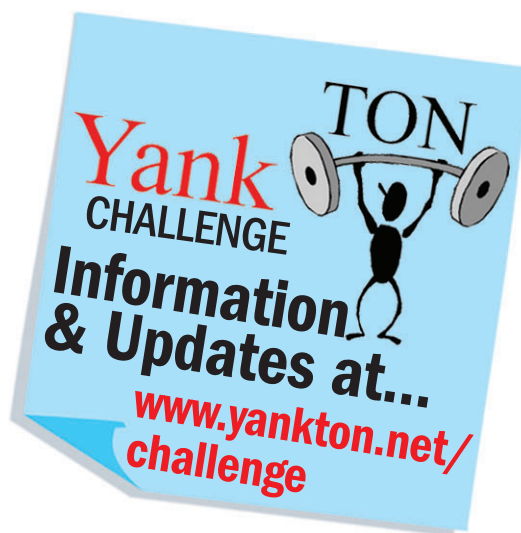




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City Set For 2012 Street Projects

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

As the sun begins to set on the 2011 construction season, the Yankton City Commission looked ahead Monday to some of next year's street projects.

Commissioners approved a funding agreement for the South Dakota Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Program that will help pay for the reconstruction of Douglas Avenue from 23rd Street to 25th Street, 15th Street from Burleigh Street to Whiting Drive and Summit Street from



Russell

Ninth Street to 15th Street.

"(These projects) are being funded in part with federal transportation dollars administered through the South Dakota Department of Transportation," City Manager Doug Russell said. "This agreement will identify that we're committing our portion ... and outlining who is responsible for various activities. Our percentage ends up being about 18.5 percent for the reconstruction of street and sidewalk sections."

The agreement was approved unanimously during the less than 30-minute commission meeting that involved little discussion of any of the agenda items.

At the beginning of the meeting, a proclamation was read for National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. Disability Awareness Day will be held Oct. 4 in Yankton.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- approved the \$38 million 2012 city budget;
• approved a Yankton Road Tax assessment rate of 40 cents per foot for streets and alleys. The rate is unchanged from 2011 and is expected to raise approximately \$329,000 in 2012;

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton Superintendent Dr. Joe Gertsema explains the need to tap into the general fund reserves during Monday's Yankton school board meeting. The budget for the 2011-12 year was officially adopted during the meeting.

Yankton School Board OKs 2011-12 Budget

District Taps \$1.7 Million From Its Reserves

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE shauna.marlette@yankton.net

Even with cuts of 11.5 teachers, an administrator, 11 para-professionals and three bus routes, the Yankton School District still faces a general fund budget deficit of \$1.7 million for the current school year — \$1.3 million of it due to cuts in state funding, superintendent Dr. Joseph Gertsema said during Monday night's school board meeting.

The 2011-2012 budget, which was adopted unanimously during the meeting, forces the school district to project the use of \$1.7 million in general fund reserve dollars to balance the budget.

"We are worried about (the status of the general fund reserve balance)," Gertsema said. "We are down at that 23 percent level and if we have to use \$1.7 million of it, we are going to be down into single digits. Quite frankly, we think we need to have 15 percent balance to cash flow the district each year. So, we are in an impossible situation. Unless there is a huge increase in state aid

"Unless there is a huge increase in state aid to the school, which we are not optimistic about at all — we are going to be in a real tough spot again (next year)."

DR. JOE GERTSEMA

to the school, which we are not optimistic about at all — we are going to be in a real tough spot again (next year)."

Gertsema said that determining the budget for the school has gotten progressively difficult in recent years.

"(The predictability of determining the school budget) really has gone away," Gertsema said. "What makes it very difficult and challenging is the part where the state has a state aid for

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President Would Hike Taxes For Jobs Plan

Tax Increases Would Target Wealthy; Republicans Balk

BY ERICA WERNER Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a sharp challenge to the GOP, President Barack Obama proposed paying for his costly new jobs plan Monday with tax hikes that Republicans have already rejected, and he accused them of political motives if they still refuse to go along.

"The only thing that's stopping it is politics," Obama declared.

The president's proposal drew criticism from House Speaker John Boehner, who'd previously responded in cautious but somewhat receptive tones to the \$447 billion jobs plan made up of tax cuts and new spending that Obama first proposed in an address to Congress last Thursday.

"It would be fair to say this tax increase on job creators is the kind of proposal both parties have opposed in the past. We remain eager to work together on ways to support job growth, but this proposal doesn't appear to have been offered in that bipartisan spirit," Boehner spokesman Brendan Buck said.

The biggest piece of the payment plan would raise about \$400 billion by eliminating certain deductions, including on charitable contributions, that can be claimed by wealthy taxpayers. Obama has proposed that in the past — to help pay for his health care overhaul, for example — and it's been shot down by Republican lawmakers along with some Democrats.

Yet by daring Republicans anew to reject tax hikes on the rich Obama could gain a talking point as the 2012 presidential campaign



Obama

moves forward, if not a legislative victory.

At a Rose Garden event Monday, Obama brandished his jobs bill in the air and surrounded himself with police officers, firefighters, teachers, construction workers

and others he said would be helped by it. Adopting a newly combative tone that's been welcomed by dispirited Democrats, Obama said he was sending the bill to Capitol Hill and demanded immediate action.

"This is the bill that Congress needs to pass. No games. No politics. No delays," Obama said.

"Instead of just talking about America's job creators, let's actually do something for America's job creators."

Obama told of reading a quotation in a newspaper article from a Republican congressional aide who questioned why Republicans should work with Obama since the result might just be to help the president politically. "That was very explicit," Obama said.

Buck, the Boehner spokesman, said the anonymous quote cited by the president didn't reflect the view of Republican leadership.

And even as Obama was accusing Republicans of playing politics, he and his Democratic allies were marshaling an aggressive political response of their own.

Obama was traveling to Boehner's home state of Ohio

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9/11 Forum: Deeper Public Discussion Needed

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — Life in the post-9/11 United States has been as defined by the conversations its citizens have not had as by the ones they have.

This was the consensus reached by participants in "9/11: 10 Years After," which took place Monday as part of the regular International Forum series in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota.

One of the big issues that has arisen in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, as well as the U.S.'s ongoing War on Terror, is the fine line between justice and vengeance — a point discussed by the Rev. Steve Miller, pastor of Vermillion's United Church of Christ and USD professor.

"Justice is a tradition in all of the Judeo/Christian/Islamic faiths, and the idea that people are responsible and how are we going to make someone responsible," Miller said. "But what happens in that fine line when we cross over from asking for justice and becoming vengeful? I don't hear us talking a lot about that."



Miller said he was reminded of this after the recent killing of Osama Bin Laden.

"It happened, and I think most of us thought, 'OK, that's a good thing,'" he said. "But I didn't hear a lot of public discourse about whether, spiritually speaking, that was appropriate. ... There was just a general assumption that that was what we wanted to do."

However, Miller said one of the few times he heard discussion regarding the moral implications of the killing was when he was talking to a group of middle school students, specifically a girl who asked, "Are we supposed to be happy if someone is dead?"

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Dr. Benno Wymar, Dr. Shane Nurdyke and the Rev. Steve Miller discuss the many impacts the Sept. 11 attacks have had on the United States over the past decade. The conversation was held Monday as part of the regular International Forum series in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota.

Favre Invited To Annual Governor's Pheasant Hunt

PIERRE (AP) — Longtime NFL quarterback Brett Favre has been invited to the annual governor's pheasant hunt in South Dakota.

A spokesman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Favre has not said whether he will participate in the event. Favre played last season with the Minnesota Vikings, but is no longer in the NFL.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's communications director, says many dignitaries and public figures have been invited to the hunt over the years. He says it's difficult to attract NFL players because the event takes place during the season.

Venhuizen tells KCCR radio that Favre would be a "good guest" for the hunt.

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