property south of the city.
4. Continue to work with Derrick Haase regarding water access for sprinkler system at the Former Lakeview Ranch property.
5. The Fall Frolic Festival was a success for the 1st time being held. Already planning next year.
6. I attended the following meeting: Planning Commission, DAHS meeting, Trail Pre-Construction meeting, Red Rooster meeting, Special City Council meeting, Joint Trail meeting and Safety Training.
7. Planning Discover Dassel Halloween Trick or Treat event on Friday, October 31, 2025, from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm downtown.
8. I attended the meeting at the school with Representative Dawn Gillman for continued improvements to the Rec Center. They are looking for a Sponsor to handle the money if the Rec Center would get funded through State Bonding money.
Does the Council want to be the Fiscal Sponsor for the school?
9. The Administration staff is short-handed and is working hard to adjust the additional work between us to get everything covered.
10. I have reached out to MN DEED regarding apply for State Revolving Loan seed money.
11. I have been working on preliminary 2026 budget.
12. **Questions:**
 1. **Does the City Council want their Meeting Per Diem increased from \$25.00 in 2026?**
 2. **Does the City Council want their salary increased in 2026?**
 3. **Discuss how you would like to handle annual performance evaluations under the new Organizational Structure.**



Meeker County Sheriff's Office

Brian Cruze, Sheriff ★ Bill Hudson, Chief Deputy

326 North Ramsey Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355 • Phone 320-693-5400 • Fax 320-693-5424 • www.co.meeker.mn.us

Dassel Monthly Stats - City Council Report

Printed on October 2, 2025

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Street Name	Deputy	Call/Complaint	Disposition
911 Hang Up Total: 2					
09/04/25 09:47:13	CFS25012074		812SH	911 Hang Up	Clear
09/30/25 14:43:53	CFS25013407		125JK	911 Hang Up	Clear
911 Mis Dial Total: 3					
09/16/25 13:56:48	CFS25012683		812SH	911 Mis Dial	Clear
09/24/25 10:16:22	CFS25013060		806RC	911 Mis Dial	Clear
09/24/25 20:22:24	CFS25013099		807MS	911 Mis Dial	Clear
Agency Standby / Assist Total: 2					
09/03/25 08:55:55	CFS25012028		125JK	Agency Standby / Assist	Report Taken
09/16/25 11:35:08	CFS25012674		120ND	Agency Standby / Assist	Clear
Alarm Total: 2					
09/13/25 12:22:20	CFS25012537		109RS	Alarm	False Alarm
09/18/25 23:11:13	CFS25012808		108ZL	Alarm	False Alarm
Animal Bite Total: 1					
09/10/25 19:06:07	CFS25012400		128SB	Animal Bite	Report Taken
Animal - Dog Total: 3					
09/03/25 07:45:35	CFS25012026		125JK	Animal - Dog	Clear
09/12/25 12:35:00	CFS25012478		122EA	Animal - Dog	Gone On Arrival (GOA)/Unable to Locate (UTL)
09/19/25 19:49:50	CFS25012846		807MS	Animal - Dog	Clear
Child Abuse - Neglect - Maltreatment Total: 2					
09/12/25 16:21:58	CFS25012493		113TO	Child Abuse - Neglect - Maltreatment	No Report Taken
09/25/25 10:47:55	CFS25013124		112JC	Child Abuse - Neglect - Maltreatment	No Report Taken
Civil Total: 3					
09/04/25 18:00:23	CFS25012093		108ZL	Civil	Civil
09/28/25 12:51:54	CFS25013292		128SB	Civil	Assisted
09/30/25 09:18:57	CFS25013378		125JK	Civil	Clear
Disabled Vehicle Total: 1					
09/12/25 20:08:35	CFS25012507		128SB	Disabled Vehicle	Handled By Officer / Deputy
Domestic Total: 3					
09/15/25 20:22:33	CFS25012650		128SB	Domestic	Report Taken
09/19/25 17:35:20	CFS25012841		125JK	Domestic	Report Taken

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Street Name	Deputy	Call/Complaint	Disposition
09/29/25 06:47:07	CFS25013322		120ND	Domestic	Report Taken
Driving Complaint Total: 3					
09/13/25 19:12:06	CFS25012557		128SB	Driving Complaint	Gone On Arrival (GOA)/Unable to Locate (UTL)
09/15/25 16:24:44	CFS25012638		128SB	Driving Complaint	Citation Issued
09/28/25 20:32:49	CFS25013310		128SB	Driving Complaint	Clear
Emotionally Disturbed Person Total: 1					
09/06/25 21:48:12	CFS25012213		125JK, DFR1	Emotionally Disturbed Person	Clear
Fraud Total: 1					
09/05/25 16:10:21	CFS25012131		125JK	Fraud	Report Taken
Harassment Total: 2					
09/19/25 23:33:26	CFS25012863		125JK	Harassment	Clear
09/28/25 02:07:11	CFS25013282		108ZL	Harassment	Handled By Officer / Deputy
Info Total: 1					
09/13/25 11:27:54	CFS25012536		802CD	Info	Clear
Juvenile Trouble Total: 2					
09/11/25 14:06:47	CFS25012436		125JK	Juvenile Trouble	Unfounded
09/12/25 09:06:29	CFS25012468		122EA	Juvenile Trouble	Clear
Lost Property Total: 1					
09/28/25 10:47:01	CFS25013291		122EA	Lost Property	Clear
Medical Total: 3					
09/01/25 11:24:54	CFS25011929		DFR1, 125JK, MAYO1	Medical	EMS Transport
09/02/25 09:08:11	CFS25011981		DFR1, 125JK, COKA	Medical	EMS Transport
09/12/25 23:17:07	CFS25012522		DFR1, 128SB, MAYO1	Medical	EMS Transport
Motorist Assist Total: 1					
09/28/25 18:50:23	CFS25013306		117JI	Motorist Assist	Handled By Officer / Deputy
Noise Total: 1					
09/07/25 16:01:06	CFS25012241		125JK	Noise	Clear
Public Assist Total: 6					
09/14/25 16:14:01	CFS25012595		128SB	Public Assist	Assisted
09/15/25 18:43:41	CFS25012646		128SB	Public Assist	Assisted
09/16/25 09:03:29	CFS25012666		120ND	Public Assist	Clear
09/16/25 14:48:09	CFS25012688		125JK	Public Assist	Clear
09/26/25 10:06:33	CFS25013172		122EA	Public Assist	Clear
09/26/25 21:26:00	CFS25013203		128SB	Public Assist	Assisted

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Street Name	Deputy	Call/Complaint	Disposition
Runaway Total: 1					
09/22/25 04:10:55	CFS25012953		110TB	Runaway	Report Taken
Suspicious Activity Total: 4					
09/11/25 14:55:10	CFS25012440		125JK	Suspicious Activity	Clear
09/22/25 07:44:10	CFS25012956		128SB	Suspicious Activity	Assisted
09/22/25 13:04:56	CFS25012967		128SB	Suspicious Activity	Assisted
09/27/25 07:09:21	CFS25013221		122EA	Suspicious Activity	Clear
Suspicious Vehicle Total: 3					
09/05/25 01:16:05	CFS25012105		117JI	Suspicious Vehicle	Handled By Officer / Deputy
09/08/25 09:04:14	CFS25012274		122EA	Suspicious Vehicle	Clear
09/10/25 16:37:44	CFS25012394		128SB	Suspicious Vehicle	Gone On Arrival (GOA)/Unable to Locate (UTL)
Theft Total: 2					
09/18/25 17:32:46	CFS25012794		128SB	Theft	Report Taken
09/19/25 10:18:31	CFS25012825		120ND	Theft	Report Taken
Traffic Stop Total: 63					
09/01/25 18:06:18	CFS25011949	US HWY 12	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/02/25 07:04:59	CFS25011969	3 ST S	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/02/25 16:13:19	CFS25011999	PACIFIC AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/06/25 00:24:17	CFS25012164	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/06/25 18:28:07	CFS25012191	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/07/25 16:44:27	CFS25012245	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/07/25 21:04:37	CFS25012258	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/07/25 21:19:18	CFS25012259	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/07/25 23:38:54	CFS25012262	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/08/25 21:37:43	CFS25012323	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/09/25 20:06:21	CFS25012360	PARKER AV W	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/09/25 22:34:51	CFS25012367	PARKER AV W	128SB	Traffic Stop	Citation Issued
09/10/25 04:48:54	CFS25012372	US HWY 12	133HH	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/11/25 07:14:48	CFS25012417	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/11/25 07:23:54	CFS25012419	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/11/25 07:32:34	CFS25012420	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/11/25 16:06:19	CFS25012443	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/11/25 16:16:04	CFS25012444	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/12/25 16:25:42	CFS25012494	PARKER AV W	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/12/25 19:36:32	CFS25012506	PARKER AV W	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/16/25 18:34:53	CFS25012695	ATLANTIC AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/16/25 19:52:59	CFS25012704	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/16/25 20:14:48	CFS25012706	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Clear
09/16/25 20:50:07	CFS25012708	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/16/25 23:33:03	CFS25012713	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/17/25 11:58:46	CFS25012730	TODD ST	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Street Name	Deputy	Call/Complaint	Disposition
09/17/25 20:42:06	CFS25012756	MN HWY 15	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/17/25 22:15:16	CFS25012761	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/18/25 13:55:07	CFS25012786	PARKER AV E	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/19/25 16:45:57	CFS25012838	5 ST N	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/20/25 01:06:21	CFS25012870	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Citation Issued
09/20/25 01:38:59	CFS25012873	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/20/25 15:56:08	CFS25012892	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Clear
09/20/25 19:56:42	CFS25012902	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/20/25 20:11:56	CFS25012905	2 ST N	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/21/25 13:16:09	CFS25012921	3 ST S	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/21/25 19:17:05	CFS25012937	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/21/25 20:13:58	CFS25012938	4 ST N	125JK	Traffic Stop	Arrest
09/22/25 12:11:13	CFS25012963	3 ST N	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/23/25 11:18:11	CFS25013016	3 ST N	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/23/25 13:26:17	CFS25013022	PARKER AV W	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/24/25 08:40:40	CFS25013055	5 ST N	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/24/25 11:03:35	CFS25013063	ATLANTIC AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/24/25 11:30:29	CFS25013066	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/25/25 15:08:02	CFS25013136	ATLANTIC AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/25/25 18:34:49	CFS25013143	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/25/25 21:37:34	CFS25013151	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/25/25 22:58:27	CFS25013157	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/26/25 20:36:41	CFS25013196	PARKER AV W	117JI	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/26/25 20:39:38	CFS25013197	PARKER AV E	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/26/25 23:43:01	CFS25013214	PARKER AV W	105IC	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/26/25 23:52:00	CFS25013215	PACIFIC AV W	105IC	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/27/25 16:30:19	CFS25013248	3 ST S	128SB	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/27/25 21:19:01	CFS25013263	7 ST S	128SB	Traffic Stop	Clear
09/27/25 23:41:43	CFS25013277	4 ST N	105IC	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/28/25 23:50:03	CFS25013317	US HWY 12	108ZL	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/29/25 13:32:15	CFS25013348	1 ST N	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/30/25 14:17:21	CFS25013401	US HWY 12	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/30/25 14:23:49	CFS25013403	MN HWY 15	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/30/25 14:37:15	CFS25013405	PARKER AV E	125JK	Traffic Stop	Clear
09/30/25 14:44:15	CFS25013408	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/30/25 16:33:23	CFS25013417	PARKER AV W	125JK	Traffic Stop	Warning
09/30/25 23:03:07	CFS25013429	PARKER AV E	104JD	Traffic Stop	Warning

Transfer Total: 1

09/03/25 10:14:38	CFS25012031		806RC	Transfer	Duplicate Call
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Vehicle Lock Out Total: 1

09/28/25 22:09:44	CFS25013314		128SB	Vehicle Lock Out	Assisted
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Welfare Check Total: 8

09/04/25 13:14:09	CFS25012079		128SB	Welfare Check	Warning
09/04/25 15:59:35	CFS25012086		122EA	Welfare Check	Clear

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Street Name	Deputy	Call/Complaint	Disposition
09/11/25 11:29:14	CFS25012430		8811MM	Welfare Check	Handled By Officer / Deputy
09/17/25 14:58:31	CFS25012740		8811MM	Welfare Check	Handled By Officer / Deputy
09/20/25 14:06:58	CFS25012888		118JO	Welfare Check	Clear
09/22/25 09:25:18	CFS25012960		8811MM	Welfare Check	Handled By Officer / Deputy
09/24/25 09:28:56	CFS25013058		8811MM	Welfare Check	Handled By Officer / Deputy
09/29/25 09:14:15	CFS25013329		8811MM	Welfare Check	Handled By Officer / Deputy

Total Records: 127

CAR-RT LOT**B 004
I.D 3609 EXP 06-20-2026
CITY OF DASSEL
PO BOX 391
DASSEL MN 55325-0391

\$2.00



Inserts (to selected areas)

- Kwik Trip
- Fleet Supply
- Menards
- Dollar General
- Yetzers

Obituaries Page 12A

Dennis Samuelson, 67, Cokato

Sports Page 8A

DC cross country competes at Litchfield

Dassel - Cokato

Enterprise Dispatch

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF DASSEL, COKATO, AND DARWIN, MINNESOTA

Friday, Oct. 10, A.D. 2025 | Volume 108 | Number 16 | \$2.00

www.DasselCokato.com

Dassel firefighters sound alarm on space, safety, and infrastructure

BY TAMARA HORTON
Staff Writer

At the Sept. 15 Dassel City Council meeting, City Administrator Renee Eckerly reported on a recent Fire Board Advisory gathering, where representatives from nearly every entity in the fire district with the exception of Collinwood Township and the city of Darwin met to assess the Dassel Fire Department's facility and discuss future needs.

The advisory group convened Sept. 15 for a tour of the fire hall and a presentation led by Dassel firefighters, who had previously visited several newly constructed fire stations in neighboring communities. The presentation included a detailed overview of the Dassel facility, cost comparisons from other projects, and a walkthrough of the department's operational challenges.

"It was an eye-opening tour," Eckerly said. "They explained how they process emergency calls and how confined the space is when firefighters gear up and respond."



PHOTO BY TAMARA HORTON

Volunteer firefighters from Dassel demonstrate difficulties in gearing up for a call in their cramped quarters of the current firehall.

Following the tour and presentation, the advisory board voted—Kingston being the sole dissenting entity—to recommend that the Dassel City Council move forward with

planning a new fire station.

A follow-up tour was held Oct. 6 at 7 p.m., attended solely by a media representative from the Enterprise Dispatch. Firefighters again demon-



PHOTO BY TAMARA HORTON

Mirrors on the firetrucks have mere inches to clear the overhead which can really get tricky in a slippery winter driveway.

strated the spatial limitations of the current facility, noting that training sessions and meetings with 20 to 30 people often become cramped. Office space, kitchen layout and storage ar-

reas were also cited as inadequate.

Firefighters demonstrated of them standing in their lock

see DASSEL FIRE HALL, 2

Chickens stir the pot at Cokato City Hall

BY TAMARA HORTON
Staff Writer

With backyard chicken keeping on the rise across Minnesota and the nation, the Cokato City Council is weighing the creation of a chicken ordinance to regulate poultry within city limits. Council members discussed the need for clear guidelines and community input as interest in urban agriculture continues to grow, at their latest meeting on Sept. 9.

Council members emphasized that feedback is welcome from all residents — not just chicken owners, but also their neighbors.

"We want to know the good, the bad, the ugly," one member said. "Even if you have a neighbor that has chickens, even if you have good things to say, we want to know about that too, as well as any potential negative issues."

Some residents have praised chickens for their ability to reduce wood

see COKATO CHICKENS, 4A



PHOTO BY RICK WOZNIAK

This brood of hens flew the coop, making their way to the north side of Dassel near the post office, according to this photo snapped by a resident in July of 2024. Dassel's chicken ordinance was revisited in Dec. 2024.



PHOTO BY CHRIS

Dassel-Cokato Homecoming king and queen announced

Dassel-Cokato High School seniors Julia Bakke and Evan Halonen, crowned Homecoming queen and king, share a celebratory moment after being crowned in the Performing Arts Center before Friday evening's football game.

Cokato woman faces new drug charge following arrests in Wright County

BY TAMARA HORTON
Staff Writer

A Cokato woman is facing a new drug possession charge after being arrested twice in Wright County last week.

Cassie Rae Tauriainen, 39, was arrested Oct. 2 in Buffalo on a Wright County warrant for 5th-degree controlled substance. The following day,



National Newspaper Week highlights importance of local journalism

BY ANDREW MEULENERS
General Manager

As National Newspaper Week is celebrated across the country, newsrooms large and small are reminding readers of one of America's most enduring strengths — a free and independent press.

Each October, the week serves as a time to recognize the role newspapers play in informing citizens, strengthen-

ment interference is what has made America's press, and by extension its democracy, strong.

The work of local journalists is not just about breaking news; it's about trust. When reporters attend council meetings, cover high school sports, or profile community leaders, they are helping citizens see their world clearly and make informed decisions. In small towns and big cities alike.

HAPPENING!

Annual pork chop feed Friday

Dassel Volunteer Fire Department is hosting their annual chop feed Friday, Oct. 10 from 6 p.m. or until they are go honor of Fire Prevention. Proceeds go towards equipment upgrades and training.

LEGO challenge Thursday

Proposal for new fire hall to be discussed at Dassel City Council meeting Monday, Oct. 2

from DASSEL FIRE HALL, 1A

attempting to put on their gear. With such cramped quarters, having to dress in full gear rapidly appeared cumbersome, and time consuming.

"We've got three of us trying to get dressed at the same time," one firefighter said. "I end up pushing the guy behind me out of the way just to get my boots on."

The department's lone bathroom and shower were described as insufficient for the crew's needs, especially when considering health and safety protocols related to carcinogen exposure after fire calls.

"We're supposed to shower before entering clean areas," a firefighter said. "But with one bathroom and no separation zones, it's just not feasible."

The existing bathroom consists of a single partitioned stall toilet, and a sink area with another sink basin just outside the restroom doorway to the left.

"The shower's right on your left there," one firefighter said, pointing to the exterior sink.

Storage is another major concern. The department relies on a small mezzanine and limited shelving to house essential supplies including common household items, tools, spare hoses and training equipment. Chairs used for events and gear dryers are wedged into corners, and the mechanical room barely accommodates a furnace and water heater.

Pallets of cased water and other supplies often arrive at the fire hall with nowhere to store them, leaving the items

stacked in the space between the meeting area and kitchen until they're gradually used up and tucked away.

The apparatus bay poses additional challenges. Firefighters often squeeze past vehicles and each other to reach lockers during emergency responses. Clearance between trucks and walls is minimal, sometimes just a few inches, increasing the risk of accidents.

"There have been oopsies," one firefighter admitted. "People have tripped, banged knees, ripped pants or cut their legs trying to get to the trucks."

Routine maintenance is also hindered by space constraints. Trucks must be moved outside to access engine compartments, and gear drying and SCBA fill stations are tucked into tight corners. In winter, icy conditions and narrow doorways increase the risk of sliding into door frames. Heavy rain can leave standing water around parked trucks, further complicating operations.

"We've had eight inches of water around the tires," one firefighter said. "It doesn't stop us from responding, but it's a hindrance."

Remodeling the current facility would require compliance with updated building and National Fire Protection Association codes, including the addition of hot and cold zones and decontamination showers. Firefighters noted that such upgrades would further reduce usable space and could be costlier than building new.

"We looked at remodeling



PHOTO BY TAMARA HORTON

A row of folding chairs and extra hoses line the inner walls of the firehall due to lack of adequate storage for much of their equipment and supplies.



PHOTO BY TAM

Most truck repairs are only done outside of the fire truck shown here is parked so close to the overhead that the hood would not be able to be fully opened access any parts beneath it.

versus new construction," said firefighter Kevin Carlen. "One of the new building options was actually cheaper than adding on and upgrading the current structure."

The city already owns a nearby lot that was purchased years ago with the intent of future expansion. Firefighters said the location is ideal for response times, with members arriving from multiple directions rather than being funneled through a single corridor.

"We've always felt this was a prime location," Carlen said. "If we moved west, we'd be pushing 20-some people down one or two roads."

The current building also faces exterior issues, including cracked pavement, deteriorating concrete and a roof in need of repair. Overhead doors, replaced decades ago, are aging and may require upgrades. Firefighters also cited safety concerns with alley traffic and

the building's side entrance, which sees the most use.

Nearby communities such as Waconia, Buffalo and Mayer have built new stations in recent years, offering useful comparisons. While Dassel's firefighters emphasized they are not seeking a "Taj Mahal," they acknowledged the need for a safe, functional space that meets modern standards.

"We're fortunate to have the public's backing," Carlen said. "Our equipment could be a lot worse, but we've been supported. Now we need a facility that supports us."

The department currently has 22 active members and three retired volunteers who assist with driving and medical calls. While there is locker space for more than 30, firefighters noted that storage is already stretched and any new members would require creative solutions.

Compensation remains min-

imal. Unlike neighboring departments that offer hourly stipends, Dassel firefighters receive no hourly pay. An incentive program allows some to earn up to \$1,000 annually based on call volume and training participation. A retirement fund accrues over time, but members must serve 20 years and reach age 50 before accessing it.

"It's not about the money," one firefighter said. "It's about serving our community."

As the tour wrapped up, firefighters joked about longstanding dreams of a soft serve machine, roller dogs and an ice-cold water dispenser. But beneath the humor was a clear message: the current facility is outdated, and patchwork fixes are no longer enough.

"Three-quarters of the cost to remodel a building that won't fully meet our needs," one firefighter said. "Long term, it just doesn't make sense."

A feasibility study conducted in 2021 by Br architects & Engineers, sioned by the City of Dassel. This comprehensive study included available optic benefit analysis, and pros and cons for remodeling the existing structure, including a new structure and separate options. Res that study will be re the upcoming city meeting.

The fire advisory's to begin planning for a new fire hall is scheduled for Oct. 20 at the Dassel City Council meeting. The advisory group pected to attend an information session. Dassel res encouraged to attend information.

If you or someone you know needs emotional or mental health support, help is available. Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org for support.

SCAN ME



988 LINEA DE PREVENCIÓN DEL SUICIDIO Y CRISIS

Si tú o alguien que conoces necesita apoyo, llama al 988 (servicio en español) o envía un texto al 988 o chat via 988lineadevida.org

SCAN ME



Renee Eckerly

From: Jeff Atkinson <ajaka101@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 6:44 AM
To: Renee Eckerly
Subject: Proposed Dassel Fire Station

Hi Renee,

This is Jeff Atkinson, the Darwin Township Supervisor who attended the September

Dassel Fire Advisory mtg.

My Summary of this long email is: Borrowing \$5,000,000 will double Dassel Fire Budgets.

After the Fire advisory meeting, I researched the following financial information to answer personal questions. A payback proposal was not presented at the advisory meeting so, I voted against incurring further costs until a more complete financial consensus is understood and agreed upon.

You're welcome to share my increased budget estimate with Dassel City and Dassel Fire.

The Cost of Borrowing \$5,000,000

\$5,000,000 is the amount Dassel Fire is proposing to borrow over the next few years. \$900,000 was previously approved for borrowing to purchase the new pumper truck, scheduled to be delivered in 2028. Borrowing an additional \$4-5mil has recently been proposed to finance a new Fire Station. Reasonable firefighter needs for a new building and actual new building cost estimates were very well presented but, the payback terms that included financing costs and budget estimates were not presented.

Fine tuning the overall costs needed to determine the actual budget increase will depend on actual costs and loan amount, plus financing terms. My starting point for figuring the total payback terms is double the Dassel Fire Budget.

This means Darwin Township will need to increase its current \$20,000 Dassel Fire expenditure to \$40,000/yr. If other townships want to plan their future Dassel Fire expenses, then doubling their current Dassel Fire expenditure is an easy way to quickly estimate the potential budget increase. I could see the final cost going +/- 20% of my estimate.

My guess is that this proposed increase will end up being permanent but, the sudden and initial increase will come from financing a large long term fixed rate loan. That should limit future inflationary pressures to only the established budget. The established budget will still need to be reassessed annually.

Significant increases should strive to wait until after the proposed loans get paid in full. Let's discourage going deeper into debt beyond what's being considered, just to pay for what should be planned expenses.

The Federal government has promised the full value of every house in this country be paid to government lenders. Interest only minimum payments are now tied to government bond rates being sold (borrowed), or to borrowed Federal Reserve interest rates until all government loans are paid in full.

Purchasing the new fire truck has been approved if applying 25% down, or \$300,000 down, followed by making 15 annual payments of \$80,000. This amount is required to pay down a \$900,000 loan at 6.5% for 15yrs. Selling municipal bonds to finance the Fire truck was my favorite suggestion. The number of years financed and the actual interest rates are yet to be determined. I recommend 15yrs since by that time other trucks may need upgrading.

