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(S.D.)-Hot Springs Voters Want City To Purchase Evan's Plunge



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 03/26/2013 08:18 PM

(Hot Springs)-Voters in the city of Hot Springs turned out on Tuesday to vote on whether they wanted the city to purchase a landmark in the community and take over operations. Harley Lux, Hot Springs City Administrator, said on Tuesday evening that after all the votes had been tallied, the majority of those turning out to vote want the City to make the purchase of Evan's Plunge.

Lux said there was a 30% voter turnout, which in this type of election with only one item on the ballot is a very good turnout. Of the 751 total votes, 380 of those votes were for the purchase, and 369 voted against it. As of 9 pm on Tuesday, Lux said there was discussion on the closeness of the results, and that one side or the other may possibly challenge the results and ask for a recount. However, it is too early to tell if that will happen.

The canvassing board will more than likely meet on Monday to finalize the results, at which time the vote would become official. If the yes votes follow through, the City would then take over a purchase agreement for Evan's Plunge, which has been a landmark and long-standing tourist attraction in the picturesque Black Hills community. Lux stated earlier on Tuesday that for the past two years, the Plunge has been closed during the winter, and the community has definitely seen an economic impact from that, with at least one restaurant closing its doors. If the City purchases the facility, they will re-establish the parks and recreation board, and keep Evan's Plunge open year round.

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