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fore completion, a lot of decisions are going to need to be made in the interim.'

Yankton Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson described at length the options under consideration.

HDR, Inc., the consultant hired by the city to develop a water system plan, recommended Yankton investigate the possibility of building a collector well at Paddle Wheel Point. That process is under way.

Other options include building a new surface water intake or expanding the well field the city has in Nebraska. City officials are also in talks with B-Y Water representatives about the possibility of purchasing water from the rural water district.

In the end, Yankton wants a water source that can provide a minimum of 5.8 million gallons per day (MGD), adding to the 4.2 MGD capacity of the Nebraska wells.

The current surface water intake near the Discovery Bridge has a capacity of 5.5 MGD.

With a capacity to bring in 10 MGD, the city would be on track to meet projected water demands for the next 20 years.

On the treatment side, the city will bid out in a couple weeks an estimated \$900,000 in upgrades to Water Treatment Plant No. 2. which was built in 1972.

Under consideration is constructing a new plant that would have the capability of treating 5 MGD and comes with an estimated cost of more than \$12 million. It would be constructed adjacent to the east side of Plant No. 2. If the new plant is built, Plant No. 2 would only be used during high-demand periods and Water Treatment Plant No. 1, built in 1929, would be decommissioned.

City Finance Officer Al Viereck followed Goodmanson's presentation with a discussion of how the project could be funded.

He said there is no magic wand, and that the costs will have to be passed on to water users.

If the project comes to \$28.7 million, Viereck said the city will need to raise \$26 million. That breaks down to \$1.55 million in new revenue annually on a 20-year loan.

While the annual debt service could be lessened by taking out a 25-year or 30-year loan, that would add more interest payments, Viereck added.

The new revenue could come from rates, a surcharge or a property-tax opt-out.

For a home with an equalized value of \$100,000, the annual increase would be \$248.59.

If the city implements a surcharge on water bills, users will pay that fee before purchasing a drop of water. In order to cover the debt service, it would take a monthly charge of \$10.

Using a rate hike, the increase for the average customer who uses 5,000 gallons per month

would be \$10.84 per month.

The City Commission could choose to utilize a combination of methods to pay for the upgrades.

During a question-and-answer period, the audience inquired about a variety of subjects.

Since water levels fluctuate below the Gavins Point Dam due to releases and scouring of the river bottom, a question was asked about placing an intake in Lewis and Clark Lake and piping it to Yankton. Viereck pointed out that it is expected to cost millions of dollars just to build a pipe from Paddle Wheel Point to the treatment plant, so building one to the lake would not be feasible.

Another question arose about whether the city had looked into privatizing its water system. Viereck said that was explored in the early 2000s when other cities were doing the same.

State legislation makes it a complicated issue, he stated. Viereck added that it would be doubtful a private entity could provide services for less and added that the community would be sacrificing control over its water system.

Several audience members expressed concerns about the added costs associated with the upgrades.

Mount Marty College President Joseph Benoit noted that his institution would have to pass the costs on to students or find some way to absorb them.

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age solid waste fee in Yankton from \$15.68 to somewhere between \$17.09-\$18.26, according to City Manager Amy Nelson. She gave a presentation Monday of information that had been provided to the Joint Powers.

It was noted that besides dealing with the recycling issue, the Joint Powers is also undertaking approximately \$2.3 million in debt for improvements needed at the Vermillion facility during the next year or so.

After a lengthy discussion of the costs, the commission was divided.

"This is a time when singlestream seems right. It's the right thing to do," Commissioner Jake Hoffner said. "I feel that completely. I think we need to find a way to make it work. I see this all over where my kids live. If it wasn't for single-stream, they would-n't recycle at all. We're going to see a lot of stuff recycled."

Mayor Nancy Wenande acknowledged that solid waste services have to be managed like a business.

"But we also need to balance it, I believe, with what is best for the environment," she added. "Should we keep not pursuing single-stream to get more out of the landfill because we're making more money off the tipping fees

of those things that goes both costs because it is the right thing to do for the environment?'

cerned about the environment are already recycling under the current system, Commissioner Charlie Gross responded.

"They're not willing to make the commitment to recycle," Gross stated.

Wenande said the community is doing a disservice to children coming out of the school district by not providing them an easier method to recycle.

"The easier it is, they'll do it,"

A majority of the commissioners said they would have trouble passing on additional costs to

We have millions of dollars nity in water," Commissioner Brad Woerner said, referring to

an estimated \$28.7 million in water system upgrades. "While I support recycling, I don't think (raising costs) is going to be looked upon highly by our citizens. ... It's very difficult for me to have a positive attitude right now about adding some fee for

"While I support recycling, I don't think (raising

costs) is going to be looked upon highly by our

recycling. It's hard for me to say that.' Gross made a motion that the city not recommend changing its current recycling system at this time. Nelson said the Vermillion City Council recently made the

same decision. The motion passed with only Hoffner, Wenande and Commissioner Craig Sommer opposed to it.

Commissioner David Knoff was absent.

In other business Monday, the commission reorganized. Gross and Woerner started new terms. New member Brooke Blaalid could not be present. Wenande was re-elected as mayor.

Commissioner Paul Lowrie went off the board after two terms.

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School

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ington.

seth Sandlin said.

sema said. "However, because negotiations are ongoing, that could change."

The preliminary budget also calls for \$200,000 in utility costs to be paid for by the capital outlay fund, which also helps officials manage the budget deficit.

"One thing that is still up in the air is the funding that we will get from the federal government," Gertsema said. "They have had to cut some education funding due to the sequester."

He added that, at worst, YSD will be

faced with a budget deficit of around \$1,153,000 for the 2013-14 year. The board will hold its next budget

Also at the meeting, board members approved changes to the YHS and YMS handbooks.

YHS Principal Kindle said the changes needed in the high school handbook were just clarifying policies and some basic language changing.

Todd Dvoracek, YMS principal, said the middle school handbook needed changes with regards to the homework policy, bul-

homework policy to require all students to turn in their homework, not simply to not turn it in and receive a 'zero' for the assignment.

Dvoracek also spoke to board members about changing the names of two courses offered at the middle school.

The change will re-name the family and consumer science and technical education courses to "lifetime career explorations" and "technical career explorations".

'We will continue to give students what we're giving, but the change will help courses when we bring in new information," Dvoracek said. "It also gives us some more flexibility with who we can hire to teach both classes.'

change to the YSD language arts curricu-

lum to be in line with the Common Core standards.

"The new standards will focus more heavily on reading for information, rather than reading for literature," said Lincoln School principal Paul Struck. "In 2014-15, all of the tests will be based on the new standards, so we need to be ready for

have not changed much, but there is an mechanics

pectations, especially at the primary levels," Struck said. "However, there are also more expectations for all kids across all grades.

Also at the meeting, board members

approved a two-year contract for Kindle as the new superintendent.

Kindle's contract, approved in executive session, will pay him \$116,200 in the first year and \$121,200 in the second year. The contract also includes all benefits in accordance with other school district administrators.

Also on the agenda Monday, board members approved recommendations for the 2013 SDHSAA ballot. This included approving changes to Amendment One, approving a District II representative and a large group board of education representa-

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BRAD WOERNER

(we charge haulers to accept garbage into the landfill)? It's one ways. If we recycle more, we're making less money, so we have to compensate that with higher costs. Or do we pay the higher

citizens."

Those who are truly con-

While children are taught to recycle in school, they often stop following those lessons as they get older, he said.

she stated.

Yankton's citizens at this time.

we need to invest in this commu-

hearing at the July 8 meeting.

lying and information about school drills. "We changed some information on bul-

lying to give students and parents more information about how YMS is dealing with the issue," he said. "We also updated the

Board members also approved a

those changes.' He added that the writing standards

emphasis on language, which is based on "There are a lot of standards and ex-

for Congress in 2002 but won a spe cial election in June 2004. She was later re-elected to three full terms in the U.S. House before losing a reelection bid in 2010 to Republican Kristi Noem.

The only announced candidates for Johnson's seat are former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds and Democrat Rick Weiland, an ex-staffer for former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

Speculation among Democrats in recent months has centered on whether Herseth Sandlin or Johnson's son, Brendan Johnson, would run for the seat. Brendan Johnson has also been encouraged to run for the Senate seat, but he has refused to comment on any political plans, saying he remains focused on his job as U.S. attorney for South Dakota.

Johnson repeated Monday he doesn't believe it's appropriate for a U.S. attorney to make any kind of political statement.

'My only focus is on being U.S. attorney. That's where my attention is, on the job at hand," Johnson said.

Asked if he might leave the U.S. attorney's job and make an announcement later, Johnson said: "I'm not going to go there either."

When Weiland announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination last week, he said he decided to run because he's convinced that Brendan Johnson will not enter the race. Weiland ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1996.

South Dakota Democratic Party Chairman Ben Nesselhuf said Weiland would make a great nominee but that other Democrats might emerge to join Weiland in a primary because Rounds could be vulnerable in the general election.

"I think we're going to hold the seat. I'm still feeling pretty bullish on that," Nesselhuf said.

Rounds said he's prepared to take on any candidates who enter the race and his campaign will emphasize his record during his eight years as governor.

"I think most South Dakotans believe in results, and that's the focus we'll have," Rounds said.

Weiland issued a statement saying he respects Herseth Sandlin's decision to focus on her family and

job. "We should also hope, and be sure to tell Stephanie, that we would very much appreciate having the benefits of her public service again in the future," Weiland said.