An additional \$5,000,000 loan is now being considered to build a new Fire Station

Cost of Borrowing \$5mil @ 5.25%

40yrs \$300,000/yr

20yrs \$404,000/yr

Hyperlinks are provided to online amortization schedules used to arrive at these figures. My gut suspicion is that if we get serious about building a new Dassel Fire Station, then that seriousness should be demonstrated by increasing the Dassel fire budget by \$3-400,000 starting from 2027. That's the soonest we can raise any new levy. An actual levy increase would create preliminary responses to doubling area firefighting costs. Doubling the cost will generate realistic township and public feedback in favor of or against the proposed increase.

If new loan payments don't get initiated for 5 more years, the revenue being collected from 2027 until the loan starts can be kept in a separate account designated as down payment on the new truck or, on the new station. \$300,000 down for the truck still needs to come from the general fund to not violate the accepted agreement. If Dassel Fire chooses to wait until receiving all cost estimates before determining the exact amount needed to be borrowed, then determine financing terms, interest payments alone will most likely cost \$300,000/yr. Those interest payments will only purchase the borrowed money. Interest payments of \$300,000/yr make paying \$80,000 once for repairs to the existing building a bargain, compared to paying \$300,000 annually for interest, for the next 20-40 years. In other words, spending \$80,000 now might save Dassel Fire \$300,000/yr until actually borrowing \$5,000,000.

New and wider garage doors, if installed on the existing building, could be salvaged and reinstalled on the new building. Only installation cost for wider doors on the existing building would be forfeited. One wider door for the new truck might suffice?

The roof could be patched as needed. Then, if plans to build the new Fire Hall move convincingly forward, the current building improvements could be limited to what's absolutely necessary to meet temporary requirements.

After area residents receive their sizeable RE tax increase, it may take them time to adjust to paying for it. A significant \$5,000,000 debt is now being planned by their local government officials. If the debt gets approved, it will raise property taxes until the loan gets paid in full.

My suspicion is that the average Meeker County resident RE Tax will increase \$100/yr. That assumes Meeker County has 4,000 homesteads to tax. Depending on property valuations the increases will range from \$50/yr to \$150/yr. I think Meeker County has an average valuation near \$250,000

A smaller RE Tax increase could result if revenue from collected State income taxes and Business taxes get allocated to the Dassel Fire Department, but I somewhat doubt the State contributes much. If it did, then it would offer grants to build new Fire Departments. Meeker County probably has no more than 4,000 homesteads from which to generate revenue. That's how the Fire Department's proposed \$400,000/yr loan could cost the average homeowner \$100/yr. Not a big deal until many local government services simultaneously double expenditures. Dassel Fire is just one of many Meeker County government services relying on taxes.

Darwin Township has 200 taxable homesteads. Dassel Fire taxes 50 of those homesteads located in the east 25% of Darwin Township. The west 75% of the township and the remaining 150 homesteads are taxed by the Litchfield Fire Department.

Dassel Fire might start costing Darwin Township 50% of its total Fire expenditure, but will only serve 25% of its total population. That's not a bargain! Although, with a new fire department building, Dassel Fire will remain a decent contributor to the mutual aid agreement with neighboring fire departments. Mutual Aid is helpful for reducing potential financial losses incurred from larger fires, which one Fire Department alone might not be able to prevent from turning into a total loss.

When financing a new Dassel Fire Hall, my initial reaction is to push for a 20yr payback term, for two main reasons

1. Litchfield financed their Fire Hall for 20yrs.
2. In 20 years, Dassel Fire will require significant truck and equipment upgrades. A paid off loan will free up money for meeting those significant expenditures without having to increase the taxpayer levy. Payments on a new loan, if needed, could replace the expired loan payment without increasing the levy.

A \$5,000,000 40yr loan paid down for 20yrs has a remaining balance of \$3,700,000. That unpaid balance would be \$0.0 if the payment increases \$104,000/yr., to \$404,000/yr, versus the lower 40yr payment of \$300,000/yr. I think the higher 20yr payment encourages better long range planning. It encourages planning ahead so that no one makes panicked deficit spending purchases. Higher payments will encourage planned and practical purchase decisions that cost much less, in the long run, than paying rarely beneficial interest on desperation purchases.

Government Officials are elected to make these good spending decisions. Their decisions allow taxes to be collected from the public, but it's the public who pays for all government spending. Please make wise spending decisions to benefit all citizens. Poor citizens rely heavily on taxpayer assistance in our country. They will easily become sacrificed by taxpayers who vote against increasing taxes to meet government spending.

