

## Door Reopens Slowly for Lexington City Councilors Barred from City Hall Visits

by Bryan Olson — Special to the Anoka County Record

Discussions about the city administrator search process, the ban on councilors visiting city hall during business hours, and per diem payments to council members for attending outside meetings were some of the topics of two recent Lexington City Council meetings.

However, on May 16th, in a very unusual action taken by a city council, three members, Carin Payment, John Hughes and Betty Bailey voted to approve the recommendations of a memo written by city attorney Kurt Glaser.

The memo summarized a staffing study by Lynn and Associates that had been commissioned by the city council earlier in the year. The study concluded there was a good deal of animosity between city hall staff and some of the city council — not a sudden revelation to followers of Lexington politics.

Glaser's memo, which city councilor Jack Plasch has often referred to as "Glaser's Law" said, "The function of the council should revert to a traditional format where all council action occurs only at open meetings and workshops . . . [city councilors] should not be present at any staff functions or meetings, and should refrain from appearing at City Hall during the workday."

The new rules were created with Plasch and Mayor Michael Pitchford in mind, both of which had been accused of visiting city hall too much during the day, to the consternation of the city administrator and staff. Various memos, reports and comments made at public meetings have repeatedly used the word "stress" or "stressful" to describe the workplace environment of City Hall.

Glaser's memo also stated, "members of the [Personnel] Committee should only meet to address specific issues when it is presented with an issue by the City Administrator or City Attorney . . . [such] meetings should be held at City Hall only after normal business hours . . ." The memo also made clear it was the city attorney's opinion that the city council should only speak as 'one voice' and "no single elected official may give directions to the City Administrator. All direction and input to the City Administrator . . . must only occur at open meetings or workshops."

Plasch and Pitchford are the council members on the Personnel Committee.

Glaser, during the May 16th meeting, suggested to the council that it rescind a previous resolution that allowed the city's elected officials to sit in on staff meetings, and the council approved the content of Glaser's memo, with Pitchford absent, without it being a formal resolution or ordinance. The approval was duly noted only in the meeting minutes. Plasch was the lone vote against, after asking to table "Glaser's Law" for a future meeting due to the mayor's absence. The prohibitions outlined in the memo were to apply to all city councilors.

Attorney Glaser consulted with the League of Minnesota Cities, a lobbying organization for city governments and staff, as to how to handle the matter, which was capped off in June by a presentation to the city council by two LMC attorneys. They gave the LMC opinion on the role of elected officials, citing state statutes but also a legal perspective since most cities have liability insurance with the LMC.

### The meetings of Sept. 12 and 19

The council revisited the ban at its Sept. 12 "workshop" meeting. The mayor was absent, so Plasch ran the meeting as the vice mayor. The city attorney opined that the ban "has worked — things are better." The council then began discussing whether they had agreed that the "handcuffs", as Plasch often called the edict, would be in place only temporarily. Some memories were fuzzy,

but attorney Glaser reminded the council that it decides whether it's temporary or not. The result of the discussion made it appear that the "handcuffs" would be slowly loosened, and the mayor would be allowed to use his office at city hall for meetings with constituents.

### Per diem payments to councilors for outside meetings

A ping pong ball that was batted back and forth all summer was resolved at the Sept. 19 meeting. What defines a meeting, for the purposes of paying per diem to city councilors?

Plasch often blamed the approval of "Glaser's Law" as the starting point of councilor Betty Bailey's



Richard Fursman, contracted to recruit a new city administrator, addresses city attorney Kurt Glaser (left) and the Lexington City Council at a Sept. 19 meeting.

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## Northtown Library Remodel Project Takes a Bumpy Ride

by Bryan Olson — Special to the Anoka County Record

The nearly \$1 million remodeling project planned for the Northtown Library was the featured item on the Anoka County Library Board's meeting agenda Sept. 16, and the county's Finance and Capital Improvements Committee the next day.

It was smooth sailing at the Library Board meeting but the project met with some reservations and frustrations on the part of the County Board members who make up the Finance and Capital Improvements Committee.

MS&R (Meyer Scherer and Rockcastle) architects Jack Poling and Sam Edelstein presented proposed redesigns of the library to the Library Board. The plans call for a gutting of the building, adding a skylight in the lobby area and a different concept as to how traffic will flow and where certain services of the library will be situated. Overall, the remodeling will open up the entire building space, starting particularly with the entrance, which has often been described as uninviting.

The library is seen as having a chopped-up traffic flow, with a long, but wide hallway that leads to the collection and reference areas — the main body of the library.

"It's in the back", said Pohling, referring to how the collection area is presently situated.

The open floor plan would allow the reference service desk to be moved near the focal point of the room, visible from all areas including the entrance.

The biggest snag in designing the project has been how to add a third, "family" restroom, to be used by parents and their children.

The architects also learned that the present restrooms are not ADA-compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act), making the restrooms unusable as is.

The Library Board had questions about the best way to do a remodeling like this and not have it be outmoded again in a short time. Pohling said "the best library is a rectangle." The open floor plan will bring it closer to that shape than the "L" that it is now.

The project's cost has been estimated at \$781,350 including fixtures, furniture and equipment. Anoka County Library Director Marlene Moulton Janssen described other wants, which would bring the total to around \$929,000 if all were included in the construction. Among those items, it was agreed that the third restroom was of paramount importance and is estimated to cost \$15,000. Janssen would also like to see new signage inside the library and removal of the mauve-colored wall paper. Trim would be painted. Shelving would be reused while creating new frames that would lower the height of the shelving. Furniture can be reupholstered for a modest sum, estimated at \$9,900. The conveyor belt now used inside the library for patrons to return materials may be updated with a return receipt feature. A drive-up window for returning materials is also being planned.

