

Village of Wauneta, Nebraska

Public Hearings and a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wauneta, Nebraska, were held on **September 12, 2023**, at the Wauneta Village Office.

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:30 pm, the purpose being to hear comments for and against the 2023-2024 Annual Budget.

Skelton gave a presentation of the Budget Report. No members of the public commented.

The Public Hearing for the budget closed at 6:36 pm.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wauneta, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 6:36 pm on **September 12, 2023**, at the Wauneta Village Office.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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: Crystal Walgren, Rick Einspahr and Page Johnston. Beau Kramer arrived at 7:45 pm.  
Absent: Bob Goings.

Guests: Arlan Wine (Village Attorney), Lonnie & Sheila Alexander, Leanne Klein (Wauneta EMS), Kris Matthews (Dundy County Hospital), Wayne Christner.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on September 7, 2023, 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.

Public Hearing opened at 6:37 pm, the purpose being to hear comments for and against the property tax request. No comments.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:38 pm.

The Village Board heard a request from Lonnie & Sheila Alexander, to obtain a parcel of Village property which is between two lots that they own. The Village Board will consider their proposal. Clerk Skelton will research ownership of the parcel in question.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on August 8, 2023. Voting Aye: Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Kramer and Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve Treasurer's Report (August 2023) and approve bills (September 2023) as presented. Voting Aye: Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Kramer and Goings. Motion Approved.

**Water/Sewer**

|       |                         |        |
|-------|-------------------------|--------|
| USPS  | Postage – water samples | 267.00 |
| SWPPD | Utilities – well 3      | 146.10 |

September 12, 2023

|                                 |                                  |           |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Kelly Doetker                   | Meter deposit refund             | 15.00     |
| NE Dept of Revenue              | Sales tax – July 2023            | 388.04    |
| Microsoft                       | Office 365 renewal               | 106.49    |
| Advanced Auto                   | Gloves, grease gun               | 90.79     |
| American Agri Lab               | Water test fees                  | 45.50     |
| BW Telcom                       | SCADA – phone & internet         | 141.21    |
| Frenchman Auto                  | Battery – generator              | 170.95    |
| Hondo Fanning Construction      | Street cut – water main leak     | 480.00    |
| Nebraska Public Health          | Water test fees                  | 273.00    |
| Petty Cash                      | Postage, supplies                | 94.23     |
| SWPPD                           | Utilities – wells                | 1,718.94  |
| Water – Loan Reserve            | Transfer                         | 400.00    |
| Water/Sewer Building Fund       | Transfer                         | 1,339.00  |
| Water/Sewer Insurance Fund      | Transfer                         | 800.00    |
| Wauneta Municipal Utilities     | Utilities                        | 178.25    |
| Walgren's Supermarket           | Supplies                         | 11.01     |
| Hydro Optimization & Automation | Lift station controls – balance  | 15,887.00 |
| <b>Electric</b>                 |                                  |           |
| NE Dept of Revenue              | Sales tax – July 2023            | 2567.60   |
| US Dept of Energy               | WAPA power – July 2023           | 11,280.08 |
| Village of Wauneta              | Payroll p/e 8/17                 | 6,089.71  |
| Kelly Doetker                   | Meter deposit refund             | 50.00     |
| Lincoln National Life           | Life, A&D insurance              | 80.79     |
| Merchant Bank                   | Credit card processing           | 241.28    |
| Village of Wauneta              | Payroll – p/e 08/31              | 6,094.16  |
| State of NE – DHHS              | LIHEAP – refund                  | 753.64    |
| Village of Wauneta              | Payroll – Stipend/HSA            | 1,332.54  |
| Advanced Auto                   | Supplies                         | 40.73     |
| American Heritage Insurance     | Accident insurance               | 50.00     |
| Dutton-Lainson Company          | Supplies                         | 1,033.09  |
| Electric Insurance Fund         | Transfer                         | 1,260.00  |
| Healthiest You                  | Supplemental insurance – Teladoc | 28.35     |
| Ideal Linen                     | Shop towels                      | 40.64     |
| Imperial NAPA                   | Supplies                         | 100.56    |
| Nebraska Public Power District  | Power – August 2023              | 22,122.78 |
| One Call Concepts               | Diggers hotline locates          | 8.72      |
| Petty Cash                      | Postage                          | 18.00     |
| SWPPD                           | Subtransmission charge           | 1,639.64  |
| Wauneta Crossroads              | Fuel, repairs                    | 376.66    |
| Wauneta Municipal Utilities     | Utilities                        | 299.77    |
| US Dept of Energy               | WAPA power – August 2023         | 9,961.03  |
| Walgren's Supermarket           | Supplies                         | 10.10     |
| Nebraska Department of Revenue  | Form 94 – Wast reduction fee     | 25.00     |
| <b>Village Bills</b>            |                                  |           |
| Village of Wauneta              | Payroll – p/e 8/17               | 3,574.19  |
| Lincoln National Life           | Life, A&D insurance              | 34.35     |

