

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 **April 14, 2026**, 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: Kathy Kerchal, Jake Maris, Rick Einspahr, and Page Johnston. Beau Kramer arrived at 6:50.

Guests: Michael Hoback (AMGL), Luke Curl, Jack McGraw, Michelle Harchelroad, Arlan Wine (Village Attorney)

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on April 9, 2026, 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Clerk Skelton administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed trustee, Jacob Maris.

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, 2025. Hoback went through the report in detail with the Board. Hoback also reviewed several benchmarking ratios to show how the Village of Wauneta compares to towns with comparable populations. Hoback suggested that the Village review current utility rates to ensure they are adequate to cover expenses and debt service payments.

The Board visited with Tom Gibbens, Gibbens Tree Service, via phone call. Gibbens has been spraying the Riverside Cemetery every summer for several years. The Board had requested a report on the goals and scope of the tree spraying program. Gibbens stated that some of the trees are being treated for Zimmerman Pine Moth and some trees are stressed due to drought; he would recommend that annual spraying should continue to save the trees. The Board gave approval for the first spraying and would like to get a second opinion after that.

Discussions continued regarding the request from Luke & Hannah Curl for new electric service, for a lot east of Wauneta but within the Village service area. Lawless obtained a second estimate from a contractor for the cost of adding the new service. Michelle Harchelroad was present and would also like to check into adding service for lights to her property which is in the same vicinity as the Curl's are looking to add service. Lawless will reach out to the contractor to see if they can provide a layout for how they plan to provide electricity for new service. Discussion was also held regarding possible restrictions or requirement for lighting close to the highway.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on March 10, 2026. Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Kerchal, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on March 30, 2026. Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Einspahr, to approve Treasurer's Report (March 2026) and approve bills (April 2026) as presented. Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Water/Sewer:

NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Feb 2026	326.78
Bomgaars	Supplies	31.98
SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	224.65
Reese West	Meter deposit refund	50.00
Adams Lumber	Supplies – lagoons	120.67
American Agri Lab	Water test fees	57.56
BW Telcom	SCADA – internet & phone	144.81
Frenchman Auto	Tire repair – water trailer	30.00
Imperial Republican	Publishing	35.04
NE, KS & CO Railway	Railroad crossing fees	1113.44
SWPPD	Utilities – new wells	523.16
Water USDA Loan Reserve	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1337.00
Water/Sewer Insurance Fund	Transfer	1370.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Supplies, repairs	20.48
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	154.70

Electric:

Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 3/12	8415.59
Todd Barnard	Meter deposit refund	74.72
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 3/26	8063.35
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Feb 2026	3779.68
Reese West	Meter deposit refund	100.00
Jack McGraw	Meter deposit refund	138.93
Taylor Hiatt	Meter deposit refund	105.69
Jesse West	Meter deposit refund	74.72
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fees	577.67
Intuit	Quickbooks fees	894.61
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	1998.80
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 4/9	8563.88
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	75.00
Bomgaars	Operating supplies	67.96
Dutton-Lainson	Operating supplies	1600.82
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1570.00
Harchelroad Motors	Grapple	78.48
Healthiest You	Supplemental insur – Teladoc	37.80
HomeTown Agency	Insurance – 2012 Ford pickup	149.00
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	45.21
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	150.29
NASAP	Membership dues	39.00
Nebr Public Power District	Power – March 2026	21200.72
One Call Concepts	Diggers hotline locates	16.40
Petty Cash	Postage, equip	212.00
SWPPD	Subtransmission charge	1364.59
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies	385.20

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Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	328.72
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – March 2026	9997.92
Premier Power	Elec upgrades – regulator & poles	19100.00

Village:

Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 3/12	2084.31
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 3/26	2168.53
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	666.28
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 4/6	2657.23
Amazon Capital Services	Books	193.85
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
BW Telcom	Phone	628.78
Bomgaars	Park – grass seed	54.99
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	3131.20
Dan's R Us	Ambul bldg. – trash service	29.17
Eakes Office	Office supplies	299.45
Great Plains Communications	Phone	58.51
Imperial Republican	Publishing	218.29
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	39.64
NMC	Repairs	1841.81
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies	50.72
Scotties Potties	Pot cleaning	80.00
Sinner's Truck Alignment	Tires – dump truck	1307.41
Evelyn Skelton	Reimb – rake tines	102.24
Van Diest Supply	Chemicals, fertilizer	1337.95
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3340.00
Wally's Lawn & Sprinklers	Spray chemical – park	720.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, repairs, supplies	234.62
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	1736.23
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00
Wauneta Chamber	Planter	125.00

Water/Sewer Building Fund:

Southwest Title Company	Land purchase – lagoon expansion	12812.25
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Transfer Account:

MMM Appliances	Appliances – Community building	1000.00
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Johnston reviewed Nursing Home Financial Reports for February 2026 and the Committee Meeting Report with the Village Board.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kerchal, to update the authorized signers for Wauneta Care and Therapy Center bank accounts as follows:

Remove: Darr Stehno & Crystal Walgren.

Current signers will be:

RaNae Richardson, Administrator, WCTC

Karen Reynolds, Business Office Manager, WCTC

Elisabet Browne, DON WCTC (checking accounts only)

All Village Board Members: Page Johnston, Rick Einspahr, Beau Kramer, Kathy Kerchal, Jacob Maris

Evelyn Skelton, Village Clerk

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Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Sheriff's Report (March 2026) was reviewed by the Board.

Kramer reported that Chase County has finalized the purchase of a building to relocate the Wauneta EMS. The building is on east Highway 6. The Board reviewed bids for installation of new water and sewer services to the building:

- Hondo Fanning Construction - \$12,150, installation of a septic tank and plumbing to the building.
- Holm's Well Drilling - \$11,996.03, drill well for water supply.
- Brophy Electric - \$2,850, power supply for well.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Maris, to approve the Village paying for the installation as presented. Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

The Board will continue to work with the County to update the interlocal agreement between the Village and the County for Ambulance Services.

Johnston reported that the land purchase related to the Wastewater lagoon project has been finalized. Skelton will contact Gerg Wolford, W Design Associates, to see what our next steps in the project should be.

Clerk's Report was given by Skelton.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

Motion made by Maris, seconded by Kramer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Voting Aye: Kramer, Maris, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk