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PATRIOT OFFICE

763-275-0275
14054 Bank Street,
Box 458, Becker, MN 55308

The Patriot is the official newspaper for Clear Lake, Clearwater, Orrock, Palmer & Santiago Townships, City of Becker, Becker Township and Becker School District #726, City of Big Lake and Big Lake School District #727. The Patriot is also the legal newspaper for the Sherburne County financials.

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/

OBITUARIES
Call 763-275-0275 or send an email to legal@patriotnewsmn.com

SPORTS STORIES
Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

ADVERTISING
Call 763-275-0275 or email Carol at (sales, carol@patriotnewsmn.com) or Mary at (adsales@patriotnewsmn.com).

DEADLINES:
Wednesday 11 am Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.

WEBSITE
Check out each week's content at our website: www.patriotnewsmn.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes.

The deadline for all letters is 11 am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less.
Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

OBITUARIES:
Obituaries are \$75 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

BUSINESS HOURS:
• Mon. - Wed. 8am to 5pm.
• Thurs. 8am to 3pm
• Friday CLOSED

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
\$100 annually,
\$50 for six months,
\$25 for three months or
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SUBMITTED MATERIAL:
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EDITORIALS - NEWS - OBITUARIES

10,000 Quirks

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Minnesota, often celebrated for its lakes and "Minnesota Nice," has, in recent years, taken a wild detour into the bizarre.

Are we a laughingstock in the eyes of the nation? Do we compare to the disgrace associated with the likes of Chicago's crime and California's homelessness?

Maybe, maybe not but for sure our state is associated with some quirky, contradictory, and unusually dramatic circumstances.

Minnesota is a place where biting winters freeze your eyelashes shut, yet it's easy to find some residents still opting for shorts in subzero temperatures. Politically, the state is a high-speed pendulum—flipping between progressive policies and libertarian experiments faster than fish houses popping up on a frozen, Midwestern lake. Minneapolis, a cultural and economic hub, now juggles ambitious public safety reforms, raging housing battles, and sports teams that break hearts like clockwork.

Meanwhile, local debates rage over gun control, TDS, immigration, DEI and whether daylight saving time should even be a thing. The people? Well that's a paradox. We are stoic yet passionate. Friendly but stubborn. Weather-obsessed (OMG) yet proud of surviving it. Minnesota is a state where Paul Bunyan, Bud Grant and Jerry Lundeberg might still win write-in votes. You're just as likely to find a corn dog booth in someone's backyard as you are a live Prince or Bob Dylan tribute show in a bar basement.

Call it eccentric, call it intense, but Minnesota exists in its own weather-beaten, snow-drifted,

emotionally charged universe.

So why do I live here? Why not get the hell out and get away from the dysfunctional and embarrassing puffery? Because for all the abnormality or impairment, this state has qualities worth not abandoning, we just need to look at the qualities that make up this state's character. The lakes, the cabin culture—the cliffs, waterfalls, and scenic drives of the North Shore all make Minnesota a treasure if we look at it objectively. We have cultural hubs for art, music, and theater, a huge mall in Bloomington, Juicy Lucy's, Tater-Tot Hot-dish, lefse, lutefisk and fishing holes for walleye.

Now, if we could just get a couple of our sports teams to bring the magic of a world championship, we'd be a perfect place to live.

Oh and mountains. If only we had mountains this state would be a jewel.

So my advice is to look past the lunacy associated with outsider's perception of us and keep the treasures of this state close to heart. I, personally wouldn't want to be anywhere else. That's just part of the lunatic charm of the Land of 10,000 idiosyncrasies.

A Season of Goal-Setting

As we turn the calendar to 2026, Becker Public Schools is embracing what this time of year represents: a fresh start, renewed focus, and continued momentum. Even as winter settles in, our classrooms and activities are anything but quiet. Students are learning new skills, taking on new challenges, and discovering opportunities that connect to their interests in meaningful, personal ways.

We are now about four weeks into the second trimester and we have used the winter break as a natural checkpoint to reflect on where we've been and where we are going. We remain grounded in what has always mattered most: steady routines, high expectations, and strong relationships. These fundamentals help sustain our success, while we also continue to innovate and prepare students to be self-directed learners who thrive in a changing global community.

Our mission is more than a statement, it shows up every day in how students take ownership of their learning, how staff design engaging instruction, and how we build responsibility, curiosity, and resilience. Our vision—Inspiring the Future, Imagining Possibilities, Discovering Potential—is alive across our schools. We see it when students solve problems, engage in creative work, and demonstrate academic growth in classrooms throughout the

By Supt.
Jeremy Schmidt

district.

We are proud of how strongly this school year has begun. Our staff and students set the tone early with hard work and a commitment to excellence inside and outside the classroom. We are ready for the challenges and successes the next five months will bring, and we remain committed to clear, consistent communication with our families, staff, and community stakeholders. That partnership strengthens our schools and the shared values that support student success.

In this season of goal setting, I encourage every student and family to set a goal and take one actionable step toward it each week. Small, repeated steps create big outcomes. To stay connected and learn more about our schools, programs, and upcoming events, please visit our district website at www.becker.k12.mn.us and/or connect with your child's school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Eve dinner at the Becker American Legion such a meaningful and memorable gathering. First, my sincere appreciation goes to Mayor Mark Kolbinger and his wife, Kelly, for their generosity, energy, and willingness to step in wherever help was needed. I am equally grateful to my wife, Helen Swanson, and my brother, Tim Swanson, whose hard work and steady support made the evening run smoothly from start to finish. A special thank-you also goes to Shane at Bill's Food for his generous donation, as well as to Representative Shane Mekeland for contributing to the event and supporting our community in such a tangible way. Most importantly, thank you to the more than 50 people who joined us. Your presence is what truly made the evening special. Sharing a meal, conversation, and holiday spirit with neighbors and friends is what community is all about, and I am grateful to everyone who came out to be part of it. Events like this remind us how fortunate we are to live in a place where people show up for one another (#BeTheOne). Thank you again to all who helped and all who attended. Sincerely,

Mark Swanson
1st Vice Commander
American Legion
"Oscar Peterson"
Minnesota Post 0193

TO THE EDITOR:

To Representative Mekeland, I've been waiting for your response to the despicable "Truth Social" repost by President Trump, of a video alleging that Governor Walz directed Vance Boelter to assassinate the Hortmans last year. This video, which claims the killings were retaliation for Representative Hortman voting with Republicans to repeal the health care eligibility of undocumented immigrants, is a baseless and dangerous lie. As was proved in the investigation, Boelter was a right-wing extremist who had no ties to the Governor beyond being part of a 2019 bipartisan commission routinely appointed by the Governor's office. It's disturbing that this piece of information has been twisted in such a way as to stoke the kind of dangerous online rhetoric that is then promoted by the President of the United States. Representative Mekeland, surely you knew Melissa Hortman and the significance of the action she took to prevent a government shutdown. A statement from you would go a long way to bring down the temperature and help our state legislature get back to actually working together to help the people of Minnesota.

Debbie Russell
Lawyer Turned Writer
Clear Lake, MN

COUNTY YEAR-END
from page 1

PATRIOT

AMERICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

OBITUARIES

Kathleen A. Ross, 80
Clearwater, MN

October 13, 1945 - December 14, 2025

Kathleen Ann Ross was born on October 13, 1945, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Donald and Rose (Trad) Flaherty.

Kathleen was bap-

tized as an infant on November 28, 1945, and later confirmed in her faith as a youth on May 27, 1966.

She received her education in St. Paul, and was a graduate of the Archbishop Murray High School class of 1963.

Kathleen was united in marriage to Timothy "Tim" Scully on January 15, 1966 at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic Church in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. They were blessed with three children, Shannon Marie, Kevin Patrick, and Erin Kathleen.

On September 28, 1985, Kathleen was united in marriage to James "Jim" Ross, gaining six stepchildren. Kathleen and Jim resided in Maple Grove, Minnesota, German town, Tennessee, and later settled in Clearwater, Minnesota. They shared 29 years of marriage until Jim passed away on September 15, 2014.

Kathleen was employed in various customer service roles throughout her working career.

Kathleen enjoyed golfing, fishing, playing cards, bowling, and country music. Later in life, outings to the theater, lunches with friends, and time spent with family brought her

BASEBALL Tours

June 2-7, 2026—See MLB games in Minnesota, Milwaukee and both a day and night game at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Tour begins at hotel near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

\$1,700/person based on double hotel occupancy

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Wednesdays & Legals

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legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

John Richard Jones, 87
Buffalo, MN (formerly of Big Lake)
March 19, 1938 - December 31, 2025

John Richard Jones, age 87 of Buffalo, and formerly of Big Lake, passed away Wednesday, December 31, 2025. He was born in Augusta, WI on March 1919.

John graduated in 1956 from Augusta High School. He worked at a foundry in Virginia, before spending 30 years working at Ford Motors in St. Paul until his retirement. After retirement, John and Joan enjoyed traveling together, wintering in Texas, and living in Arizona until moving back to Minnesota.

On December 20, 1958, John Jones and Joan Bruesewitz were united in marriage in Fall Creek, WI. They enjoyed 67 years of marriage, making everlasting memories together.

John was a tech savvy individual who enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and especially loved his grandchildren and spending time with his family and friends. He was extremely caring and enjoyed telling a joke or two, always making others laugh.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Mar-

garet Jones; siblings, Merton Jones, Barbara Tollefson, Kenneth Jones, Marlene Gulbranson, Mary Skerjance, Saundra Jarvela, Shirley Thiel, Carol Orehak, Michael Jones; and great-grandson, Calvin Steen.

John is survived by his loving wife, Joan Jones; children, Brian (Elizabeth) Jones, Susan (Roger) Steen, Cheryl (Richard) Steen; grandchildren, Brandon Steen, Jennifer Steen, Andrew Steen, John Steen, Nicholas Jones, Ian Jones; great-grandchildren, Lilly Steen, Judy Steen, Joanna Steen, Finley Miller, Henry Miller; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral services were held Wed., Jan. 7 2026 at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street S, Big Lake, MN. Burial following at Big Lake Cemetery, Big Lake, MN.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Peterson-Grimsom Funeral Chapel of Monticello, MN. 763-295-2918. www.peterson-grimsomchapel.com

Funeral services were held Wed., Jan. 7 2026 at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street S, Big Lake, MN. Burial following at Big Lake Cemetery, Big Lake, MN.

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AREA NEWS

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MEMORY WITH HIM!



Walz quits

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz suddenly put an end to his bid for a third term on Monday, amid the pressures of a growing fraud scandal in which allegedly billions of taxpayer dollars were swindled on his watch.

Walz, a former Democrat Vice President Kamala Harris' veep pick in 2024, had launched a third term campaign back in September.

In a statement Monday, Walz said, "In September, I announced that I would run for a historic third term as Minnesota's Governor. And I have every confidence that, if I gave it my all, I would succeed in that effort," Walz said.

"But as I reflected on this

moment with my family and my team over the holidays, I came to the conclusion that I can't give a political campaign my all," he added.

Majority Whip Tom Emmer released the following statement.

"Good riddance," said Emmer.

US Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) is viewed as top contender to jump into the race. Secretary of State Steve Simon as also a possible contender for the Democrats.

Other candidates who've declared to run include Mike Lindell (GOP), Kendal Qualls (GOP), Lisa Demuth (GOP), Chris Mattel (GOP), Kristin Robbins (GOP) and Dr. Scott Jensen (GOP).

The election for Minnesota governor will take place on Nov. 3, 2026.

Olson named Acting Chief

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

After the surprise resignation of Big Lake Police

Chief John Kaczmarek was announced on the BLPD

Facebook page on Dec. 18, 2025, Captain Sam Olson

was selected to become the Acting Police Chief.

City Administrator Hanna Klimmek explained that because of the terms

written into his contract, in the absence of an acting police chief, Olson would be named Acting Police Chief.

He will assume the role on Jan. 12, 2026, the day following Kaczmarek's last day.

Serving since 2003

A big Lake High School

grad, Olson was hired as an officer of the BLPD in 2003.

He briefly served as Acting Police Chief between January 2022 and September

Kaczmarek's official last day will be Jan. 11, 2025.

Search for a new chief

The Big Lake City

Council will formally begin

discussions about hiring a

replacement police chief

at its next scheduled work-

shop on Wed. Jan. 21, 2026.

Kaczmarek will not be in at-

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Search for a new chief

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PATRIOT

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2025 from page 1



BECKER'S BLAST 12U NAVY TEAM won the 12U Monsta National Tournament this past weekend. Front row, left to right: Alyse Denne, Finlee Esping, Mirra Koubsky, Aysa Johnson and Lyra Willhite. Back row, left to right: Coach Steve Esping, Talia Boyer, Zoe Sheiber, Emily Thiel, Coach Anna Willhite, Kenzie Basgall, Piper Dickinson, Kinny Johnson and Coach Ben Johnson. Missing - Braelyn Bolton. (Submitted Photo).



ROBOTICS JUNKIE LANDON JUREK celebrated his team's State Title, as well as his All-State robotics award. (Submitted Photo).

former employees of the City of Clear Lake defrauded the city of over \$200,000 from late 2022 through 2023. The former employees were: Kari Koren (former clerk), Chad Koren (retired firefighter) and Dustin Luhning (former public works director).

Sports News Becker's varsity robotics team, FRC 4607 - The Coalition of Independent Students won the state title back in May. This victory marked Becker's fourth overall state title and an impressive back-to-back championship streak, having previously won in 2013, 2022, 2024, and now 2025.

Jose Acuna, a senior wide receiver and linebacker on the Big Lake football team, was selected by the Minnesota Vikings as their male nominee for the 2024 NFL Latino Youth Honors program in January. Acuna was one of just 64 students in the entire country to have been selected.

The Becker dance team traveled to Target Center last February to compete at their fourth consecutive state dance tournament. The team took 10th in jazz on Friday and eighth in kick on Saturday despite dancing with nearly one third of the team being first-year dancers.

Becker soccer player Asher Olson was informed



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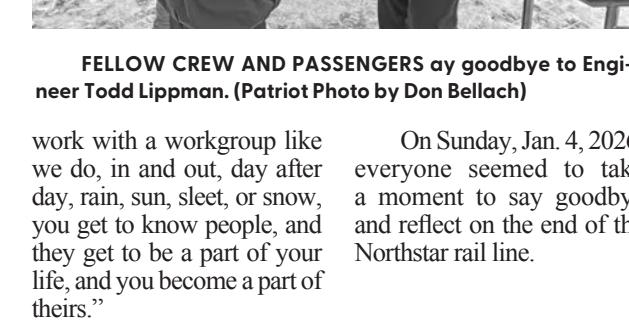
from page 1



CONDUCTOR DON SLAUGHTER and Engineer Todd Lippman. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



RAIL ENTHUSIASTS ready their cameras for the train to pull in. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



FELLOW CREW AND PASSENGERS say goodbye to Engineer Todd Lippman. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



CLEARWATER MAYOR ANDREA LAWRENCE presents Mark Doering with a public service award. (Submitted Photo)



LIFELONG PALMER RESIDENT MIKE GANZ speared a monstrous Northern (42-1/8" - 20.2 lbs.) on Briggs Lake this past weekend. It is the biggest fish Ganz has ever caught on Briggs Lake. Ganz started fishing the Palmer chain of lakes as a child over 50 years ago. He even sold angle worms to people on the Palmer lakes as a child. Ganz refers to himself as a Palmer Dandelion (a nuisance with deep roots) (Submitted Photo).

Doering receives public service award

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

Community member Mark Doering was presented a public service award by Clearwater Mayor Andrea Lawrence in December.

Doering received the award for assisting law enforcement in 2025.

work with a workgroup like we do, in and out, day after day, rain, sun, sleet, or snow, you get to know people, and they get to be a part of your life, and you become a part of theirs."

On Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, everyone seemed to take a moment to say goodbye and reflect on the end of the Northstar rail line.

AREA NEWS

EMPLOYMENT



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Looking for a Great Place to Work?

Your Community Development department is in search of a full-time team member!

Community Development Coordinator Position

The City of Big Lake is seeking a dynamic and outgoing individual that will play a critical role in supporting planning, land use, and economic development activities that shape the City's growth and quality of life. This position plays a key role in development review, public engagement, and coordination with residents, developers, and elected officials. This is an exempt professional-level position for someone who is organized, analytical, and comfortable working with both technical planning issues and the public. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Community Development Director.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Public Administration, Geography, or a closely related field.
- One (1) year of experience in municipal planning, community development, or public administration preferred
- An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary based on experience
- Insurance, including Health, Dental, Life, disability insurances
- State Retirement plan

• Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays)

• Ongoing training and professional development opportunities

Pay rate is \$71,441.57 to \$90,500.04 Annually depending on qualificationsApplication deadline is Thursday February 05, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Applications are available at Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, or on-line at www.biglakemn.org.

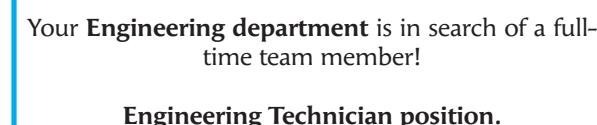
Please submit completed application form, cover letter, and resume to:

City of Big Lake
Community Development Coordinator
160 Lake St N

Big Lake Mn 55308

dwegeleben@biglakemn.orgPlease reach out to Deb, at 763-251-2974 or you can email Deb at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org for more information.

EEOC. Posted January 5, 2026



Looking for a Great Place to Work?

Your Engineering department is in search of a full-time team member!

Engineering Technician position.

The City of Big Lake is seeking a dynamic and outgoing individual that will play a critical role in maintaining and improving the infrastructure that keeps cities functioning smoothly, contributing to the quality of life for city residents. This position provides skilled technical support to the city engineer, city planners, and public works departments in designing, constructing, and maintaining municipal infrastructure projects. This role involves assisting in project planning, field surveys, drafting, and inspecting construction sites to ensure projects meet standards, specifications and regulations. Work is performed under the direction of the City Engineer with limited supervision.

Qualifications:

- Associates/Technical degree with Civil Engineering Technology or related field.
- Ability to demonstrate excellent communication, interpersonal, and teambuilding skills.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary based on experience
- Insurance, including Health, Dental, Life, disability insurances
- State Retirement plan

• Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays)

• Ongoing training and professional development opportunities

Pay rate is \$30.57 to \$38.73 per hour depending on qualificationsApplication deadline is Thursday February 05, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Applications are available at Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, or on-line at www.biglakemn.org.

Please submit completed application form, cover letter, and resume to:

City of Big Lake
Engineering Technician position
160 Lake St N

Big Lake Mn 55308

dwegeleben@biglakemn.orgPlease reach out to Deb, at 763-251-2974 or you can email Deb at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org for more information.

EEOC. Posted January 5, 2026

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CHRIS AND HEATHER PRICE hosted a Grand Re-Opening of their Snap Fitness business in Big Lake last month. (Submitted Photo)

Snap Fitness, Big Lake holds
Grand Reopening!fet time to join;
• Free fitness assessments to help one set goals and track progress;
• Gym tours and equipment demonstrations so one can see what's new;
• Meet other local businesses and connect with one's community;
• Raffles and drawings throughout the event.

Whether one is a current member, a former member, or checking Snap Fitness out for the first time, management and staff presented a perfect opportunity for the public to see what's new, meet the team, and jump-start one's fitness journey.

Refuge Rangers celebrate New Years

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was written by Asha Kanable (age 11) on behalf of the Refuge Rangers.)

Happy New Year from the Refuge Rangers 4-H club!

We wrapped up 2025 raising over \$1,000 bagging groceries at Monticello Cub Foods, learning about homing pigeons and celebrating with a fun Christmas party

for our final meeting of the year. At the party, we had four stations including, a timed cup stack, card making, the Oreo Game — which involved getting the oreo from your forehead into your mouth the fastest — and a string candy cane game.

After the stations, we played left-right for a gift exchange. We made the cards and gave to police officers and people in the nursing homes as our service project.

If these activities sound fun, it is the perfect time to join 4-H with plenty of time before the fair to get projects done and be included in our 2026 festivities!

CLUB MEMBERS Elsie & Emmie play the Candy Cane game. (Submitted Photo)



The public was invited last month to join the owners and management of the Big Lake Snap Fitness store on Dec. 16 as they celebrated their Grand Re-opening. The event featured a reveal of their refreshed and revamped space designed to help visitors and members feel their best. The following is a capsule of what members and potential members can look forward to:

• Special referral offers for members — bring one's friends and score exclusive perks;

• Special offers for prospective members — the

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

December 2025 County Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session on December 16, 2025, at the Sherburne County Government Center in the City of Elk River, MN. Call to order by the Chair was at 9:00am.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda

Felber/Danielowski unanimous to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Open Forum

Gary Tonsager spoke.

Consent Agenda

Danielowski/Felber Unanimously approved the consent agenda, with the exception of 34, 39, 31, 23.

County Board Meeting Minutes from December 2nd, 2025.

Administration Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator

Approved the Official Minutes from the December 2nd, 2025, County Board Meeting, as recommended.

Official Minutes from the December 2nd, 2025, County Board Workshop.

Administration Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator

Approved the Official Minutes from the December 2nd, 2025, County Board Workshop, as recommended.

Minutes from the December 4th, 2025, Truth in Taxation Meeting of the County Board. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Approved the Minutes from the December 4th, 2025, Annual Truth in Taxation Meeting of the County Board, as presented. (on file)

2026 Non-Levied Budgets. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Approve the 2026 Non-Levy Budgets, as presented and attached. (on file)

Eagle Lake Improvement District 2025 Annual Report. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Approved and accepted the 2025 Annual Report from the Eagle Lake Improvement District, as presented. (on file)

County Board Appointment to the Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees.

Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Approved the Appointment of Cindy Graham to the Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees, for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2026, through December 3, 2028. (on file)

Approval of Court Appointed Attorney Professional Service Agreements. Administration Katrese Ringham, Court Administrator

Approved the Court Appointed Attorney Professional Services Agreements.

Resolution 121625-AD-356 to Commit Fund Balance, in Accordance with GASB Statement #4. Auditor / Treasurer Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Approved Resolution No. 121625-AD-3256 to commit Fund Balance, in accordance with GASB Statement #4.

County Auditor-Treasurer to Pay Final 2025 Warrants. Auditor / Treasurer Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Authorized the County Auditor/Treasurer to pay Final 2025 Warrants, as recommended.

Commissioner & Manual Warrants Dated November 21st, 25th, 28th, December 3rd, and December 5th, 2025. Auditor / Treasurer Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Approved Commissioner & Manual Warrants Dated November 21st, 25th, and 28th, and December 3rd and 5th, 2025, as recommended. (on file)

November 21, 2025 Manual Warrants \$59.99

November 25, 2025 Manual Warrants BMO Harris Pcard Oct \$491.948

November 282025 Commissioner Warrants \$1,251.62

November 282025 Manual Warrants \$10,53.00

December 3, 2025 Commissioner Warrants I Final Settlement P2 \$12,181.951

December 3, 2025 Commissioner Warrants II Final Settlement P2 \$15,640.41

December 5, 2025 Commissioner Warrants \$21.88

December 5, 2025 Manual Warrants \$139.0946

Contract Extension for Electronic Monitoring (Community Corrections). Community Corrections Corey Mabis-Rowe, Director of Community Corrections

Approved a contract extension with Minnesota Monitoring

to provide electronic monitoring equipment and services for court-ordered juvenile and adult offenders. (on file)

2026 Professional Services Agreement for Court-Ordered Juvenile Evaluations. Community Corrections Corey Mabis-Rowe, Director of Community Corrections

Approved a Professional Services Agreement for 2026 with Ms. Stephanie Bruss to complete court-ordered evaluations for juvenile clients. (on file)

HHS IFS Admin Warrants Dated December 5th, 2025.

Health & Human Services

Approved HHS IFS Admin Warrants dated December 5th, 2025, as recommended. (on file)

HHS IFS Admin Warrants \$9,445.6

Reclassify 1 FTE HHS Clerical Staff to an Income Maintenance Case Aide. Health & Human Services Amanda Larson, HHS Director

Approved Reclassification of one (1) FTE HHS Clerical Staff to one (1) FTE Income Maintenance Case Aide, as recommended.

Contract between Sherburne County and the YMCA of the North for Drop-in Child Care Services. Health & Human Services Gina Anderson, Economic Supports Manager

Approved a Contract between Sherburne County and the YMCA of the North for Drop-in Child Care Services for 2026.

Recommended Revisions to the Sherburne County Rules and Personnel Policies to Conform with New State of Minnesota Laws.

Human Resources Tammy Bigelow

Approved Recommended Revisions to the Sherburne County Rules and Personnel Policies, as recommended, for the following Chapters, effective January 1, 2026:

Chapter 6.2 (Rest and Meal Period)

Chapter 7 Employee Benefits (on file)

Issuance of a Modified and Renewal License to Northern Metals Recycling, LLC. Planning & Zoning Jerome Doede

Approved the issuance of a Modified and Renewal Solid

Waste License to Northern Metals Recycling, LLC for continued operations of a Processing Facility with a 5-year term, ending on December 3, 2030, in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

(on file)

Recommended 2026 Appointments to the Sherburne

County Planning Advisory Commission. Planning & Zoning Lynn Waytashek, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Approve appointment of the following Livonia Township

Representative and Alternate to the Planning Advisory Commission, as recommended by the Livonia Township Board, for the term of January 2026-December 2028 (on file)

- Primary Representative: Butch Hass

- Alternate Representative: Lila Spencer

Professional Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. to Provide Consulting Services to the County for the Calendar Year 2026. Planning & Zoning Dave Lucas, Solid Waste Administrator

Approved a Professional Services Agreement with Houston

Engineering, Inc. to Provide Consulting Services to the County for the

Calendar Year 2026, as recommended. (on file)

Cross-Country Ski Trail Grooming Agreement with the City of Becker. Public Works Gina Hugo, Parks Director

Approved an agreement with the City of Becker for a

Cross-Country Ski Trail Grooming Agreement, as recommended. (on file)

Final Payment for 2025 Pavement Markings (CP 71-PM-

025). Public Works Andrew Witter, Public Works Department Head

Approved and authorized final contract payment with Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC for project # CP 7- PM-025 for the 2025 Pavement Markings, as recommended. (on file)

Out-of-State Travel for the County Parks Director to Attend a Park Management Workshop in February 2026 in Denver, Colorado. Public Works Gina Hugo, Parks Director

Approved out-of-state travel for the County Parks Director to attend a 2-day Park Management Training in Denver, Colorado, from February 9th-12th, 2026.

Requested Over-Strength of One (1) Transport/Court Security Deputy Position. Sheriff

Approved an Over-Strength of one Transport/Court Security Deputy position, as requested by the Sheriff's Office.

Reclassification of the Office Supervisor - Sheriff Admin Position within the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff

Approved the Reclassification of Office Supervisor - Sheriff Admin (Grade 13) to Administrative Supervisor - Sheriff Admin (Grade 14), as recommended.

Requested Over-Strength of One (1) Master Control Operator Position. Sheriff

Approved an Over-Strength of one (1) FTE Master Control

Operator position, as requested by the Sheriff's Office.

Reclassification of a Jail Support Specialist to a Senior Jail Support Specialist within the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Joel Brott, County Sheriff

Approved the Reclassification of one Jail Support Specialist position (pay grade 7) to a Senior Jail Support Specialist (pay grade 8) within the Sheriff's Office, as recommended.

2026 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Hulse/Felber unanimously approved the 2026 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, as presented. (on file)

Letter of Support for Connexus Energy's Empowering

Rural America Grant Application. Administration

Felber/Danielowski unanimously approved a letter of support for Connexus Energy's Empowering Rural America Grant Application.

Solid Waste License Renewal for OTI, Inc. Planning & Zoning Jillian Carlson, Environmental Specialist

Hulse/Danielowski unanimously approved the issuance of a Solid Waste License to OTI, Inc. for the renewal of a Yard Waste Compost Facility for a 5-year term, ending December 31, 2030, in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Ordinance. (on file)

Amendment to MOU between Sherburne County Parks and the Minnesota Land Trust. Public Works Gina Hugo, Parks Director

Felber/Danielowski approved (4-1) a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between Sherburne County Parks and the Minnesota Land Trust for habitat restoration and enhancement work on protected park land. (on file)

Announcements

County Administrator spoke to the employee recognition event on December 16 and staff holiday lunch on December 18, the Sky Central Regional Airport announced hosting the North Star Airshow on August 1st and 2nd, 2026, Regional and State National Civic Bee March 21st 2026, and recognition of Board Chair Gary Gray's leadership service as the 2025 Chairperson of the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners.

Employee Recognition

Recognize July - December 2025 Employee Anniversaries.

Administration

Department Heads

Recognized July - December 2025 Employee Anniversaries. (on file)

Ditch Authority Agenda. Auditor / Treasurer

Mike Lindau, County Ditch Inspector

Schumacher/Felber unanimously approved the Ditch Authority agenda for the December 16, 2025 Ditch Authority meeting.

Ditch Drainage Technician's Report.

Mike Lindau, County Ditch Inspector

Felber/Huse unanimously accepted the Ditch Drainage

Technician's report.

Payback to the General Fund. Auditor / Treasurer Loraine

Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Schumacher/Huse unanimously approved the payback to

the General Fund.

Close Open Ditch Authority Meeting, Open Regular Meeting

Regulatory Agendas

Conditional Use Permit for Farm Related Business-Wine Bar - Carol Zimmerman. Planning & Zoning Lynn Waytashek, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator Waytashek provided an updated transcript from the Planning Commission meeting, identifying correct speakers. Waytashek asked for feedback from the Board concerning revocation or amendment to the CUP with staff to return with proposed language for consideration at future meeting. Commissioner Gray called upon Ian McCoy, attorney for the permit holder, for comment. Administrator Messelt discussed that the period of public comment is closed and what constitutes the record. After discussion from commissioners, unanimous consensus to have staff prepare proposed optional amendment language concerning condition #7, #8, #13, #14, of the existing Conditional Use Permit for Farm Related Business-Wine Bar, which was granted on May 16, 2023. For Property Address: 15913 41st Street SE, Becker. PID# 45-00021-2405 Legal Desc: W 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 (full legal on file). Sec 21, Twp 3, Rge 28 Santiago Township. 5 acres Agricultural District. The Board also requested the permit holder provide the required log to zoning staff by the end of the week per condition #6.

Preliminary and Final Simple Plat of "Fun Farm"-Ewing Properties. Planning & Zoning Lynn Waytashek, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve a Preliminary and Final Simple Plat of "Fun Farm" consisting of (1) lot, with the (2) Conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission and listed in the background justification, for Property Address: 15913 27th St SE, Clear Lake. PID #45-00016-2100 & 45-00016-1200. Legal Desc: NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 & NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 ex (full legal on file). Sec 16, Twp 3, Rge 28 Santiago Township. 2.54 acres in the Agricultural District.

Auditor-Treasurer's Monthly Report for November 2025.

Auditor / Treasurer Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to accept the Auditor-Treasurer's monthly report for November 2025.

Resolution No. 121625-AD-3248 Establishing 2026 Salaries for County Commissioners. Administration Bruce Messelt, County Administrator

Felber motioned Resolution No. 121625-AD-3248 establishing the 2026 salaries for Sherburne County Commissioners at a % adjustment. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Felber/Schumacher motioned/seconded Resolution No. 121625-AD-3248 establishing the 2026 salaries for Sherburne County Commissioners at a 2% adjustment. Motion failed 1-4.

Felber/Danielowski motioned/seconded Resolution No. 121625-AD-3248 establishing the 2026 salaries for Sherburne County Commissioners at a 0% adjustment. The motion was amended by Felber, seconded by Danielowski establishing the 2026 salaries for Sherburne County Commissioners at a 1.5% adjustment, setting the 2026 salaries for Sherburne County Commissioners at \$59,999. Motion passed 3-2.

Resolution No. 121625-AD-3257 Establishing 2026 County Elected Official Salaries. Administration Bruce Messelt, County Administrator

Danielowski/Schumacher were unanimous to approve Resolution No. 121625-AD-3257 establishing County Elected Official Salaries for 2026.

Sherburne County Pilot Commuter Bus Service Agmt #1061722 w/ MnDOT. Public Works Andrew Witter, Public Works Department Head, Bruce Messelt, County Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE # 2 A d Series
AN ORDINANCE REVISING SECTION 2
OF CHAPTER 2
IN CITY CODE PROVIDING FOR FEES RELATED TO
LICENSING, ADMINISTRATIVE
CITATIONS, MISCELLANEOUS, PROPERTY, UTILITY
AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES.

The following official summary of the ordinance referred to has been approved by the City Council of Becker as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the amendments.

Chapter 2, Administration and General Government

Section 2 REVENUE AND FINANCE

Subd. 2. Fees Relating to Licensing, Administrative Citations,

Miscellaneous, Property, Utilities and Charges for Services.

A. Licensing Related Fees

B. Administrative Citations Fees

C. Miscellaneous Fees

D. Property Related Fees

E. Utility Related Fees

F. Charges for Services

This ordinance revises the City Fee Schedule in the City of Becker Code Book to remove the Cannabis License fee and add the Cannabis Registration Fee in accordance with state statute, restructure the administrative citations fees so all code violations will fall under the same fee schedule rather than list each violation with the exception that flat fee no matter the number of violations has not changed, clarify language for vehicle impound release fee, increase TIF application escrow amount, update parkland dedication fees, remove SSTS permits, increase snowplow rates, update equipment list and rental rates, and increase water and sewer rate charges and monthly meter fees for 2026.

A printed copy of the entire ordinance is available for inspection by any person at City Hall any Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

This document hereby is made a part of this ordinance and is attached hereto.

/s/ Mark Kolbinger, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Susan Nache, Deputy Clerk

(Published in the Patriot: 01/10/26.)

NOTICE OF SHERBURNE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

The Sherburne County Economic Development Authority will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday, January 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN 55330 in the County Board Room.** The EDA will conduct regular business, including organizational matters.

/s/ Chrissy Kent

Accounting Specialist

(Published in the Patriot: 01/10/26.)

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

April 2026 meeting

Redevelopment Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Chair opened the Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting.

Approval of the HRA Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda Gary Gray, Board Chair

Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve the Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Agenda as presented.

Agenda

County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2025.

Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve the County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2025, as presented.

Termination of the Existing Bond

Counsel Agreement and Approval of a New Agreement with Kutak Rock, LLP.

Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator, Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer

Danielowski/Felber were unanimous to approve termination of the existing Bond Counsel agreement and approve a new agreement with Kutak Rock, LLP to act as bond counsel for a three-year period commencing June 1, 2025 through

May 31, 2028, for the County of Sherburne, Sherburne County HRA, Sherburne County EDA, and Sherburne County RRA, and direct the Board Chair and County Administrator to execute the same. (On file.)

Close Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting

Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to close the meeting.

/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson

/s/ Bruce Messelt, Administrator

(Published in the Patriot 01/10/26.)

Sherburne County Regional Rail Authority Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Consider Approval of December 16, 2025 Regional Rail Authority

Meeting Agenda. Administration

Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator

Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve the December 16, 2025 Regional Rail Authority meeting agenda.

Agenda

Consider Approval of the Official

Minutes from the September 2nd,

2025, Meeting of the Regional

Rail Authority. Administration

Dan Weber, Assistant County Ad-

ministrator

Danielowski/Felber were unanimous to approve termination of the existing Bond Counsel agreement and approve a new agreement with Kutak Rock, LLP to act as bond counsel for a three-year period commencing June 1, 2025 through

Sherburne County
WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On 11/8/25 to Payment 11/8/25

Vendor Name	Amount
CallTower Inc	11,720
Carefree Cleaning LLC	4,800.00
City of Becker	4,414.12
Connexus Energy	708.3
Databank IMX LLC	12,852
Design Electric Inc	10,08.8
DLT Solutions, LLC	17.55
E. Weinberg Supply & Equipment	301.16
Elk River Municipal Utilities	56,142.3
Gerold/Kelly and Samuel	4,00
Ghulam Jaffer	3,900
Group Health Non-Patient A-R	2,75.22
H and R Construction Co	6,90.9
Hutton/Dennis and Debra	5,900
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	2,058
Keefe Supply Company	3,860
Kelly and Samuel Gerold and	3,61.00
LHB Inc	11,018.05
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co	94.21
Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP	7,66.66
Maxima Supply-Vistar	4,08.0
Medica	1,0127.00
Minn Assoc County Veteran Servc Officers	2,100.00
Minnesota Paving and Materials	750.50
Motorola Solutions Inc	70.40
Presbyterian Family Foundation	16,0.3
Richards/Brandon L	4,444.00
SRF Consulting Group Inc	4,664.04
State Treasurer	26,3.00
Teamsters Local 30	6,580
UHL Company Inc	3,566.00
Wellpath LLC	28,63
Wiley Reber Law, PC	15,540.00
Payments less than 2000	3,044.26

Final Total:

(Published in the Patriot 01/10/26)

Sherburne County
WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On 12/8/25 to Payment 12/8/25

Vendor Name	Amount
City of Princeton	36.7
City Of St Cloud	1,109.34
City Of Zimmerman	1,646.58
Economic Development of Big Lake	586.8
Economic Development Of Elk River	443.19
Housing & Development Auth	205,064.9
HRA of St Cloud	198
Orono Lake Improvement District	39
St Cloud EDA	16,570.3
St Cloud Met. Transit Commission	54,158.4
Treas Baldwin	6859
Treas Becker Township	6,020
Treas Big Lake Township	1,179
Treas Blue Hill Township	200,67.06
Treas City Of Big Lake	2,8,147
Treas City of Clear Lake	19,554.67
Treas Haven Township	29.8
Treas Ind School Dist 47	14,64.47
Treas Ind School Dist 8	2,145.59
Treas Livonia Township	9,228
Treas Orrock Township	506,370
Treas Palmer Township	266,645.7
Treas Santiago Township	140,85.15
4 Payments less than 2000	2,448

Final Total:

(Published in the Patriot 01/10/26)

Sherburne County
WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On 12/8/25 to Payment 12/8/25

Vendor Name	Amount
City of Becker	4,9,06.18
Commissioner Of Revenue	19,00.8
Economic Development Of Becker	110,2.16
Ind School Dist 27	65,622.44
Medsurety LLC	2,30
State Of Minnesota	34190
State Of Minnesota	320.50
State Of Minnesota	2,59.00
State Of Minnesota	23.00
State Of Minnesota	2,34.00
Treas City Of Elk River	3709.58
Treas Ind School Dist 26	5,887
Treas Ind School Dist 28	9,39
Treas Ind School Dist 42	22,03

Final Total:

(Published in the Patriot 01/20/26)

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

December 2025 County Board Workshops Minutes

The Board Chair opened the County Board Workshop Meeting

Update on the Strategic Planning Process. Administration

Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve and certify the 2026 Regional Rail Authority budget and levy, as presented.

Adjourn the Regional Rail Authority Meeting

/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson

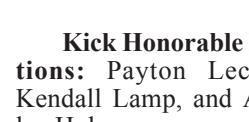
/s/ Bruce Messelt, Administrator

(Published in the Patriot 01/10/26)

Becker Public Cemetery Association

We will be holding our yearly meeting on January 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Becker Community Center

Published in the Patriot 01/10/26, 01/17/26.



End of the holidays



FIVE DAYS AFTER THE NEW YEAR COMMENCED, Becker crews were seen out along Bank Street removing the street pole decorations that featured snowflakes, stockings, stars and poinsettias. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

Hornets wrestle at Rogers Invitational

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

After a two-week period without competition, the Big Lake Wrestling team competed in the 32-team Rogers Holiday Matness Invitational last weekend.

The Hornets didn't have wrestlers in every weight class. Three individuals had success in the meet.

Austin Frederickson finished third at 215 pounds. He pinned Joseph Natusin of Maple Grove

at 3:00. He edged Isaiah Olabode of Prior Lake, 9-8 before falling to champion Sutton Kenning of St. Cloud. He came back to beat Joshua Bergan of Lakeville South, 8-2, then beat Olabode again, 2-1 in his final match.

Elijah Schaller took fourth at 114 pounds. After a bye, the junior pinned Ethan Johnston of Northfield at 3:38. He followed with a pin of Tae Reidy of Orono at 1:55 before losing to Jake Rodriguez of Brainerd, 10-4. He came back again, 4-1 to beat Johnston again.



NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.16, SUBD. 1

On October 31, 2025, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company), filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas rates. The request with the MPUC is to increase gross retail natural gas rates by 8.2 percent or \$63.40 million effective January 1, 2026, sixty-two (62) days after filing, without suspension, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16.

The Company requested, pursuant to Minn. Stat § 216B.16, subd. 3, that a temporary (interim) rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million overall bill increase, be effective on January 1, 2026. The MPUC elected to suspend the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. 216B.16, subd. 2, as discussed in the Company's Notice and Petition for Interim Rates (Petition), included in the Application. The Commission authorized an interim rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million, overall bill increase, that will be effective on January 1, 2026. The interim revenue request for 2026 will be uniformly billed as a 16.19 percent increase on the base rate portion of customers' bills, which includes the customer charge, distribution charge, and distribution demand charge where applicable (exclusive of fuel and purchased energy costs and certain rate riders). An interim rate will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined.

The typical residential gas customer uses 71 therms per month. On average, the proposed \$63.40 million rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$7.11 per month or \$85.32 annually. The interim increase, for that same monthly amount of 71 therms on average, will be \$5.84 per month or \$70.08 per year for 2026.

In addition, the Company proposes to implement certain other tariff revisions in its Gas Rate Book, Volume 2D.

Over the past several years, the Company has proceeded through a cycle of capital investments necessary for the safe and reliable operation of its gas system and has continued to incur costs to serve new and existing customers. Xcel Energy has also experienced significant annual increases in inflation, labor costs, and other expenses necessary to serve our customers. Recovering these costs is critical to Xcel Energy's ability to continue to successfully provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to its customers long into the future.

Typically, final rates become effective within 10 months of the date of the Application, unless the review period is extended by the MPUC. The Company anticipates that the review period will be extended in this proceeding. Any over-collection of interim rates during the review period will be refunded with interest to customers in a manner determined by the MPUC.

Xcel Energy is requesting this rate increase to meet its current cost of providing natural gas services, including a reasonable return on equity. The following tables contain the effect of the interim and proposed rates increases on customer classes:

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
10	\$19	\$21	\$23
30	\$40	\$43	\$44
50	\$60	\$65	\$66
71	\$82	\$88	\$89
100	\$111	\$119	\$120
200	\$214	\$227	\$228
300	\$316	\$336	\$336

SMALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
50	\$67	\$73	\$80
100	\$114	\$123	\$131
189	\$199	\$211	\$221
200	\$209	\$222	\$232
250	\$256	\$272	\$282
350	\$350	\$371	\$383
500	\$492	\$520	\$534
750	\$728	\$769	\$786
1,000	\$964	\$1,017	\$1,039
3,000	\$2,851	\$3,006	\$3,056
5,000	\$4,738	\$4,994	\$5,073

INTERRUPTIBLE RETAIL SERVICE

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$4,633	\$4,898	\$5,001
Medium	46,220	\$27,353	\$28,555	\$30,196
Large	617,483	\$350,615	\$364,315	\$379,449

INTERRUPTIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

(Does not include the cost of natural gas)

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$1,729	\$1,998	\$2,097
Medium	118,174	\$19,722	\$22,724	\$26,990
Large	2,119,680	\$88,455	\$99,345	\$88,455

* The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G002/GR-23-413.

Public hearings will be held at various locations in Xcel Energy's natural gas service area. Counties, municipalities, and customers will be notified once the hearings are scheduled.

The proposed rate schedules and a comparison of present and proposed rates are available at:

https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal (Make sure "Minnesota" is selected in the top left-hand corner) The documents may be examined during normal business hours at either our General Offices located at 414 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis or at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Those who wish to intervene or testify in this case should contact the Minnesota Court of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. Public notice of hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in Xcel Energy's service area.

Questions on the rate increase may be directed to Amber Hedlund at (612) 337-2268. Comments may also be mailed to Amber Hedlund at 414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.