September 12, 2023

|                             |                               |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Perkins County Vet Hospital | Dog surrender                 | 70.00     |
| Village of Wauneta          | Payroll p/e 08/31             | 2,890.15  |
| Village of Wauneta          | Payroll – Stipend/HAS         | 666.28    |
| Advanced Auto               | Oil, repairs                  | 88.67     |
| American Heritage Life      | Accident insurance            | 25.00     |
| BW Telcom                   | Phone                         | 614.98    |
| Tina Barnard                | Cleaning – community building | 108.00    |
| Bomgaars                    | Maintenance, trimmer          | 398.95    |
| Center Point Large Print    | Books                         | 25.87     |
| Chase County Clerk          | Record ordinance              | 10.00     |
| Chase County Treasurer      | Police service contract       | 1,833.33  |
| Choice Plumbing             | Sewer line repairs            | 3,250.00  |
| DEMCO                       | Office supplies               | 87.99     |
| Dan's R Us                  | Dumpster – Harvest Fest       | 90.00     |
| Eakes Office Plus           | Office supplies               | 73.06     |
| Frenchman Auto              | Battery                       | 359.90    |
| Gibbens Tree & Lawn Service | Tree spraying                 | 1,950.00  |
| Great Plains Communication  | Phone                         | 57.47     |
| Hondo Fanning Construction  | Auger rental                  | 100.00    |
| Imperial Republican         | Publishing                    | 172.80    |
| Shane Lawless               | Fitting – pool repairs        | 75.79     |
| Meadowlark Lane             | Flowers                       | 37.28     |
| Nebr Municipal Clerks Assoc | Dues – Skelton                | 50.00     |
| Owen's True Value           | Supplies, repairs             | 73.95     |
| Petty Cash                  | Postage                       | 10.44     |
| Scotties Potties            | Pot cleaning                  | 80.00     |
| SW Clerk's Association      | Dues – Skelton, Dyer          | 10.00     |
| Susie's Creative Stitches   | Lifeguards – shirts           | 78.00     |
| Van Diest                   | Fertilizer                    | 291.50    |
| Village Insurance Fund      | Transfer                      | 3,035.00  |
| Wauneta Crossroads          | Summer reading program        | 3.89      |
| Wauneta Crossroads          | Fuel, supplies                | 931.51    |
| Wauneta Municipal Utilities | Utilities                     | 1,687.54  |
| Arlan Wine                  | Retainer                      | 300.00    |
| Walgren's Supermarket       | Office, supplies, dog kennel  | 91.55     |
| <b>Highway Fund:</b>        |                               |           |
| B&H Paving                  | Chip sealing                  | 20,736.00 |
| Way Trucking                | Gravel                        | 4,008.84  |
| <b>Park Account:</b>        |                               |           |
| ULINE                       | Fencing – pickleball          | 145.73    |
| <b>Keno fund:</b>           |                               |           |
| Petty Cash                  | Postage                       | 11.65     |
| <b>Community Building:</b>  |                               |           |
| Owen's True Value           | Interior painting             | 1,044.81  |

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve purchasing four (RABx34) flood lights for the basketball/pickleball courts (estimated cost \$235/each). Voting Aye: Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Kramer and Goings. Motion Approved.

