

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 10, 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: Beau Kramer, Kathy Kerchal and Page Johnston. Rick Einspahr arrived at 8:30 p.m.
Absent: Crystal Walgren

Guests: Wendy Moe (Chase County Clerk), Shaylee Lippincott, Jess Kerchal and Arlan Wine (Village Attorney).

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on February 5, 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 hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Kerchal, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on January 13, 2026. Voting Aye: Kramer, Kerchal and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Einspahr. Motion approved.

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

Water/Sewer:

NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Dec 2025	335.28
USDA Rural Development	Water Bond loan payment	9031.00
Harland Clark	Banking supplies	50.00
SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	248.12
Mark Hamilton	Meter deposit refund	50.00
ASAP Express	Water sample delivery	20.00
American Agri Lab	Water test fees	57.56
BW Telcom	Internet/phone for SCADA	144.89
Eakes Offices	Copies	634.39
HOA Solutions	Notification subscription	372.75
Shane Lawless	Conference expenses	235.48
Municipal Supply	Operating supplies	1335.00
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies	54.70
SWPPD	Util – new wells	527.16
Util Section – League of Nebr	Snowball conference	170.00
W Design Associates	Prof Fees – Wastewater facility	1389.37
Water USDA Loan Reserve	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1339.00
Water/Sewer Insurance	Transfer	1370.00

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Wauneta Crossroads	Repairs, supplies, fuel	679.66
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	232.14
Holiday Inn – Kearney	Conference – Lawless	259.90
Pivot Electric	Repairs – north well	438.82

Electric:

Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/15	9137.01
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – unused vacation hours	2255.56
Merrill Maris	Meter deposit refund	10.00
Jan Coone	Net metering credit – 2025	243.26
Rhonda Howard	Meter deposit refund	26.13
Mark Hamilton	Meter deposit refund	100.00
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Dec 2025	3447.52
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/29	10293.24
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fee	366.09
Intuit	Quickbooks fees	37.28
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – Stipend/HSA	2000.49
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	75.00
Bomgaars	Small tools	64.99
Border States Industries	Operating supplies	1419.22
Core & Main	Electric meters	5329.26
D&S Hardware	Repairs – pole saw	180.86
Dutton-Lainson Company	Supplies – single phase meters	568.91
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1570.00
HealthiestYou	Insur – Teladoc	37.80
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	90.42
Lincoln Financial Life	Life, A&D insurance	154.46
Nebr Public Power District	Power – Jan 2026	30563.85
Railroad Management Co	License fees	458.76
SWPPD	Subtransmission chg	1485.60
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies, repairs	287.64
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	356.80

Village:

Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/15	2245.46
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – unused vacation hours	1437.90
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 01/29	2038.43
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	667.21
Amazon Capital Services	Books	243.26
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
BW Telcom	Phone	628.10
Tina Barnard	Community building cleaning	54.00
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	3131.20
Eakes Office Plus	Office supplies	293.18
Frenchman Valley Mutual Aid	½ Mutual aid dues	75.00
Great Plains Communications	Phone	58.51
Harchelroad Motors	Repairs – dump truck	147.00

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HomeTown Agency	Bond – Skelton	100.00
Hunter Heating & Cooling	Repairs – fire hall furnace	926.69
Imperial NAPA	Supplies	57.84
Shane Lawless	Pesticide class	247.08
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	41.15
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies	21.46
Southwest Clerk’s Assoc	Dues – Skelton	10.00
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3340.00
W Design Associates	Street Superintendent 2025	1000.00
Wauneta Chamber	Dues	50.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies, repairs	284.22
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	2079.92
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00
Dan’s R Us	Trash serv – Ambul bldg.	29.17
Imperial Republican	Publishing	142.87
Nebr DWEE	Pool permit	40.00
Highway Fund:		
Chamberlain Concrete	Street repair – Shawnee	973.00
Keno Fund:		
Petty Cash	Postage	20.50

Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk, presented a request to use the Wauneta Community Building as a polling site for future elections (both Primary and General). The Village will make the building available to the County Clerk for use as a polling site. The Board acknowledged that the Village will not charge for the use of the building.

Shaylee Lippincott was present to discuss efforts to establish a new daycare in Wauneta. She presented information about several potential grants, including a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that could support the development of a childcare center. Eligible applicants for the grant would include the Village.

Marla Marx, with the USDA Rural Development, gave a presentation (via Microsoft Teams) about a program called the Rural Economic Development Grant (REDG). The application would need to be submitted by the Village on behalf of one or more projects (recipients). The funds are then loaned to a project/recipient.

Kramer reviewed Nursing Home Financial Reports for December 2025 and the Committee Meeting Report with the Village Board.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to approve the purchase of an Electrotherapy Device for the Physical Therapy Department at the Nursing Home, for a cost of \$2595.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Kerchal and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Einspahr. Motion approved.

The Board reviewed the January 2026 Sheriff’s Activity Report.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Kerchal, to approve the purchase of a 2012 Ford F150 XLT Crew Cab pickup, from Frenchman Auto, for a cost of \$9250.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Kerchal and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Einspahr. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Kerchal, to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition and for the protection of public interest. The Village Board entered executive session at 7:35 pm. Voting Aye: Kramer, Kerchal and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren and Einspahr. Motion approved.

The Village Board came out of executive session at 7:54 pm.

The Board discussed a second grant opportunity through Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corp (SWNCBC). The grant is for new home construction. The grant would require the Village to provide a lot, infrastructure, and an estimated cash match of \$25,000. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

The Board discussed a complaint received regarding a nuisance property and next steps to take to address the nuisance. Lawless and Skelton will move forward and contact the property owner.

The Board discussed the pending vacancy on the Village Board of Trustees (Crystal Walgren's position). The length of the unexpired term will be until December 31, 2026. Johnston nominated Luke Curl to fill the vacancy but noted that while Curl currently lives within the Village limits, he is planning to move outside of the limits which would disqualify him from serving on the Board. Voting to approve the nomination: Voting Aye: none. Voting Nay: Kramer, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Absent: Walgren. Nomination failed. Skelton will advertise the vacancy again, and the Board will address the issue of filling such vacancy at the next meeting.

Ambulance Building Committee – Kramer gave a report on the status of the continued efforts of the Chase County Commissioners and the Wauneta EMS to identify a location for a new Ambulance building.

Clerk's Report was given by Skelton. Skelton reported the Tangie Dinnel has resigned from the Billing Clerk position. Skelton discussed future office hours due to staff shortage; and discussed a possible future Housing Study.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Voting Aye: Kramer, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Walgren. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk