

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 **July 8, 2025**, at the 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, Crystal Walgren, Kathy Kerchal, Rick Einspahr, and Page Johnston.

Guests: John Krajewski (JK Energy Consulting), Edward Dunn (West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) Executive Director), and RaNae Richardson (Wauneta Care and Therapy Center (WCTC) Administrator).

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on July 3, 2025, 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.

John Krajewski, JK Energy Consulting (JKEC), presented the 2025 Cost of Service/Rate Design Study. JKEC reviewed the financial performance of the Wauneta Electric Utility to develop rates that reflect the cost of service and accomplish other goals established by the Village. JKEC recommends that Wauneta implement an 8% rate increase on Oct 1, 2025 and an 8% rate increase on Oct 1, 2026. And further recommends the Village conduct an updated study to assess needs after that.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on June 10, 2025. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Walgren, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on June 18, 2025. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the Treasurer's Report (June 2025) and approve bills (July 2025) as presented. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Water/Sewer

SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	156.65
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – May 2025	327.61
American Agri Labs	Water/sewer test fees	260.08
BW Telcom	SCADA – phone & internet	144.83
Hondo Fanning Construction	Repaired water line	553.00
Nebraska Public Health	Water test fees	260.00
Petty Cash	Postage	55.65
Pioneer Research Corp	Chemicals – En Solv	523.40
SWPPD	Utilities – new wells	1,173.19
Water Loan Reserve Fund	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1,338.00

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Water/Sewer Insurance Fund	Transfer	1,370.00
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	135.18
Imperial Republican	Publishing – CCR	501.00
Electric		
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 6/19	9,051.90
Jason Arellano	Meter deposit refund	42.57
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fees	353.27
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – May 2025	2,149.29
Intuit	Quickbook fees	59.64
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend, HSA	1,998.84
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 7/3	9,575.92
American Heritage Life Insur	Accident insurance	75.00
Cleve Anderson	Energy incentive	400.00
Dutton-Lainson	Operating supplies	671.20
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1,570.00
Frenchman Auto	Tire repair	30.00
Healthiest You	Supplemental insurance – Teladoc	37.80
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	45.21
JK Energy Consulting	Electric rate study	5,500.00
Lincoln National Life Insur	Life, A&D insurance	124.21
Nebr Power Review Board	Annual assessment	98.28
Nebraska Public Power District	Power – June 2025	16,541.42
One Call Concepts	Diggers hotline locates	6.95
Power Manager	Billing supplies	713.08
SWPPD	Subtransmission charge	1,485.60
US Post Office	Postage	852.60
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, tools	1,096.11
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	217.67
Wesco Receivables	Supplies	148.14
Village Bills		
Village of Wauneta	Payroll - pool p/e 6/18	4,740.74
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – p/e 6/19	2,506.66
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	666.26
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – p/e 7/3	2,429.47
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – pool	5,973.06
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
Arnold Pool Company	Pool –chemicals	134.45
BW Telcom	Phone, office equip	838.72
Barco Municipal Products	Signs	1,891.40
Tina Barnard	Comm bldg – cleaning	72.00
Bomgaars	Supplies	202.99
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	3,040.00
Hannah Curl	Pool – chemicals, supplies	201.00
Eakes Office	Office supplies	165.92
Einspahr Construction	Ambul bldg. – meeting room roof repairs	2,643.84

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Frenchman Auto	Battery – fogger	64.95
Great Plains Communication	Phone	58.31
Imperial City Utilities	Community cleanup, Starnes	377.20
Junior Library Guild	Books	175.00
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	34.35
Lincoln Winlectric	Office – lights	415.35
Petty Cash	Postage	21.08
Scotties Potties	Pot cleaning	80.00
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3,340.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, repairs, sup, pool	1,175.60
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	1,550.95
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00
Dan's R Us	Pool, ambul, town, starnes	2,098.82
Imperial Republican	Publishing	194.51
Nebr State Fire Marshall	Boiler inspection	81.00
Highway Fund:		
Way Trucking	Alley Rock	928.54
Keno Fund:		
Arnold Pool Company	Ladder steps – diving boards	1,005.95
Wauneta Crossroads	Propane – pool heater	889.18
Nursing Home Acct:		
Imperial Republican	Publish – special meeting	24.96

Kerchal, Einspahr and RaNae Richardson reviewed the Nursing Home Financial Reports for May 2025 with the Village Board and gave a report on the Committee meeting held on July 7, 2025.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the proposed increase to the WCTC Daily Level of Care Rates (each level increased by \$10.00) effective September 1, 2025. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve WCTC employee wage increases for Liz Arellano, Rene Maris, and Marcos Ramirez, based on the recommendation of Administration. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Reviewed the Sheriff's Report for June 2025.

Edward Dunn, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Nuisance Abatement Program, which WCND offers.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Kerchal, to approve a proposal for the expansion of the walking path at the park, to connect the path from the top playground to the gazebo and then on to the west side of the existing walking path. The expansion will be concrete, and the Village will pay for an ADA path from the walk to the west side of the tennis courts (\$2,314.00) and the remainder will be funded with memorial funds (\$12,104.00). Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the request for a Special Designated Liquor License, received from Good Times Bar & Grill LLC, for Harvest Fest, to be held outdoors at 318 N

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Tecumseh, on Saturday July 26th, 2025, from 6:00 am to 11:59 pm. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Discussion on ongoing nuisance properties.

Johnston provided an update on the committee meeting with the Chase County Commissioners and Wauneta EMT's regarding Ambulance Building renovations.

Clerk's Report was given by Skelton.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kerchal, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk