

Village of Wauneta, Nebraska

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wauneta, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 6:30 p.m. on **February 13, 2024**, at the Wauneta Village Office.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Chairman Johnston publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was held.

Present: Beau Kramer, Rick Einspahr and Page Johnston. Absent: Crystal Walgren and Bob Goings.

Guests: Michael Hoback (AMGL), Arlan Wine (Village Attorney) and RaNae Richardson (WCTC)

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on February 8, 2024, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these Minutes. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to the Chairman and all the Trustees and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of such notice is attached to these Minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the Chairman and all the Trustees. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Michael Hoback, AMGL, gave a presentation and reviewed the financial statements and audit report for the Village of Wauneta, for the year ending September 30, 2023. Hoback went through the report in detail with the Board. Hoback also reviewed several benchmarking ratios to show the Board how the Village of Wauneta compares to towns of comparable population.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on January 9, 2024. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve Treasurer's Report (January 2024) and approve bills (February 2024) as presented. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Water/Sewer

Nebraska Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Dec 2024	356.21
SWPPD	Utilities – Well 3	245.54
Patricia Crapson	Meter deposit refund	15.00
Adams Lumber	Repairs – water tower shed	82.99
BW Telcom	Internet/phone – SCADA system	142.15
Holiday Inn – Kearney	Conference – Lawless	235.90
HOA Solution	Repairs – well #1 and #3	2700.61
Lakeside Sand & Gravel	Fill sand- water main repair	408.16
Shane Lawless	Conference expenses	256.90
Miller & Associates	Prof fees – water tower project	2469.28
Municipal Supply	Water main repairs	110.00
Nebraska Public Health	Water test fees	35.00
Petty Cash	Postage	34.10
Pivot Electric	Repairs – well 3 VFD	165.00
Railroad Management Company	License Fees	126.38
SWPPD	Utilities – new wells	1144.19
Unitech	Chemicals	495.00

Utilities Section – League	Conference – Lawless	135.00
Walgreens Supermarket	Operating supplies	49.95
Water USDA Loan Reserve	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1339.00
Water/Sewer Insurance Fund	Transfer	800.00
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	290.33
American Agri Lab	Water test fees	45.50
Municipal Pipe Services	Repairs – water main break	7800.00
Power Tech	Generator service agreements	2150.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies	527.84

Electric

Village of Wauneta	Payroll – unused vacation hours	525.42
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – Dec 2023	9343.48
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/18	6525.67
Patricia Crapson	Meter deposit refund	35.00
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	134.41
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fee	223.52
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	1334.18
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 02/01	6132.12
Advanced Auto	Repairs, supplies	92.78
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	50.00
D&S Hardware	Chainsaw chain	27.99
Dutton-Lainson Company	Transformer – school	30900.98
Eakes Office	Copies	541.54
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1260.00
Bob & Carolyn Emerick	Energy incentive	1200.00
HealthiestYou	Insurance – Teladoc	28.35
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	40.64
Lincoln Financial Life	Life, A&D insurance	80.79
NASASP	Membership dues	39.00
Nebraska Public Power District	Power – Jan 2024	36680.34
Petty Cash	Postage	2.07
Railroad Management Company	License fees	126.38
SWPPD	Subtransmission chg	1333.40
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – Jan 2024	9215.23
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	749.28
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	50.00
Bomgaars	Supplies, sm. tools	75.98
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, sm. tools	472.30

Village Bills

Village of Wauneta	Payroll – unused vacation hours	996.35
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/18	2876.07
Nebraska Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – 2023	327.93
Village of Wauneta	Payroll - stipend & HSA	667.09
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 02/01	2541.08

Advanced Auto	Repairs, oil	137.59
Amazon Services	Books, office supplies	68.43
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
BW Telcom	Phone	614.74
Tina Barnard	Community bldg cleaning	72.00
Carquest of McCook	Fuel supplement	171.48
Chase County Clerk	Recording fee	10.00
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	1833.33
Eakes Office Plus	Office supplies	516.69
Great Plains Communications	Phone	58.13
Hometown Agency	Bond, Fire Dept life insurance	284.89
Hunter Heating & Cooling	Office furnace repairs	415.00
IIMC	Dues – Skelton	185.00
Imperial NAPA	Repairs	142.12
Imperial Republican	Publishing	244.00
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	34.35
NDEE – Fiscal Service	Pool permit	40.00
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies	18.10
Railroad Management Company	License fees	126.38
Scotties Potties	Pot cleaning	160.00
TKO Pest Control	Fire hall – pest control	70.00
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3035.00
Walgren Supermarket	Office supplies	20.25
Wauneta-Palisade School	Remit fees collected	30.00
Wauneta Chamber	Membership dues	50.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel	349.24
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	2283.41
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
Bomgaars	Office supplies	149.99
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, repairs	409.47
Keno Fund:		
Petty Cash	Postage	17.65

RaNae Richardson, Johnston and Einspahr gave a report of the December 2023 Wauneta Care and Therapy (WCTC) Financial Reports and Committee Meeting to the rest of the Village Board.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve updates to Employee Policy #9.0 “Holidays” for WCTC. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve new Employee Policy “Sick Leave Pay for Workers with a Positive COVID-19 Illness” for WCTC. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve the purchase of a new dryer for WCTC for \$6230.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the purchase of a new door alarm panel from Spectronics for \$1200.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

The Board reviewed the Chase County Sheriff's Report for January 2024.

The Village received a letter from the Chase County Commissioners regarding the Contract for Police Services with the Sheriff's Department. They are proposing an increase in the annual fee that the Village pays to Chase County, from \$22,000.00 to \$36,480.00. The Board discussed the proposal and will send several Board members to the next Commissioner's meeting to discuss the proposed increase further with the Commissioners.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve the updated "Emergency Plan" for the Village of Wauneta Water System. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve a wage increase for Amanda Ziegler (Library Director), from \$12.00 to \$13.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2024, based on the recommendation from the Library Board. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

The Village Board accepted Sharon Haarberg's resignation from the Library Board.

Agenda item to renew/update contract with Dan's Sanitation – have not received an updated contract. No action taken.

The Board reviewed and discussed a summary and analysis of current electric rates. The Board discussed and proposed implementing a 5% rate increase. Skelton will prepare the necessary ordinance and present it at next month's meeting. Skelton will also research having a formal rate study done.

The Board discussed a grant opportunity through Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corp (SWNCBC). The grant is for new home construction. Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to participate in the grant application with SWNCBC, committing to a \$25,000 cash match and donate a lot with infrastructure (if the grant is awarded). Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve write-off of past due utility accounts, in the amount of \$4115.41. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve hiring John Fuller as a seasonal employee (during winter months for snow removal) at a wage of \$18.00 per hour. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

The Board discussed the property at 167 N. Arikaree, which is a nuisance property. Notice has been sent to the appropriate parties and no response has been received. The Village will move forward with Nuisance Abatement as proposed.

The Board discussed the Office elevator which has been out of service for some time. The Village received a quote from Schindler Elevator to replace the obsolete board and selector (cost of \$19,000.00). We will investigate additional options to have it repaired.

Clerk's Report given by Skelton.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

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Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm. Voting Aye: Kramer, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Goings. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk