

Sweeping private school voucher program tucked inside U.S. House GOP tax bill

IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

WASHINGTON — A national school voucher program got a step closer to becoming law Wednesday, as school choice continues to take heat across the United States.

The proposal in the U.S. House would allocate \$5 billion a year in tax credits for people donating to organizations that provide private and religious school scholarships and is baked into the Ways and Means Committee's piece of a massive reconciliation package to fund President Donald Trump's priorities.

The tax credit provision largely reflects the Educational Choice for Children Act — a sweeping bill that GOP Reps. Adrian Smith of Nebraska, Burgess Owens of Utah and Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana reintroduced in their respective chambers earlier this year.

The tax-writing committee advanced its measure Wednesday in a par-

ty-line vote. Republicans are using the complex reconciliation process to move the package through Congress with simple majority votes in each chamber, avoiding the Senate's 60-vote legislative filibuster, which would otherwise require bipartisanship.

"School choice" is an umbrella term centering on alternative programs to one's assigned public school. While proponents have argued that school choice programs are necessary for parents dissatisfied with their local public schools, opponents say these efforts drain critical funds and resources from school districts.

At a press conference Wednesday, Rep. Elise Stefanik praised the Educational Choice for Children Act, which she co-sponsored in the House.

The New York Republican said the bill is "a transformative piece of legislation that will expand educational opportunities for children

across our nation."

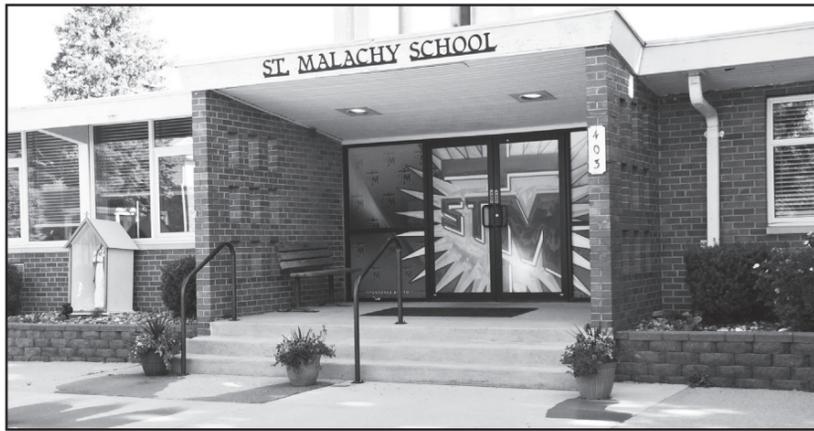
"For too long, students, especially those from underserved communities, have been trapped in failing school systems," she said, adding that "school choice gives students the opportunity to succeed" and "is the great equalizer."

\$20 billion tax credit over 4 years

The tax panel's proposal includes a \$20 billion total tax credit, which would be made up of a \$5 billion tax credit annually between 2026 and 2029.

The scholarships would be available to students whose household incomes do not exceed 300 percent of the median gross income of their area.

"This is opening the door to the federal government subsidizing a secondary private system of education that gets to pick and choose who it educates and how it educates kids," Sasha Pudelski, director of advocacy at AASA, The School Superintendents Association,



CNA file photo

Iowa private schools are already included in a state school voucher program.

told States Newsroom.

The association helps to ensure every child has access to a high quality public education.

"I think it's really important for folks to understand that we are opening this door for the first time to this kind of subsidy," Pudelski said.

The provision also comes as Trump has made school choice a major part of his education agenda.

He signed an executive order in January that gave the U.S. secretary of Education two months to offer guidance on how states can use "federal

formula funds to support K-12 educational choice initiatives."

More opposition

Organizations that advocate for students with disabilities, including the National Center for Learning Disabilities, the Council for Exceptional Children, the Center for Learner Equity and The Arc of the United States, fiercely opposed the bill, highlighting concerns that it is not sufficient in providing enforceable protections for students with disabilities and their families.

In a statement, Jac-

queline Rodriguez, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, said "the guarantee of rights and protections for students with disabilities using these vouchers is disingenuous at best and crooked at worst, without the other critical provisions of IDEA," or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

"It is quite possible that families with disabilities will use a voucher under the pretense that their child will have the same rights when in fact they do not," Rodriguez said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Estate of Ruben Hernandez; Jovana Hernandez; Spouse of Jovana Hernandez; Ruben Hernandez, Jr.; Spouse of Ruben Hernandez, Jr.; Sheila Hernandez; Spouse of Sheila Hernandez; State of Iowa, ex rel; Rocio Perez; Nebraska Furniture Mart, Inc. and Parties in Possession, Defendants.
EQUITY NO. EQCV019856

ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

To the above-named Defendants: **Sheila Hernandez and Spouse of Sheila Hernandez**
You are notified there was on March 6, 2025 filed in the Office of the Clerk of the above-named Court a Foreclosure Petition, which prays for foreclosure of a mortgage in favor of the Plaintiff on the property described herein and judgment in rem in the amount of \$119,769.34 plus interest at the rate of 5.75% per annum from August 1, 2024, such amount equaling \$18.87 per day, the costs of the action including title costs of \$265.00, and reasonable attorney fees and that said sums be declared a lien upon the following-described premises from September 30, 2022, located in Union County, Iowa, to-wit:

The South Four and eight hundredths (4.08) feet of Lot Three Hundred Ten (310) and all of Lot Three Hundred Eleven (311) and the vacated alley described as follows: The alley from the East line of Palm Street to the West line of the intersecting alley extending North to Summit Street, being a portion of the alley lying between and parallel to East Howard Street and East Summit Street, all in McDonald's North Addition (also known as McDonald's Addition, Section B, Continued), Creston, Union County, Iowa.

that the mortgage on the above-described real estate be foreclosed, that as a special execution issue for the sale of such of the mortgaged premises as is necessary to satisfy the judgment and for other relief as the Court may deem just and equitable. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Matthew E. Laughlin, whose address is The Davis Brown Tower, 215 10th Street, Suite 1300, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3993, Phone: (515) 288-2500, Facsimile: (515) 243-0654.

NOTICE
THE PLAINTIFF HAS ELECTED FORECLOSURE WITHOUT REDEMPTION. THIS MEANS THAT THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY WILL OCCUR PROMPTLY AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNLESS YOU FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE. IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND, THE SALE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL SIX MONTHS (THREE MONTHS IF THE PETITION INCLUDES A WAIVER OF DEFICIENCY) FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE AND IS A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING OR UNTIL TWO MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS NOT YOUR RESIDENCE OR IS YOUR RESIDENCE BUT NOT A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING. YOU WILL HAVE NO RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AFTER THE SALE. THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE WILL BE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY. YOU MAY PURCHASE AT THE SALE.
You must serve a motion or answer on or before the 12th day of June, 2025, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer, in the Iowa District Court for Union County, Iowa. You are notified that Union County District Court utilizes the Electronic Document Management System. You are directed to the Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing and, in particular, Division VI regarding the protection of personal information in court filings. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 515-286-3930. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942.) Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

IMPORTANT
YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.
Date of Third Publication: May 23, 2025

ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

To the above-named Defendants: **Curtis Lee Lamasters, Spouse of Curtis Lee Lamasters and Parties in Possession**
You are notified there was on 3/27/2025 filed in the Office of the Clerk of the above-named Court a Foreclosure Petition, which prays for foreclosure of a mortgage in favor of the Plaintiff on the property described herein and judgment in rem in the amount of \$276,377.17 plus interest at the rate of 3.25% per annum from August 1, 2023, such amount equaling \$24.61 per day, the costs of the action including title costs, and reasonable attorney fees and that said sums be declared a lien upon the following-described premises from March 22, 2022, located in Union County, Iowa, to-wit:

Lot Eighty-nine (89), EXCEPT that part of Lot Eighty-nine (89) described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot Eighty-nine (89) being the point of beginning, thence South Six and Sevenths (6.7) feet, thence West to a point Ten and one tenth (10.1) feet South of the Northwest corner of Lot Eighty-nine (89) thence North to the Northwest Corner of Lot Eighty-nine (89), thence East to the point of beginning, all in Swigert's North Addition to Creston, Union County, Iowa.

that the mortgage on the above-described real estate be foreclosed, that a special execution issue for the sale of as much of the mortgaged premises as is necessary to satisfy the judgment and for other relief as the Court may deem just and equitable. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Matthew E. Laughlin, whose address is The Davis Brown Tower, 215 10th Street, Suite 1300, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3993, Phone: (515) 288-2500, Facsimile: (515) 243-0654.

