

Weather damages Continued from page 1

reimbursement could bring the cost to the county down to \$200,000.

In response to these damages, the Kandiyohi County Board of Directors approved a resolution declaring the county to have been in a state of emergency from May 9-12. With the resolution, the county is compiling preliminary data on storm-related damages to determine whether or not it qualifies for reimbursement through the Minnesota Depart-

ment of Homeland Security or FEMA. County commissioner Roger Imdieke said he expects the county will qualify for federal reimbursement, but estimates that it may be another week or two before the damage assessment is completed.

Meanwhile, Kandiyohi County Public Works Director said winds and heavy rain posed significant challenges to the Glacial Lakes Sanitary Sewer and Water District's wastewater treatment facility,

requiring staff to work overtime to keep the system operational.

By the end of Thursday night, "I think we pumped 1.6 million gallons through the plant in the first rain event," Odens said. "We normally run about 400,000 gallons through, so we were at least a million gallons over."

Subsequent power outages on Thursday resulted in portable generators being brought in to keep the plant operation-

al. Power outages were largely focused in the Green Lake area due to high winds, and power was not fully restored at the plant until about 10:30 p.m. Friday.

"Our director out at the treatment plant (Corey Smith) has been here for 12 years and said he's never seen anything like this," Odens said. "In a rain or power event, we may have to come in for a couple of hours to make sure everything's working, but we don't

need to be there all night... We were there for basically three days in a row."

The facility is currently operating at normal capacity.

No-wake zone restrictions
On Tuesday, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office released a revised update to no-wake restrictions on a number of county lakes.

Noting an increase in boating activity paired with recent and anticipated rainfall, no-wake restrictions are in place

within 500 feet of shoreline on the following lakes and waterways: The Norway Lake Chain, Games Lake, Lake Andrew, Eagle Lake, Lake Florida, Big Kandiyohi Lake, Diamond Lake, Foot Lake, George Lake, Green Lake and Nest Lake.

The sheriff's office will continue to monitor these lakes, and additional no-wake restrictions may be added if conditions permit.

Spicer hears good audit report; revenues up from 2020

By Ralph Dickerson
Staff Writer

Justin McGraw of Conway, Death and Schmiesing PLLP presented the results of his company's audit of Spicer's finances for 2021. McGraw presented the results on May 17 at the regularly scheduled council meeting, and said the audit "presented fairly" the city's financial situation, meaning the audit found no major problems with the city's finances. The news pleased Spicer Mayor Denny Baker.

"I am proud of our city and where it stands," Baker said. "We are in good shape."

Overall, McGraw said the city's revenues from all of its various funds exceeded expenses by a significant amount. Much of this coverage comes from federal money related to COVID, but not all.

Government wide, tallying all of the various funds from the city, 2021 revenues totaled approximately \$3.2 million. The city's expenses totaled \$2.7 million, leaving a surplus of just under \$500,000.

Though several different funds exist for the city, the three main funds include the General Fund, the Sewer Fund and the Water Fund. All three realized net income in 2021.

General Fund revenues totaled \$1,169,904 with expenses of \$850,419. Sewer Fund revenues totaled \$668,838 with expenses of \$657,846. The water fund also recorded net income in 2021 due to increased usage.

"With the increase in usage, the city was able to generate net income for the first time in about three years," McGraw said.

Water Fund revenues totaled \$457,479 in 2021 versus expenses of \$432,923. The city ended the year with a profit of \$24,556 in this fund.

The city's budget also contains other funds not discussed. The audit did discuss two adverse situations with the city's finances.

These issues mentioned by McGraw concerned the city's

annuity investment with New York Life. The state of Minnesota does not consider annuity investments an authorized investment, and McGraw recommended the city look into switching this investment into a state approved option. Mayor Baker said city administrator Jacob Kolander and city clerk Chris Johnson plan to investigate options for the city and report back later.

This investment is not illegal, but simply not an approved investment vehicle option by the state of Minnesota. Council member Troy Block said the city needed to do something about the unapproved investment.

"If there is any risk, we need to get it out of there," he said.

The other issue concerned the broker certification for the city's investments. Brokers must provide a certification to the state that it does not place a city's money in unauthorized investments. Since the money is invested in an unapproved annuity with New York Life, the broker cannot provide this certification to the state.

In other action

- Council members approved the Consent Agenda, which consisted of approving the minutes of the May 3 council meeting and paying bills in the amount of \$147,841.77. The agenda also included a request by Harbor Church for an Outdoor Address Permit on July 3 for a church beach service. The council also approved all of the necessary permits for the city's 4th of July celebration.

- City Administrator Jacob Kolander said several persons questioned him about the requirement for green boat slip canopy covers for residents, and blue slip covers for businesses. He said people wanted to know if they could simply use any color. The city has an ordinance mandating the colors, and the council reaffirmed the color requirement.

- City Administrator Jacob Kolander said the city's beautification committee did not receive its annual grant for Music in the Park. He recommended the city contribute \$7,787 to help pay for this yearly event. The council approved the re-

quest.

- Additionally, Kolander inquired about alcohol permits for the community center. He said the city allows alcohol permits for the city's parks, and wondered if the city would allow alcohol permits for the community center. The council said no.

Area Wide Garage Sales Memorial Weekend

D Garage Sale: 19737 Co. Rd. 9 NE, New London (May 27, 28)
7am-5pm Fri, 7am-4pm Sat.
Home Décor, Furniture, Hunting/Fishing/Sports items, Tools, Enclosed trailer, Pool/Ping Pong Table, Lots of Misc Items

E Garage Sale: 6675 165th Ave NW, New London By East Norway Lake Church (May 27, 28)
7:30am-5pm Fri, Starting at 7:30am Sat.
Home Décor, Furniture, Hunting/Fishing/Sports items, Tools, Enclosed trailer, Pool/Ping Pong Table, Lots of Misc Items

A 6 Party Garage Sale: 18 Woodcock Drive, Spicer (May 26, 27, 28)
2-6pm Thursday, 7am-6pm Fri, 7am-Noon Sat.
Lots of everything household, accent furniture, clothing, and misc.

B Big Sale: 267 Lake Avenue North, Spicer (May 26, 27, 28)
Starting at 8am, Thurs, Fri, Sat

C Big Sale: 404 Harriet St, Spicer (May 27, 28)
Starting at 8am, Fri & Sat

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LOST & FOUND NOTICE

Lost bike
NEW LONDON – The City of New London found a girls bike on North Pine Street and has it in the maintenance shop. Please call city hall at 354-2444 to describe and claim the bike.

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