

# Cause of landfill fire remains a mystery

By Travis Gulbrandson

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The cause of last month's fire at the Vermillion Landfill is undetermined.

This was the consensus between five investigators, landfill manager Bob Iverson told members of the Vermillion City Council during a special meeting Monday.

The investigators also said the fire did not start due to faulty wiring, Iverson said.

According to City Manager John Prescott, the insurance company has not provided a total loss estimate yet, although City Finance Officer Mike Carlson said that based on historical costs, one estimate for the building and its contents is \$1.4 million.

"It's going to be a long process," Iverson said. "The insurance companies have HDR working on what it would cost to tear the building down ... and they're also working on what it would cost to replace the building and the bailer. They have another outfit doing the machinery."

Iverson said landfill workers go through the building each day to estimate how much personal property, including tools, was lost.

"We've got to write that down and figure out the cost of that, and then we'll turn it in to the insurance (company)," he said.

The fire occurred the morning of Oct. 22, and was discovered by employees arriving to work.



The baler building at the Vermillion Landfill stands charred after an early-morning fire Oct. 22. The cause of the fire is undetermined. (Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

"(The building) was just glowing red," Iverson said.

Among the equipment lost in the fire were a small loader, a truck and the baler.

A 2011 CAT 938G wheel loader also was lost, but the council voted to replace it with a 2012 CAT 938K wheel loader at its meeting Monday night.

"It got so hot in there it just burned everything," Iverson said. "There's not too much left in salvage value of any of the equipment."

Many of the beams in the frame of the building reflect this, sagging and warping due to the intense heat.

"It's really weakened the building," Iverson said. "The building inspector told us (not to) park anything around it, because high wind or a lot of snow could just bring it down."

The temperature also reduced the building's concrete floor to

something resembling powdery white gravel.

"(It was so hot) it started popping," Iverson said. "It takes 2,000 degrees for concrete to start doing that. It was also helped along when they sprayed the water in. The cold water hit the concrete and made it pop, too. So it was an awful hot fire."

Holes were also cut in the roof by emergency personnel to let the smoke out, and another hole was made in the door to shoot water in.

Despite all the damage, it could have been worse, Iverson said.

"The propane tanks were probably around 20 feet from the building, so they were within a hotspot area, but they were being taken care of," he said. "It was probably within a half-hour to an hour of taking the office building. It was starting to come into the breezeway that's between them, but they got that out."

When a new bailer building is constructed, it

probably won't be in the same place as the old one, Iverson said.

"In our future plans, we planned on moving the building anyway, so if we have to move it, maybe we should move it to a place where we won't have to worry about it," he said.

Until then, the landfill is still being used, albeit without the bailer.

"Right now, it's the old-fashioned way of what we used to do," Iverson said. "We haul it up ourselves. Our dozer is equipped to pack garbage. It's not the best way, but it can handle it."

It will take "at least a year" before the landfill gets back to where it was, he said.

"If we decide to go with the bailer and stuff, that's going to take six to seven months to get a bailer. ... They're pretty expensive, so they usually don't build them until they have an order," he said.

Iverson extended his thanks to the fire departments from Wakonda, Volin, Gayville and Vermillion for their aid in extinguishing the blaze.

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## 1101 Announcements - Events

**Al-Anon meets Monday** night at 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Church, 10 Linden Ave. Call 605-624-4166 for information.

**Announcing Freedom Church** in Jefferson, SD. Powerful worship and a life-changing message. Join us at the Jefferson Community Center Sunday mornings at 10:30am as a live band leads us in contemporary worship and a relevant teaching message from Life Church . T V . www.facebook.com/FreedomChurchSD.

**BERGEN LUTHERAN Church:** "The little white church on Timber Road." Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert

**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** Catholic Church, 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**BRULE Creek Lutheran Church,** Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am.

**CHRIST OUR SAVIOR** Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234

**CHURCH OF CHRIST,** 102 Prospect: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m.

**Concordia Lutheran Church** (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service - Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School - Sunday, 9:20 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham.

**CORNERSTONE CHURCH:** Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Summer Hours: Service: Sunday - 9:00 or 10:30am; During school year: Impact for Kids (5-11), Wed - 6:00pm-7:30pm; FCA/Impact: College Youth & Adults, Wed - 7:30pm-8:30pm. Begining 9/19/12. Check us out at Cornerstonesd.org or (605)624-8809.

**DALESBURG BAPTIST Church** 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Regehr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622.

**Dalesburg Lutheran Church:** 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org

**GOSPEL CHAPEL Church,** 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335.

## 1101 Announcements - Events

**Do you have** a desire to stop drinking? Join us at the Vermillion Unity AA Meetings held at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Sletwold Room (north entrance). Soaring Spirits group is Tuesdays at 7:30p.m., Happy Hour Group is Saturday at 7:30p.m., and a Steps & Traditions Study group is Sunday at 7:30p.m. All meetings are non-smoking and handicapped accessible.

**Driver Licensing Schedules:** Vermillion 7a.m.-5p.m. Thursday & Friday; Yankton 7a.m.-5:30p.m. Tuesday, Thursday & Friday; Elk Point 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesday; North Sioux City 8:45a.m.-4:30p.m. 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday. Call 1-800-952-3696 or visit www.state.sd.us/dps/dl for more information.

**Elk Point Baptist Church.** Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981

**EMPOWERING YOU** to take back your life. The Women Rising Support Group meeting weekly. Childcare is available upon request. Call 624-5311 for details.

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP** of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH:** 401 Main Street, Makell, NE. Worship: 10am. Sunday School: 9am. Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays. (605)658-0240 (home) (402)-692-3323 (church).

**Faith United Lutheran Church,** ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277.

**Sunday** Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th.

**FIRST BAPTIST Church** Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.

**GAYVILLE LUTHERAN Church:** Sunday School 10:15 a.m., Worship 9:00 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert.

**GRACE BAPTIST Church,** SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m.

**HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH** (C&MA) 1800 Constance Dr. West on Cherry just before you go down the hill. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m., May-August 10a.m., AWANA Sunday School small groups. 605-624-4862, www.hillside-cc.com

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### 91 (+/-) ACRES OF HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE STAR TWP. CLAY COUNTY LAND AT AUCTION

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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20TH 10:30 A.M.

**LOCATION:** From Wakonda, SD go 2 miles north, 1 mile east, and 1/4 mile north or from Jct. of SD Hwy 46 & SD Hwy 19 North (Viborg Corner) go 2 3/4 miles south on 456th Ave. (Auction held on site.)

**LEGAL:** N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 15-95-53 Clay County, SD.

- 91 (+/-) Acres (Subject to Survey) of powerful & all tillable land less the RRW.

- Soil Production Rating of 84.

- Annual Taxes TBD as this tract is parceled out of the whole SE 1/4.

- New buyer subject to 2013 Cash Rent lease for the 2013 crop year.

**TO VIEW THE PROPERTY:** We invite you to inspect this property at your convenience or visit www.wiemanauktion.com for a buyer's packet or call the auctioneers at 800-251-3111 and a buyers packet can be mailed out.

**TERMS:** Cash sale with 15% non-refundable down payment auction day with the balance on or before December 28, 2012. Warranty Deed to be granted. Owner's title insurance will be split 50-50. Seller to pay the 2012 taxes. New buyer will receive Landlord Possession at closing and is subject to the 2013 Cash Rent Lease. Sold subject to owner's confirmation and all easements, restrictions, and reservations of record. Come prepared to buy some outstanding land! Land Auction held on location!

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- The farm has a history of good corn, soybean, and alfalfa production

For Property Details, Contact:

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