NOTICE
THE PLAINTIFF HAS ELECTED FORECLOSURE WITHOUT REDEMPTION. THIS MEANS THAT THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY WILL OCCUR PROMPTLY AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNLESS YOU FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE. IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND, THE SALE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THREE MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT. YOU WILL HAVE NO RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AFTER THE SALE. THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE WILL BE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY. YOU MAY PURCHASE AT THE SALE.
You must serve a motion or answer on or before the 19th day of June, 2025, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer, in the Iowa District Court for Union County, Iowa. You are notified that Union County District Court utilizes the Electronic Document Management System. You are directed to the Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing and, in particular, Division VI regarding the protection of personal information in court filings. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 515-286-3930. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942.) Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

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Date of Third Publication: May 30, 2025

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CRESTON CITY COUNCIL

MAY 6th, 2025

The Creston City Council met in regular session at 6:00 o'clock p.m. on the above date in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Complex with Mayor Waylon Clayton presiding.

Roll call being taken with the following Council members present: Scarberry, Wintermute, Graham, Worisek, Blazek and Madison. Thompson was absent.
A move was made and seconded to approve the agenda. All voted aye. Motion carried.
A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of minutes of April 15th, 2025 - Regular Meeting and Claims - \$250,639.75; Liquor License for A&G; Tobacco License Renewal for Casey's (Townline), Casey's (Summer), Casey's (Taylor), Fareway; Device License for Creston Tobacco LLC; Amusement License for Fraternal Order of Eagles-1398, Montgomery Street Pub., Mario's Bar and Grill; All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tionna Pooler, Independent Public Advisors, LLC, had an appointment to review Operational and Capital Improvement Financial Plan for Wastewater Treatment Plant. She came to speak about a 10% increase in 2026, Fiscal year 2027, on wastewater rates so that we can close on the loan due to increase in the Wastewater Nutrient Reduction Project.
A resolution was offered and seconded to approve Wastewater rate increase due to mandated Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A resolution was offered and seconded to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m. to amend Ordinance No. 25-10 by amending sewer service charges. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A resolution was offered and seconded to adopt the proposed Budget and Certify Taxes for Fiscal Year 2026. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

Dustin Rand had an appointment to discuss the redevelopment plans for 110-112 Maple Street (Agnew Building). He went over their current plans and some of the setbacks they are facing with the building.
A resolution was offered and seconded to set a Public Hearing for May 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., on the Amendment of the FY25. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A motion was offered and seconded to approve Elton Dan and the Rocket Band for the Party in the Park Event. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A resolution was offered by and seconded to approve Cintas Facilities Solutions Agreement servicing the Street Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Park & Rec Department, and Cemetery. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A resolution was offered and seconded to approve Change Order No. 2 for the Central Sewer Rehab. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A resolution was offered and seconded to approve submission of application for Iowa Department of Transportation Airport Funding and Certifying Eligibility requirements. All voted aye. Resolution passed.

A resolution was offered and seconded to approve grant application for funding utilizing Iowa DOT funds for the Terminal Building Project at the Creston Municipal Airport in

Creston. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The mayor and council discussed and reviewed the proposed Code of Conduct Ordinance. It was decided that they would discuss more and review other routes such as a policy instead of Ordinance.
No one moved or seconded the resolution to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m. to add Ordinance 25-11 regarding Code of Conduct. Resolution declared dead.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion passed. The council adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Waylon Clayton, Mayor
Attest:
Brandea Leach, City Clerk

This is a condensed version of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the Creston City Council. Copies of the complete version may be obtained at the Clerk's office during normal office hours.

CITY OF CRESTON

FUND REPORT FOR CLAIM PERIOD ENDING MAY 6, 2025:

REVENUES, BY FUND (4/1/25-4/30/25):	
GENERAL FUND.....	1,217,075.06
FRANCHISE FEE.....	50,843.79
COMMUNITY CENTER.....	9,032.37
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX.....	27,261.72
ROAD USE TAX.....	132,407.33
PAYROLL TAX	
BENEFIT.....	239,690.92
POLICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	600.00
FIRE/POLICE RETIREMENT.....	92,042.80
POLICE FORFEITURE.....	300.00
LOST-PROP TAX RELIEF.....	52,800.63
LOST-STR/SWR/RPR/RPLC.....	52,800.63
TIF-COTTONWOOD HOUSING.....	32,770.26
TIF-ECON DEVELOP.....	9,471.27
TIF-DOWNTON URBAN RENEWAL.....	3,982.22
RESTRICTED GIFTS-MCKINLEY PARK.....	930.00
RESTRICTED GIFTS-LIBRARY.....	1,181.44
DEBT SERVICE.....	89,031.76
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND.....	80,621.85
CNRG PROJECTS.....	2,954.00
SEWER OPERATING.....	100,842.80
SEWER DEBT SERVICE.....	32,576.87
SEWER STORMWATER.....	2,764.58
TOTAL.....	\$2,231,982.30
CLAIMS, BY TYPE:	
SERVICE:	
ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES.....	1,486.79
AHLERS & COONEY.....	684.00
ALLIANT.....	12,245.95
BRICK, GENTRY, BOWERS.....	2,072.46
CINTAS.....	572.15
CJ COOPER.....	165.00
CREST AREA THEATRE.....	780.00
CRESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.....	650.00
CRESTON CITY WATER WORKS.....	1,563.66
CRESTON PUBLISHING.....	629.59
DEWILD GRANT REKERT.....	4,600.00
Eocene ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP.....	15,300.00
EUFONINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING.....	1,993.00
F&M BODY SHOP.....	135.00
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU.....	200.00
GARY KELLEY.....	1,411.04
GREEN VALLEY PEST CONTROL.....	61.30
HADRONEX.....	4,419.00
HOUSTON ENGINEERING.....	3,046.75
IOWA ASSOC OF PROF FIRE CHIEFS.....	100.00
IOWA DEPT OF AG.....	9.00
*IOWA DEPT OF INSPECTIONS.....	200.00
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.....	250.00
*IPERS.....	63.03
*ISOLVED.....	701.23
J & A FLOORING.....	2,894.21
JOE'S PORTABLES.....	740.00
JOHNSON CONTROLS SECURITY.....	1,287.70
KONE INC.....	352.32
LYNCH DALLAS.....	461.12
NORTHLAND PRODUCTS.....	148.95
O'HARE, BRIANNA.....	556.25
ORR HEATING & A/C.....	1,221.50
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE.....	330.00
SIRWA.....	63.60
*SIRWA.....	69.96
*SISCO.....	4,124.18
US CELLULAR.....	133.74
VEENSTRA & KIMM.....	33,305.90

WASTE MANAGEMENT.....	117,055.68
*WINDSTREAM.....	572.51
SUPPLIES:	
AGRI LAND.....	110.00
AMAZON.....	344.01
BITUMINOUS MATERIALS.....	2,120.87
BOMGAARS.....	963.61
CENGAGE LEARNING.....	161.94
CODE 4 PUBLIC SAFETY.....	600.00
CRESTON MOTOR SUPPLY.....	880.46
ECHO.....	174.42
FASTENAL.....	364.25
GALLS.....	619.58
GET SOME GUNS.....	1,140.00
GLASCO UV.....	8,792.27
HD SUPPLY.....	137.68
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS.....	2,316.95
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES.....	585.45
IOWA DOT.....	3,628.62
IOWA TOOL & MFG.....	49.63
K & J HARDWARE.....	141.05
MC MASTER-CARR.....	25.29
NEW COOPERATIVE.....	301.50
NOAH PAL MOWING SYSTEM.....	2,440.00
RELIANT FIRE APPARATUS.....	69.90
SERVICE TECHS.....	399.98
SPRING VALLEY SHEDS.....	5,905.39
STALKER CDJR.....	192.05
STALKER CHEVROLET.....	22.00
UNION CO AUDITOR.....	201.48
WALMART.....	242.32
WARREN POWER ATTACHMENTS.....	391.16
PETTY CASH:	
PETTY CASH - CEMETERY.....	48.49
PETTY CASH - FINANCE.....	53.00
PETTY CASH - POLICE.....	61.35
REIMBURSEMENT:	
BRISTOW, JIM.....	63.04
JACKSON, TODD.....	229.90
MADISON, TERESA.....	42.50
MISCELLANEOUS VENDOR.....	100.00
WOLFE, JASON.....	63.04
PAYROLL:	
GROSS, INCL BNFTS (4/25/25).....	122,870.87
TOTAL.....	\$373,510.62
*MANUAL CHECKS/DEBITS CLAIMS, BY FUND:	
GENERAL FUND.....	154,483.28
ROAD USE TAX.....	12,956.17
PAYROLL TAX BENEFIT.....	5,155.41
POLICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	600.00
POLICE FORFEITURE.....	201.48
RESTRICTED GIFTS-LIBRARY.....	8,857.90
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND.....	3,046.75
SEWER OPERATING FUND.....	65,338.76
TOTAL.....	\$250,639.75

Meeting Minutes

Prairie Solid Waste Agency
1774 Lark Avenue,
Creston IA 50801

The PSWA monthly meeting was called to order May 7, 2025, at 5:17 PM by Co Chairman, Dennis Hopkins (Union County). The following members were present: Josh Thompson (Creston) and Dave Cunningham (City of Afton). Also in attendance: Janeen Frey (PSWA Manager), Trent Holliday (H&H Trucking) and Jim Hymbaugh (Hymbaugh Construction). At 5:25 Dustin Allison entered the meeting.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Thompson, to approve the presented Agenda. All voting aye, motion carried.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Thompson to approve the April 9, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

H & H Trucking hauled 1965.07 tons to Iowa Waste Services in Malvern.

Motion by Thompson, second by Cunningham to table employee salary increases until the next meeting when the Chairman of the Board is in attendance. All voting aye, motion carried.

New equipment building bids were discussed. We had a total of 4 bids.

Motion by Thompson, second by Cunningham to table the new equipment building until the next meeting when the Chairman of the Board is in attendance. All voting aye, motion carried.

Motion by Thompson, second by Cunningham to approve the April 2025 Fund Balances, Bank Transfers, Bank Statements & Claims. All voting aye, motion carried.

Afton Star Publication..... 173.16

Butterfield Equip Trailer Rental-Tornado.....	5800.00
Cintas	
AED.....	121.00
Creston News Advertiser Publications.....	191.35
H & H Trucking Hauling/Operations.....	61495.76
IDNR	
Tonnage Fees.....	17107.50
Iowa Waste Services Tipping Fee.....	49126.75
Liberty Tire Tire Disposal.....	2382.50
Scales Sales & Service Inspection.....	495.00
SCS Engineers Leachate & Inspection.....	3247.50
SIRWA Water.....	100.00
Visa Supplies/Meals.....	236.32
Wayne Dalton Door Repair.....	831.50
Windstream Telephone.....	250.00

NOTICE AND CALL OF PUBLIC MEETING

Governmental Body:
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Date of Meeting: May 20, 2025
Time of Meeting: 5:00 o'clock p.m.
Place of Meeting:
Creston City Council Chambers
116 W Adams Street
Creston, Iowa 50801

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-mentioned governmental body is meeting at the time and place listed above for the following purpose.

Parkway Heights Rowhouses LLC, has requested a variance from the number of off-street parking spaces requirements as stated in Chapter 168.07 of the Zoning Code of the 1996 Creston Municipal Code. Parkway Heights Rowhouses is requesting to place two - 16-unit multiple family dwelling units on the property described to-wit:

Lots 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, and the E-44 feet of Lot 112, and all of Lots 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 and the vacated alley lying south and adjacent to Lots 107 - 11, and lying north and adjacent to Lots 118 - 122, West Creston Section C, Creston, Union County, Iowa.

More commonly known 1001 W Jefferson Street, Creston, Iowa.

You are further notified that you may appear at the above time, either in person or by a duly authorized agent or attorney, to make any comments you wish concerning the proposed variance. If you are unable to attend in person, written comments will be received and given to the Board of Adjustment at the time of the meeting and will be made part of the public hearing in this matter.

Public Hearing on the issuance.

Resolution instituting proceedings to take additional action.

This notice is given at the direction of the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Chapter 21, Code of Iowa, and local rules of said governmental body.

Mike Taylor
Zoning Administrator

SICOG Executive Board Meeting of May 6, 2025

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office. Board members present were Akin, Davidson, Dunbar, Eckels, Fitch, Friday, Pantini, Risser, Walker and Zabel. Staff present: Brimm. Unless otherwise noted, all motions carried unanimously. Motion by Dunbar/Risser to approve the agenda. Motion by Fitch/Davidson to approve the minutes of the March