A substantial add-on, estimated to cost \$65,000 would be to add new flooring to the entire collections area. That area is now carpeted, however not the entire space was done in previous remodels. The carpeting was laid around existing equipment and furniture, instead of carpeting the entire area fully.

Another feature discussed would be offering coffee to patrons. This has become a trend in many area libraries,

BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT *continued on page 3*

## Questions remain about MNSure



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As the October 1 open enrollment date for MNSure – the Minnesota arm of Obamacare – approaches, serious questions remain about the competence of the leadership of this new government healthcare bureaucracy.

Last week, MNSure officials confirmed that one of their employees had inadvertently sent a document containing the private information of 2,400 agents and brokers to an insurance broker's office in Apple Valley. The document contained names, addresses, and social security number of those 2,400 individuals.

Since the debate began on implementing a version of Obamacare on the state level, I have warned my fellow legislators, the governor, and the public about the lack of

safeguards for data privacy protection that would result from implementing this sort of government-organized healthcare exchange. Normally, it's very satisfying to say "I told you so" when predictions come true. However, in this case, I am just concerned with how many people's private data is at risk because of the sheer volume and types of data that will be gathered by MNSure. As I've been corresponding with MNSure officials, I am becoming increasingly concerned that those in charge have an inadequate grasp of our state's data privacy and data practices laws. You can watch my interview with WCCO on the subject by clicking here.

Given the breach and abuse of data by government staff and MNSure's special exemption from oversight, I believe it's reasonable to ask Governor Dayton and the Democrats how sensitive information – like a woman's pregnancy status and due date or a young professional's projected future income – will be kept secure and private.

Recently, the Attorney General of West Virginia wrote a column in Forbes outlining the risk of having so few safeguards in place for our personal and medical information and what can happen if that information falls into the wrong hands. He writes:

Stealing a medical identity is more lucrative than other kinds of identity theft. It's been reported that a social security number sells for \$1 on the black market. But a person's address, Social Security number, Medicare number, and medical history may bring in \$50 up front, plus thousands more for the con men who use the information to buy prescription drugs and scam the consumer's insurance company out of payments. Consumers are left facing bogus charges and ruined credit scores. Undoing the damage — if it's even possible — can require countless hours of frustration and effort.

Another column caught my attention as well. Theresa Payton, the former White House Chief Information Officer from 2006 to 2008, explains how the government could be putting you at risk for identity theft because of Obamacare.

This unprecedented aggregation of your personal information to one place is taking place at a time when data breaches are escalating, and amidst wide acknowledgment that health care data breaches are a growing concern. According to a report by the Identity Theft Resource Center, 34.1% of all data breaches were tied back to health care.

Meanwhile, here in Minnesota, we have evidence MNSure is failing to do its homework when it relates to background checks on those "trusted community organizations" receiving grants to help people navigate this new government-organized healthcare bureaucracy. The Star Tribune reported that the head of one organization that is set to receive grant money once brandished a shotgun at a Wisconsin deputy during a traffic stop. MNSure officials later say that their vetting process of recipients has yet to be completed. Is that supposed to give us comfort at this point?

Given the security breach and poor judgment we've already witnessed from MNSure as well as the great risk involved with citizens' personal information at the hands of a new government bureaucracy, I believe it's fair to say that MNSure is not ready for primetime.

## Thief River Falls man charged with tax crime

The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Pennington County Attorney's Office recently charged Gerald Laverne Sundahl, 52, of Thief River Falls, with six tax felonies.

Sundahl is charged with three counts of filing fraudulent tax returns and three counts of willfully failing to remit taxes.

According to the criminal complaint, Sundahl was Power of Attorney for his parents when more than \$250,000 had been withdrawn from their bank account and was unaccounted for. Sundahl wrote and cashed checks totaling this amount and allegedly admitted to spending most of the money at the casino.

During an investigation, the Minnesota Department of Revenue discovered that Sundahl failed to report the money on his tax returns for 2010 through 2012.

As a result, the complaint alleges that Sundahl owes the state more than \$34,000 in taxes, penalty, and interest.

## Poor leadership results in unneeded special session

Gov. Dayton summoned all state lawmakers back to St. Paul for an unnecessary special session to deal with disaster relief.

Don't get me wrong: I have no problem allocating disaster funds to the communities in the 18 Minnesota counties that are recovering from the storm damage that occurred in late June.

I do have a problem with wasting nearly \$100,000 in taxpayer dollars to hold a special session when the money could have been distributed without a formal legislative rubber stamp. The state's portion of the disaster relief match could have been paid weeks ago if Governor Dayton had simply led, as opposed to trying to use a special session for personal political gain.

The storm damage total was roughly \$18 million, of which Minnesota is responsible for a 25 percent match of roughly \$4.5 million. The remaining 75 percent will be allocated through the federal government.

According to non-partisan House fiscal analysts, communities suffering cash flow issues due to repair costs could get 75 percent reimbursement before any legislation passed. Local Government Aid could also have been advanced to most communities to cover the 25 percent share until the Legislature passed disaster relief. There is also a contingent appropriation in the state government bill of \$500,000 that the governor can use as a patch for communities with cash shortfalls.

Another state law allows the option of an agency transferring some funds. For instance, it gives the Department of Public Safety the ability to temporarily transfer an available balance from one area to another that can be used to address statewide disasters.

So if state law allows the transfer, why not do it?

The only reason is political gamesmanship.

After hearing from irate farmers who are now paying sales tax on equipment repair – as well as a dozen other tax and fee increases resulting from Democratic-approved legislation four months ago – Gov. Dayton grudgingly admitted that forcing farmers to pay more was a mistake. This after claiming he had no idea that provision was in the bill, even though his administration worked on it and he signed it.

Dayton and his fellow DFL legislative leaders, who are also taking a pounding over this tax increase nonsense, wanted to repeal just this one provision during special session – along with disaster relief.

Ironically, in order to partially fix this mistake Democrats wanted to use money intended to repay schools. That's right, instead of cutting some of the \$2 billion in new, wasteful spending proposals they enacted this year, they wanted our schools to take the hit.

During negotiations, Republican leaders offered three opportunities for Democrats to fix their mistakes from last session and Democrats refused. We advocated for full repeal of the equipment repair tax, telecommunications tax and the warehousing tax but Democrats ultimately could not even commit to repeal one. Once again, Democrats refused to compromise and stood in the way of doing what's right for hardworking taxpayers.

When he didn't get his way, Gov. Dayton took his ball and went home, then called an unnecessary special session considering we had other ways to pay for our portion of disaster relief.

By using a little common sense, Minnesota could have come up with \$4.5 million by looking under the proverbial couch cushions. But that would have taken leadership, and on that qualification Gov. Dayton has failed us all once again.

*Steve Drazkowski represents Minnesota House District 21B.*



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The charges each carry a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects an individual or business is violating tax laws. That number is 651-297-5195, or 1-800-657-3500 (TTY users call 711 for Minnesota Relay). Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. In 2012, citizen tips totaled 80 percent of the department's criminal case referrals.

While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes progressive enforcement action against non-compliant taxpayers ensuring tax laws are fairly administered, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe.

Follow the latest news and updates from the Minnesota Department of Revenue on Twitter and Facebook.

## Time celebrated civic pride, not big government

Back in 1973, Time magazine profiled my state as one of the last homes of the classic American Dream — good jobs, safe streets, good government, great education and a civic spirit that was slowly disappearing in other parts of America.

That is, for the most part, the Minnesota I grew up in, and one in which I still take immense pride.

But the Minnesota of 1973 already was laying the groundwork for the slow dissolution of the conditions that made our state unique.

Minnesotans themselves took our prosperity and our good government for granted.

Our elected representatives also took our prosperity for granted, seeing it as an opportunity to experiment with new forms of governance and as an unlimited source of funds.

We are paying the price today and, in fact, have been in the decades since Time magazine profiled us.

Gov. Wendy Anderson, the governor of Minnesota in those days and depicted on the Time cover holding the big fish, earned the nickname “Spenny Wendy” for his big government policies.

Anderson, far from glorying in Minnesota’s success in the early ’70s, saw a state in need of dramatic reform. And he used Minnesota’s prosperous private sector as a piggy bank to fund ever-expanding government.

His free-spending ways helped lead to his own defeat for Senate in 1978 and his replacement by a Republican budget cutter in the governor’s seat.

Despite recessions, budget pressures and Democratic Gov. Rudy Perpich’s vow to get Minnesota out of the top 10 tax states, it took decades for Minnesota to achieve that goal. In the interim, Minnesota lost some Fortune 500 companies and saw its educational system become less competitive, its civic life deteriorate and even its reputation for clean politics diminished.

Over the past 15 years, no fewer than three Minneapolis City Council members have found themselves in federal prison for corruption.

Anderson didn’t just expand government spending; he expanded the role of government as well. He helped create the Metropolitan Council that we know today, an unelected regional government with dramatic powers to tax, zone and reshape the Minneapolis-St Paul metropolitan region.

Responsible to only the governor (and hardly then), the Metropolitan Council has taken it upon itself to become an appointed elite of social engineers with the mandate to reshape the Twin Cities into a hipster heaven. It is taxation without representation in its purest form.

Our current governor, Mark Dayton, has taken up the mantle of Spenny Wendy, believing that the “Good Life in Minnesota” that Time so rightly celebrated was the result of Anderson’s big government policies. He has raised taxes, conducted a war on business and profits and even proposed to tax the income of non-Minnesota residents who enjoy visiting our state for extended periods.

He is, in short, undermining the very factors that made Minnesota so special decades ago.

Time magazine rightly focused its attention on Minnesota’s real “killer app,” as we would call it today: public spiritedness and civic pride. Minnesotans were engaged, involved in their communities and generous in their public giving, and they banded together to make our state special.

Big government undermines that civic mindedness. It encourages citizens to outsource their civic engagement to bureaucrats. It taxes people to support nonprofits they might not otherwise give to; it disempowers people, taking away their ability to help shape their community together.

It attacks the roots of our prosperity — which is and was a vibrant private-sector economy — and substitutes ever-expanding government bureaucracies in its place.

The result is clear: Minnesota still is a great state, but it’s not as great or as unique as it once was. Businesses and retirees are looking South for warmer and friendlier tax climates. Entrepreneurs aren’t excited to start new companies here, when greener pastures are as close as the Dakotas.

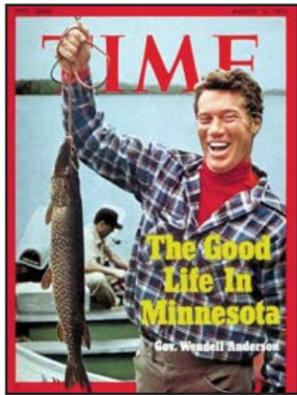
Why is it that in our border cities, the Minnesota city is the less prosperous neighbor to its Dakota counterpart?

We can do better, but not until we recognize that it is our civic life — not government — that made Minnesota a great catch and can do it again.

*Lillie is president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota.*



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## Hackbarth on “unsession”

Gov. Mark Dayton has been touting the upcoming 2014 session as an “unsession.” I reject that label because it indicates we won’t be doing any work at the Capitol.

That is anything but the case. For example, you can bet Democrats will be pushing minimum-wage increase legislation and trying to adopt new anti-bullying laws. Republicans will be looking to spare taxpayers by eliminating ill-advised, unpopular tax increases Dayton and the Democrats passed earlier this year. These ridiculous tax increases only happened because Democrats wanted a way to pay for more wasteful government spending.

The governor does have a website where he is soliciting ideas from citizens regarding what ineffective laws should be taken off the books. So far, around 450 ideas have been submitted.

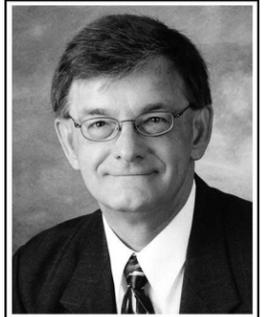
Another important item of business for 2014 pertains to Asian carp and work to prevent them from devastating our state’s waterways. The Democrats in charge in St. Paul did nothing to address this issue last year and, now, Congressmen Keith Ellison and Rick Nolan are in Washington, D.C., pushing their own misguided plan for the Mississippi River.

It takes an act of Congress to close locks and dams, and Ellison/Nolan are trying to do exactly that. Their idea is to shut down barge traffic on the Mississippi and divert the transportation of goods to our roadways.

I will discuss some better options later, but I do not agree we should be combating carp by stopping commercial traffic on the river. Even Ellison and Nolan say they aren’t sure it will work, but want to “try to do something.” Another Democrat Congresswoman, Betty McCollum, admitted this would do nothing to protect the St. Croix and Minnesota Rivers.

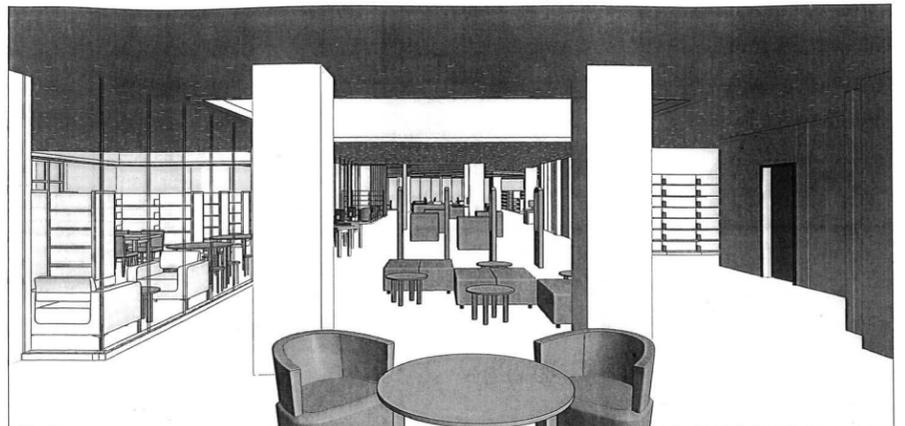
What kind of strategy is that? Drastic action like shutting down Mississippi locks and dams deserves solid research and a real understanding for the results, not just a “try to do something” approach. That is where we could run into boatloads of unintended consequences, including adding pressure to our roadways.

Talk of key issues will ramp up as we approach the Feb. 25 start to the 2014 session. Go ahead and offer your suggestions to the governor, I just wish he would stop calling it an “unsession” because it sells short all the important work that awaits us.



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## BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT *continued from page 1*



ENTRY

*Northtown Library project: View from the entrance, looking toward the collections area*

some of which have coffee businesses renting space within library buildings. That was not deemed workable with the Northtown plan, and was discussed at further length the next day with Anoka County Board members.

Two suggestions included having coffee available as a courtesy at a counter that would be constructed, or by a vending machine.

The coffee counter idea was thought to be too labor intensive for staff to manage and Assistant Library Director Ben Trapskin said the coffee vending machine at the Rum River library was not terribly popular.

### Other Library Board business

Development near the Rum River library (Bunker Lake Blvd. & 6th Ave., in northern Anoka) will be leading to future discussions about library parking and a proposed easement for a trail to run through library property. The Library Board also reviewed the 2014 calendar of dates the libraries will be closed. When discussing the July 4th weekend, the Rum River library was brought up again.

Next year, Independence Day falls on a Friday. Anoka’s city fireworks show is usually held on July 3 each year, putting it on a Thursday night in 2014 and the library will be closing at its normal Thursday time of 6:00 p.m. The library system’s staff is relieved that July 3 does not fall on a day where the library is open later, because in the past there have been battles for parking spaces between Rum River library patrons and fireworks observers. The fireworks fans also park their vehicles all over the property and minor chaos has ensued.

**BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT** *continued on page 4*

## LEXINGTON TO INTERVIEW FINALISTS

*continued from page 1*

repeated questions about how to identify and label meetings, and determine circumstances that would disqualify meetings from per diem payments.

The council edict, if carried out to the letter, would have forced councilors to take any meetings with the City Administrator outside city hall. One of many questions arised: is that still a meeting? Is talking to a constituent a meeting? If a meeting about the fire department is followed by a Fire Relief Association meeting, is that one meeting or two? What if they are held at different locations but only next door to each other?

Plasch, exasperated by the circles the numerous discussions created, stated at several meetings that he would be in favor of abolishing per diem payments and the council should take flat salaries. The mayor agreed.

The other council members never considered Plasch's proposal, and city attorney Kurt Glaser drafted language that was adopted Sept. 19. There were no changes to the dollar amounts paid. In January 2011, the mayor's salary was set at \$350 per month and city councilors \$275. The per diem payments are \$75 for a meeting held during the person's regular working hours and \$35 for meetings at other times. The mayor can be paid for up to eight extra meetings per month and the city councilors six extra meetings, beyond the expected regular city council and "workshop" meetings.

### The search for a new city administrator

While conversing with the council, attorney Glaser mentioned that "Maplewood had a meltdown a few years ago," just before a former city manager of Maplewood came by the following week on Sept. 19 to present city administrator candidates for Lexington.

Richard Fursman of the executive search firm Brimeyer-Fursman had been awarded a contract in excess of \$17,000 to recruit a suitable replacement for retiring City Administrator Dot Heifort. Fursman reported that 58 applications were received. He had picked twelve after interviewing and testing a number of applicants of his choosing whom he felt were a good fit for the job.

Fursman said one had dropped out, so the council was left with eleven. Prior to the meeting, the council had been furnished the candidates' resumes and Fursman's evaluations. Speaking at the televised meeting, Fursman described his thoughts on each of the eleven, without naming names as state statute protects the identities of the applicants until they have been chosen as finalists.

Fursman had hoped that the councilors would be ready to give him their top five picks and two alternates. Pitchford and Plasch hadn't finished reading Fursman's supplied materials, and Plasch apologized profusely for misunderstanding — he thought he had another week, up to the interviews that had been scheduled for Sept. 27-28. Fursman explained that he needed the week's time to determine the finalists and contact them all to firm up the interviews with the council.

Referring to his homework, Plasch told Fursman, "I'll have it done for you tomorrow, even if I have to read it on the toilet."

City Administrator Dot Heifort said she would not be participating in the interviewing, however she announced her choice of five candidates, identified by number. Councilors Payment, Hughes and Bailey did the same. Bailey had nine picked out. Heifort said she thought the city's police department should do the background checks of the candidates, and also recited a list of staff that would be interviewing candidates: City Attorney Kurt Glaser, Labor attorney for the city, Paul Floyd, Jim Fischer, Public Works lead, Tina Northcutt, Accounting Coordinator and AFSCME shop steward, Fire Chief Gary Grote, Police Chief Jim Coan and Jack Borgen, Municipal Liquor Store manager.

Heifort said Chris Olsson, chair of the Planning

Commission was once going to participate but Mark Kurth, a Lexington firefighter and former candidate for mayor, may take his place.

Among the other items before the council:

An employee of Carbone's Pizzeria, 9200 Lexington Ave. N., served liquor to a minor working as a decoy for the CLPD. The police report, dated Jan. 15, 2013, was included in the council meeting packet. City attorney Kurt Glaser told the council the restaurant employee was fined and given a suspended sentence.

Glaser said "Carbone's hasn't had a violation in a million years" and reminded the council that the maximum penalty is a \$2,500 fine but since Carbone's had not had a violation within a three-year period, the fine for a first violation would be \$1,000.

Plasch made a motion to waive the fine and impose a 3-day suspension of its liquor license. The council asked Theresa Hoppenstedt, representing the restaurant, to choose the three days. She suggested the following Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The restaurant would be open those days but would not be allowed to sell liquor. The motion was seconded by Hughes, and passed with all ayes.

Another item was suddenly removed from the agenda. City Administrator Dot Heifort told the council that Chad Payment had requested the item be removed. Heifort was proposing to hire Payment as a full time building inspector at a base salary of \$54,000 annually, to start Oct. 1. His duties would have included being the Building Official and Inspector, Zoning and Ordinance enforcement, performing fire inspections of commercial buildings and inspecting rental properties.

### Candidates for the City Administrator position announced

The five finalists for the City Administrator position were revealed Tuesday, Sept. 24. Interviews are to take place at Lexington City Hall tomorrow and Saturday, Sept. 28.

The finalists under consideration are:

Desaree Crane, Assistant City Administrator in Mounds View since 2002; is a resident of Shoreview and is on the city's Parks & Recreation Commission.

Kyle H. Morell, City Administrator of Hinckley, MN since 2010, previously in Clara City, MN. Resides in Circle Pines.

Michael Ericson, former City Administrator of Hugo (2000-2011) and since then has been serving as interim city administrators and as a consultant for Maplewood for one of the city's redevelopment projects. Ericson was Assistant to the City Manager in Maplewood from 1998-2000. Since leaving Hugo, Ericson has been a finalist for a number of city manager/administrator positions, including Fridley, Bayport, Forest Lake, Mendota Heights, Vadnais Heights and West St. Paul.

Bill Petracek, City Administrator of Fox Lake, WI since 2004. Previously the city administrator of Lake Ozark, MO and was an assistant to the city manager in Vermillion, SD. Fox Lake is a city of 1,500 and is near Beaver Dam. Petracek was a finalist this past June, along with Ericson, for the city administrator position in Bayport.

Ariel Klugman, a city manager intern working at Edina City Hall. She recently completed her masters studies in Public Administration at the University of Kansas and has been working in Edina for over a year. Klugman is a native of Hopkins, MN.

Candidates will be given a tour of the city Friday afternoon, followed by one-on-one interviews between the city councilors and the candidates. At 5:30 p.m., a public reception will be held at City Hall for the public to meet and converse with the candidates.

The city council will meet as a group at 8 a.m. Saturday at City Hall and interview each candidate for approximately an hour. The committee of staff and city officials will also interview candidates concurrently in another room.

A full report will be given in the Oct. 10 issue of the *Anoka County Record*.

## BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT

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The cost of cleaning the libraries will go up by 3% to \$188,069, beginning November 1. A contract with Mid-City Cleaning Contractors, Inc. is being extended a year, running through October 31, 2014. Each individual library has an itemized cost being charged in the contract. The two libraries with the highest cleaning costs are Northtown and Rum River, which will be billed at the contract rate of \$4,230 monthly. The lowest are North Central (Ham Lake) and St. Francis, at \$585 each, per month.

The North Central library at Ham Lake will also have its lease renewed for another year. The Library Board however can terminate the lease if funding is ever lost. The 4,400-square foot space will be leased from Dec. 1, 2013 to Nov. 30, 2014 for the sum of \$49,409, a 2% increase over the previous year. Library Director Janssen said she was able to get a reduction in rent when the contract was last negotiated, and expects to enter into leasing talks in the coming summer. She told the Library Board in her opinion the increase still does not make the rent exorbitant.

The Director also announced that hiring a System Services Manager will be tried again, although she felt the salary being offered would not attract a candidate with the skill set the job calls for. Janssen also said that MELSA funds would be used to send about two dozen county library staff to the Minnesota Library Association's convention in St. Cloud, Oct. 10-11.

### Library Director meets with County Board

On Sept. 17, after receiving the go-ahead from the Library Board, Janssen brought the Northtown plans to the county's Finance and Capital Improvements Committee, which is chaired by County Commissioner Matt Look. Also on the committee are county commissioners Rhonda Sivarajah, Carol LeDoux and Julie Braastad, who is the County Board's liaison to the Library Board. Also present at the meeting were county commissioners Scott Schulte and Robin West, County Administrator Jerry Soma and other staff.

In the course of discussing the project, some bombshells were dropped, catching the County Board members by surprise.

None were pleased to hear that the 1963 library building, remodeled in 1983 and again in 1990, has 12,000 square feet of unused space on a second floor that most people do not know exists.

Janssen told the *Anoka County Record* that the second floor had been the children's area, with a spiral staircase, prior to the 1983 remodeling.

Sivarajah's reaction was to say she found it "mind-boggling — I had no idea that space was available."

Look said it was "12,000 square feet doing nothing." His comments were stern and pointed throughout the meeting.

Look was not pleased to be brought the project "in the 9th or 10th hour...this is the first time I've seen these drawings — they hit the mark about 80% (but) we need to go backward to restart this process."

Look said firmly, "they say only the rich person can do it twice. I don't think we have the resources to do this twice."

Janssen apologized, saying she may have misunderstood the County Board's approval of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be tantamount approval of the project itself.

Look said the CIP approval did not green-light the library project and that he wants to see the county use a standardized method as to how all county building projects are done. He said the building has to make sense from many different perspectives beyond pleasing the Library Board.

Sivarajah said, "I want to make sure we are making good use of talent within the county staff instead of outsiders" and Look made it clear that county facilities

**BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT** *continued on page 5*

**BUMPY RIDE FOR LIBRARY PROJECT** *continued from page 4*

planning staff needed to be involved in the project early on.

County Administrator Jerry Soma interjected that Library Director Janssen had followed past practices used for library construction but added, "we are going to change the way we do this," inferring that the autonomy given the library system in the past would be channeled into the universal county construction process.

Some ideas were thrown about for using the second floor, however Janssen pointed out that any use may require a new elevator. (There is also a stairway in the staff area). She said the elevator that is in the building is not large enough to meet today's building codes. The shaft could not be used as is — a larger shaft and elevator are required. The cost may be \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Janssen said that using the second floor for public library space would necessitate adding more staff. Soma thought meeting rooms that could be used by the public would not require manning of the floor by staff. But again, the elevator expense.

A coffee shop on a second floor often doesn't work — a failed coffee shop at the Stillwater library was mentioned. (The St. Paul main library's coffee shop was closed and converted to meeting space, and the Maplewood library's coffee shop has received a lukewarm response. — Editor)

The most successful coffee shop operations in library buildings seem to be those that offer drive-thru service, which are often open longer hours than the library. Those at the meeting seem to agree that this wasn't feasible at the Northtown library.

Look wondered if county agencies or affiliates could use the second floor space, or library staff.

Janssen said the state legislature recently made grants available for handicapped access and building improvements to libraries. Applications are due Oct. 17 and awards will be made up to one-half of a project's cost.

"If we go ahead with the proposed plan, I don't want to have to go back and redo things", Sivarajah said with some apprehension.

The committee voted all ayes to give Janssen the go-ahead to apply for the state grant since the deadline for the application is coming so soon. The committee's vote however had a circumspect, cautious air about it.

**GOP legislators ask Gov. Dayton's help in combating 'MNsured secrecy'**

By Joe Kimball - *MinnPost*

Four Republican members of the MNsure Legislative Oversight Committee say they've been stymied in attempts to get information from the state's new health insurance exchange agency and have asked Gov. Mark Dayton's help.

In a letter to the governor that might be intended more to make political points rather than seek real assistance, the GOP legislators say to Dayton: "... as the person who brought this new state agency to life with your signature, we urge you to assist us in acquiring answers to these critical questions."

The letter is signed by Rep. Tara Mack (R-Apple Valley), Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska), Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake) and Sen. Sean Nienow (R-Cambridge). They say they want to:

"...express our concern with an ever-growing culture of unresponsiveness and secrecy within your new state agency, MNsure."

Specifically, the lawmakers say they want answers to three "critical requests for information:"

1. An overall, detailed budget spreadsheet,

**MNsured SECRECY** *continued on page 6*

**GOVERNMENT MEETINGS CALENDAR**

**ANOKA COUNTY**

Anoka County Govt. Center  
2100 3rd Ave.  
Anoka MN 55303-5024  
Ph.: 763-323-5700  
www.co.anoka.mn.us

**Tue. Oct. 1**  
Parks Committee, 9 am  
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

**Tue. Oct. 8**  
Management Committee, 8:30 am  
County Board, 9:30 am  
HRA, 10:30 am  
Oak Grove City Hall (Loc. change)

**Wed. Oct. 9**  
Waste Committee, 8:15 am  
Room 772, Government Center

**Tue. Oct. 15**  
Human Services Committee, 8:30 am  
Info Tech Committee, 10:30 am  
Finance Committee, 1:00 pm  
Intergovernmental Committee, 3 pm  
Room 710, Government Center

**Thr. Oct. 17**  
Community Corrections Board, Noon  
Public Safety Committee, 3 pm  
Room 710, Government Center

**Tue. Oct. 22**  
Management Committee, 8:30 am  
County Board, 9:30 am  
Room 772, Government Center

**Tue. Oct. 29**  
HRA, 10:30 am  
Room 705, Government Center

**FRIDLEY**

Fridley City Hall  
6431 University Ave NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph: 763-571-3450  
www.ci.fridley.mn.us

**Wed. Oct. 2**  
Appeals Commission Meeting  
**Thr. Oct 3**  
HRA

**HAM LAKE**

Ham Lake City Hall  
15544 Central Ave NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph: 763-434-9555  
www.ci.ham-lake.mn.us  
Hours: M-Th 7 AM - 4:30 PM  
Fri: 7 AM-12 NOON

**Mon. Oct. 7**  
City Council, 6 pm

**Mon. Oct. 14**  
Planning Commission, 6 pm  
**Wed. Oct. 16**  
Park & Tree Commission, 6 pm  
**Monday, Oct. 21**  
City Council, 6 pm  
**Monday, Oct. 28**  
Planning Commission, 6 pm

**LINWOOD TWP**

Linwood Town Hall  
22817 Typo Creek Dr. NE  
Linwood, MN 55079  
Ph: 651-462-2812  
linwoodtownship.org

**Tues. Oct. 8**  
Town Board, 6 pm

**Tues. Oct. 15**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm  
**Mon. Oct. 21**  
Cemetery Cmte., 6 pm  
**Mon. Oct. 28**  
Park & Rec. Cmte., 6 pm

**OAK GROVE**

Oak Grove City Hall  
19900 Nightingale St. NW  
Oak Grove, MN 55011  
Ph: 763-404-7000  
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

**2nd and last Monday of month**  
City Council, 7 pm (EDA follows council mtg on last Monday)  
**3rd Wednesday**  
Parks Comm., 6 pm  
**3rd Thursday**  
Planning Comm., 7 pm

**RAMSEY**

7550 Sunwood Dr. NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
Ph: 763-427-1410  
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

**Thr. Oct. 3**  
Planning Commission, 7 pm  
**Tue. Oct. 8**  
City Council "work session" 5:30 pm  
**Tue. Oct. 8**  
City Council, 7 pm  
**Tue. Oct. 8**  
HRA, immediately following CC  
**Thr. Oct. 10**  
EDA, 7:30 am  
**Thr. Oct. 10**  
Parks & Rec Commission, 6:30 pm  
**Tue. Oct. 15**  
Public Works Committee, 6 pm

**ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1318 McKay Dr NE #300  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
Ph.: (763) 434-2030  
anokaswcd.org

**Mon. Oct. 21**  
Board of Supervisors, 5 pm

**CENTENNIAL ISD #12**

4707 North Rd  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
Ph.: (763) 792-6000  
isd12.org

**Mon. Oct. 7**  
School Bd, Centennial Elementary Media Center, 5:30 pm  
**Mon. Oct. 21**  
School Bd, Centennial Elementary Media Center, 6:30 pm

**FRIDLEY ISD #14**

6000 W Moore Lake Dr  
Fridley, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 502-5000  
fridley.k12.mn.us

**Tue. Oct. 22**  
School Bd "work session," 5:30 pm,  
Public Comment, 7 pm, Business Mtg 7:30 pm, Fridley City Hall

**SPRING LAKE PARK ISD #16**

1415 81st Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Ph.: (763) 786-5570  
springlakeparkschools.org

**Tue. Oct. 8**  
School Bd, 6 pm

**QCTV Cable Commission**

Ramsey, Andover, Champlin, Anoka  
**Fri. Oct. 4**  
Cable Commission, 10 am, Ramsey City Hall

**North Metro TV Cable Commission**

Ham Lake, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Lino Lakes, Lexington, Centerville, Circle Pines  
**Tue. Oct. 1**  
Operations Committee, 10:30 am  
12520 Polk St. NE, Blaine  
**Wed. Oct. 2**  
Executive Committee, 6 pm  
12520 Polk St. NE, Blaine

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Meetings listed on this page are subject to change — always call ahead to verify

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**Anoka County RECORD**

PO BOX 21014  
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS MN 55421-0014  
(763) 220-0411

A bi-weekly free publication published by Anoka County Record LLC

Subscriptions sent First Class U.S. Mail \$50/year Single copies mailed \$2.00 (check or money order)

All editions can be found on our web site:

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CITY OF OAK GROVE  
COUNTY OF ANOKA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Oak Grove Planning Commission's Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 19900 Nightingale St NW, to hear the following public hearings in the order that they appear:

**PUBLIC HEARING** to consider an Interim Use Permit for Warren Skura, 1352 Viking Blvd NW, to operate *Warren's Dog Stop* which is a dog kennel which offers dog training with boarding at the following legally described property: that prt of N 990 ft of NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 26, Twp 33, Rge 24 ; further described by PIN# 26-33-24-31-0001. All written and oral comments will be heard.

**PUBLIC HEARING** to consider a preliminary plat to be named *Gardas Grove 3rd Addition* platting one lot consisting of 3.4 acres within the following legally described property: that part of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Sec 3, Twp 33, Rge 24 further described by PID #03-33-24-42-0003. All written and oral comments will be heard.

The hearings of this request are not limited to those receiving copies of this notice, and if you know of any neighbor or affected property owner who for any reason, has not received a copy, it would be appreciated if you would inform them of this public hearing.

Hearing impaired persons planning to attend who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact City Hall at 404-7006 no later than Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

Sheryl F. Fiskewold City Clerk  
Posted Sept 25 - October 17, 2013  
Published September 26, 2013  
(Published Sept. 26, 2013 Anoka County Record)

**ANOKA COUNTY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

The Anoka County Board met on September 10, 2013. Standing county committee information reports and action items were considered, and action was taken as necessary. The following resolutions were adopted: #2013-107 Accepting Gift to Parks; 2013-108 Mississippi River Trail Agreement; #2013-109 Boating Safety Agreement; #2013-110 Final Tax Levy and Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Budget for 2014. A full copy of the agenda, minutes, accounts, and claims greater than \$2000 may be found on the Anoka County Web site: [www.anokacounty.us](http://www.anokacounty.us)

**MNsure SECRECY** *continued from page 5*

along with a detailed account of the sources for supplemental grant funds.

2. Figures on enrollment projections to determine whether alternative funding sources must be considered to avoid forcing Minnesotans to pay a higher health insurance tax in the future.

3. Following a recent data breach, there should be confirmation that a chart has been prepared detailing each employee's level of access to private data collected by MNsure.

The legislators say:

"Despite serving on the MNsure LOC, it has become apparent that our requests are either not taken seriously or they will not be honored in a timely and meaningful way."

*MinnPost.com is a nonprofit, member-supported news site that provides high-quality journalism for people who care about Minnesota.*

Full Text of the September 25, 2013 letter:

September 25, 2013

Via Hand Delivery

The Honorable Mark Dayton  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME  
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

**Strawberry Butt**  
2. Principal Place of Business:  
**465 96th Ln. N.E., Blaine MN 55434**

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

**Kristen Opsal, 465 96th Ln. N.E., Blaine MN 55434**

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: Aug. 22, 2013 #69626720002  
/s/ Kristen Opsal, Owner  
(Published Sept. 26 & Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

We would like to request your assistance and express our concern with an ever-growing culture of unresponsiveness and secrecy within your new state agency, MNsure. Recent reports of MNsure's controversial grant recipients and data breaches are merely symptoms of what we believe are larger, fundamental flaws.

Since the beginning of the legislative process, we have requested information from your new state agency. These requests were made to resolve problems that were identified in committee hearings and the media. Unfortunately for Minnesotans, we rarely received adequate answers.

Three critical requests for information, among many others, remain outstanding:

1) Legislators requested a detailed line item budget spreadsheet for the exchange. In yesterday's Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC) hearing, MNsure's Executive Director referred to "buckets" of money that were tapped into to remedy a problematic grant outreach process. In addition to an overall, detailed budget spreadsheet, your new state agency should provide a detailed account of the sources for the supplemental grant funds.

2) From prior testimony by MNsure staff, new enrollment numbers exist and are being relied on to determine whether it will be self-sufficient in 2015 and beyond. In addition to enrollment projections provided during the legislative process, MNsure's executive director previously testified about new "low-low" enrollment projections. Your new state agency should provide these figures now to determine whether alternative funding sources must

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME  
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted:

**Staging By Hope**  
2. Principal Place of Business:  
**3649 146th Avenue N.E., Ham Lake MN 55304**

3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide the legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address:

**Hope Goddard, 3649 146th Avenue N.E., Ham Lake MN 55304**

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

FILED: September 10, 2013 #69828050002  
/s/ Hope E. Goddard, Owner  
(Published Sep. 26 & Oct. 10, 2013 Anoka County Record)

be considered to avoid forcing Minnesotans to pay a higher health insurance tax in the future.

3) Finally, in light of recent data breaches, MNsure should confirm that pursuant to the enacting legislation it has prepared a chart detailing each of its employees' level of access to the personal, private data collected and stored by your new state agency. MNsure should provide this document immediately to the oversight committee.

Many of these requests were originally made at the July 22, 2013 MNsure LOC hearing and have remained outstanding for over two months.

Despite serving on the MNsure LOC, it has become apparent that our requests are either not taken seriously or they will not be honored in a timely and meaningful way. As Governor of Minnesota, and as the person who brought this new state agency to life with your signature, we urge you to assist us in acquiring answers to these critical questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tara Mack  
Representative - District 57 A  
Member, MNsure Legislative Oversight Committee

Michelle Benson  
Senator - District 31  
Member, MNsure Legislative Oversight Committee

Joe Hoppe  
Representative - District 47B  
Member, MNsure Legislative Oversight Committee

Sean Nienow  
Senator - District 32  
Member, MNsure Legislative Oversight Committee



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