The 20yr amortization link used [https://share.google/Pm\]AsKeGECykOB0\]s](https://share.google/Pm]AsKeGECykOB0]s)

Summary of Payments \$5,000,000 @ 5.25%

20yrs. \$33,692.21/mo
\$404,306.52/yr
Total Payback \$8.0mil
Interest \$3.0mil

40yrs. \$24,943.52/mo
\$299,322.24/yr
Total Payback \$12mil
Interest \$7mil

The 40yr amortization link used

<https://www.calculator.net/amortization-calculator.html?loanamount=5%2C000%2C000&loanterm=40&loantermmonth=0&cinterestrate=5.25&cstartmonth=9&cstartyear=2025&cexma=0&cexmsm=9&cexmsy=2025&cexya=0&cexysm=9&cexysy=2025&cexoa=0&cexosm=9&cexosy=2025&caot=0&a1=0&xm1=9&xy1=2025&a2=0&xm2=9&xy2=2025&a3=0&xm3=9&xy3=2025&a4=0&xm4=9&xy4=2025&a5=0&xm5=9&xy5=2025&a6=0&xm6=9&xy6=2025&a7=0&xm7=9&xy7=2025&a8=0&xm8=9&xy8=2025&a9=0&xm9=9&xy9=2025&a10=0&xm10=9&xy10=2025&printit=0&x=Calculate#calresult>

Thank you,
Jeffa



DRAFT

Dassel Fire Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Due to the absence of all Officers, Renee Eckerly, City Administrator with Dassel called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

Members present: Jim Nielsen-City of Kingston; Jeff Atkinson-Darwin Township; Bob Christofferson-Kingston Township; Nic Holm-Dassel Township; Marie Thurn- City of Dassel; Alan Skjefte & David Jutz-Ellsworth Township. Members absent: Collinwood Township; City of Darwin. Also present: Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Dave Johnson, Fire Chief; Firefighters: Eric Dickey, Brian Massingham, Jordan Oslund, Terry Heidecker, Renee Massingham, Justin Johnson and Kevin Carlen.

3. Secretary's Report - Approve February 26, 2025 Minutes (will be distributed at the meeting)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes:

Motion by Atkinson, seconded by Christofferson to approve the February 26, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

Minutes:

No action

5. Open Forum

Minutes:

No one spoke.

6. Fire Chief's Report

Minutes:

Chief Johnson distributed call reports to each entity. He reported the number of calls to the end of July have been 300 year-to-date and last year at this time was 251. The new service doors are installed. The City Council approved purchasing new radios utilizing MN State money that was distributed in December 2023 for only public safety. The

radios will cost approximately \$62,000 and will not affect the contract money. The remainder of the money will be used to purchase pagers. There are 21 Volunteer Firefighters right now. The pork chop dinner fundraiser will be on Friday, October 10, 2025.

7. City Administrator's Report

Minutes:

Eckerly reviewed the review and expense for 2025. There was no questions.

a. Review 2025 YTD Revenue & Expenditures

8. Business Items

a. Discuss New Fire Station

Minutes:

A Firefighter Committee was setup to do the research on a new fire station. Terry Heidecker gave a video presentation examining the current structure, the constraints of training, not being in ADA Compliance, current list of building repair and estimated costs, space concerns and what surrounding cities have built and their cost. There was a tour of the current fire station, and many questions were asked and answered by the Fire Chief and Firefighters. The fire station study that was done in July 2021 was also reviewed.

Motion by David Jutz (Ellsworth Township) and seconded by Bob Christofferson (Kingston Township) to recommend to the Dassel City Council to move forward with the planning of a new fire station. The motion was approved 5 entities (Dassel Township, Ellsworth Township, Kingston Township, City of Kingston, City of Dassel) and 1 Darwin Township opposed.

Jeff Atkinson, Darwin Township explained that he can't vote yes for a new fire station without knowing the cost and impact to the residence of Darwin Township.

b. Update Report on Ordered 2027 Fire Rescue-Pumper Truck \$1,430,218.00

Minutes:

Eric Dickey, Firefighter gave a report there is a prebuild meeting scheduled in Appleton Wisconsin in May 2026 to finalize all the details regarding the truck. There is currently no price increase. Truck is currently scheduled for delivery 1st quarter 2028.

It was mentioned to watch the State of Minnesota for any implementation of emission testing which could make the cost of the truck increase significantly.

9. Next meeting date January 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., Dassel Fire Hall

10. Adjourn

Minutes:

Motion by Jutz, seconded by Atkinson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

DASSEL FIRE & RESCUE

NEW BUILDING DISCUSSION

The Dassel Fire Department is formally requesting the approval to proceed with the planning and construction of a new fire station. This new facility would replace our current fire station, which is significantly outdated and no longer meets the operational needs of our department or the growing demands of the community.

CALL #

212

Date:

Type:

Location:

Township:

CFS #:

The existing 1969 station requires substantial upgrades to remain functional. We are increasingly constrained by space limitations that impact both efficiency and safety. A modern facility will enhance emergency response capabilities, provide adequate room for personnel and equipment, ensure compliance with current safety and building standards and protect our fire fighters from cancer causing carcinogens.

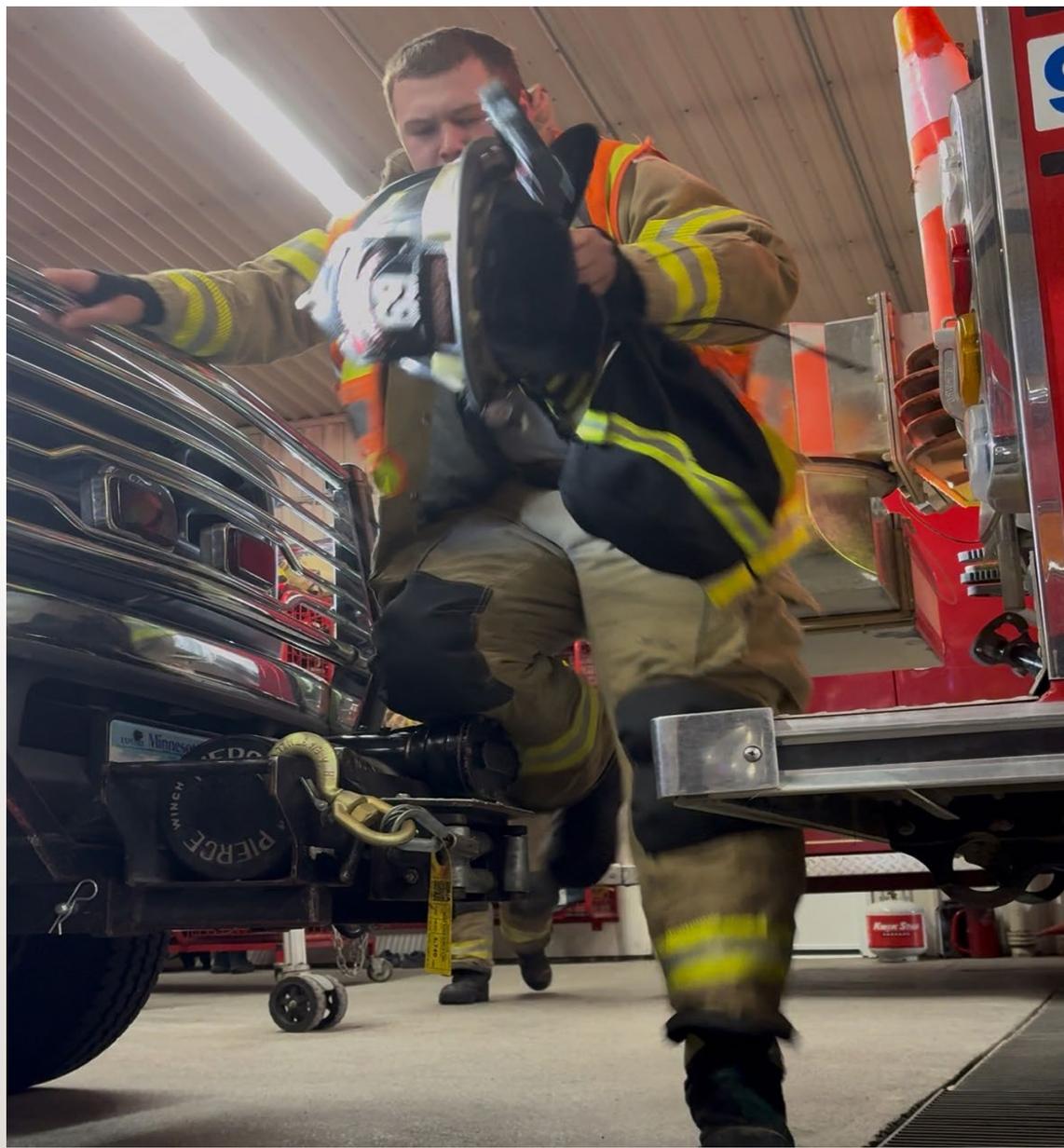


BASSE FIRE HALL

428

Space Concerns









Storage





Training





Community





Current Building estimates

Cement apron in front of fire hall Approx \$20K

New Garage Doors wider and taller Approx \$80K

Re-Sealing the roof \$18K

Re-Painting the exterior \$14K

Maintenance Needs

Air Conditioner

Plumbing

Storage

Flooring

Lighting

Space Concerns

Dressing for calls

Space Between Trucks

Safely Leaving the Hall

Safely Returning to the Hall

Carcinogens

Bathrooms

Storage

Office Spaces

Public Storm Shelter

Maintaining and Cleaning Trucks



Recent Fire Station Build Cost From Surrounding MN Communities

Mayer 2020 13,200 sq ft \$2.8M

Cokato 2018 14,700sq ft \$2.875M

Kasson 2024 18,000sq ft \$7M

Buffalo 2021 23,000 sq ft \$9.1M

Waconia 2022 29,050sq ft \$14.5M

Otsego (under Construction) 35,000 sq ft \$18.4M

How much will it cost a taxpayer?

A \$7M fire Station will Approximately Cost a Taxpayer \$4 per Month on a \$250,000 home (\$.20 cents per \$1,000 based on property tax assessed valuation) – Kasson Station

Dassel Fire Hall Estimates for an Approximate 15,000 sq ft Station

Builder #1

\$300-\$325 pr sq ft on steel construction \$4M

\$350-\$375 tip up cement \$4.5M

Builder #2

\$200 pr sq ft steel construction \$2.9M

Builder #3

\$175-\$200 pr sq ft steel construction

\$200-\$300 pr sq ft tip up cement

Investing in a new fire station is not just about replacing a building. It's about protecting lives, property, and the future of our community. We believe this is a fiscally responsible and forward-looking solution to ensure our fire services can continue to meet the needs of our residents.

We respectfully request your support and approval to move forward with this critical public safety infrastructure project.