The Village Board discussed the status of certain properties that have been identified to be nuisance properties. Village staff will follow up with letters for nuisance abatement. An abandoned vehicle has been identified and towed.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve and adopt the budget of the Village of Wauneta for the 2023-2024 year as evidenced by the budget setting the 2023 levy rate at 0.449999. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve Resolution No. 2023-02, setting the property tax request for the Village for the 2023-2024 year at \$128,664.91. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Walgren, seconded by Kramer, to approve an additional 1% increase in the total 2022-2023 funds subject to limitation. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve a "Grant of License" to the Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools. This will grant use of the Village right-of-way for parking and the school will maintain the curb and gutter. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the proposed change to the storm water drainage on Vinita and Shawnee, which involves upgrading the intersection of Vinita and Shawnee from asphalt to concrete. The Village will devote \$10,000 for cost-share with Wauneta-Palisade Public School. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Walgren, to approve the Lease Agreement between Dundy County Hospital and Wauneta Care & Therapy Center, for an Outreach Clinic at the Nursing Home on a part-time basis. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Leanne Klein, Wauneta EMS, presented the Board with a list of upgrades and repairs needed at the Ambulance Building. The Board requested that Leanne get more information on several of the bigger projects.

Clerk Skelton reported on nursing home Financial Reports (July 2023) and Committee Meeting Report.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the American Health Tech Agreement Addendum, in the amount of \$4,350.00, for additional training for Nursing Home Employees. The training is for software updates that need to be made. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve a wage increase of 5% for RaNae Richardson, Administrative Assistant at WCTC, as recommended by RHD. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

The Board reviewed the current mileage reimbursement policy for the Nursing Home and discussed proposed changes. No action was taken.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the wage increase for Julie Hardy, Office Manager, as recommended by WCTC administration. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Walgren, to approve the purchase of four (4) safety bollards, in the amount of \$580.00; and the purchase and installation of a carport to cover the HVAC units at the Nursing Home, in the amount of \$1,850.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

The Board reviewed the Sheriff's Report for August 2023.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the final invoice from Miller & Associates, in the amount of \$2,750.00, for Emergency Water Main Replacement. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). The agreement assigns Wauneta's WAPA allocation to NPPD for the sole purpose of delivering that energy via NPPD'S transmission system. The new TSA will align the delivery agreement with the new WAPA contract which becomes effective on October 1, 2024. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve Resolution No. 2023-01, a resolution setting rates for the Village mowing and abatement of nuisance properties. Rates and fees set as follows:

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Mowing and cleanup of nuisance property                            | \$200.00 per hour (minimum of \$200) |
| Disposal Fee - Cleanup Nuisance Property                           | Actual Cost                          |
| Independent Contractor hired to mow or abate the nuisance property | Actual Cost                          |

Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Walgren, seconded by Einspahr, to approve propane contracts with Wauneta Crossroads for 2023-2024 as follows:

- 1600 gallons @ \$1.43 per gallon (prepaid) for the Ambulance Barn
- 1600 gallons @ \$1.43 per gallon (prepaid) for the Community Building
- 1100 gallons @ \$1.43 per gallon (prepaid) for the Fire Hall

Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Superintendent Lawless gave an update on the cleaning and painting of the water reservoir to the Board. Currently working with Maguire Iron, Miller & Associates, and the USDA to coordinate the project.

Board Member Walgren gave a report on the painting of the interior at the Community Building, work done by the Wauneta-Palisade Cheerleaders. Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve paying the Wauneta-Palisade Cheerleaders \$450.00, for the painting of the interior of the Community Building. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Einspahr and Walgren were appointed as committee to review Village employee's wages.

Lawless gave a Superintendent's Report.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Goings. Motion Approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk