

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 **August 12, 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: Bob & Bonnie McBride, Hondo Fanning, RaNae Richardson (WCTC Administrator), Pam Bunker (Wauneta Senior Center), and Karen Pantera (Wauneta Senior Center).

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three locations within the Village of Wauneta, 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 Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on July 8, 2025. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on July 24, 2025. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

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

Water/Sewer

SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	163.41
Justin Haskins	Postage – water samples	188.40
Gloria Beekhuizen	Meter deposit refund	24.60
Jim & Jennifer Harris	Meter deposit refund	46.26
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies	138.46
Juan Amaya	Meter deposit refund	50.00
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – June 2025	334.41
American Agri Labs	Water test fees	57.56
BW Telcom	Phone/internet – SCADA	145.39
Justin Haskins	Postage – water samples	135.55
K-C Motor	Lift station pump – rebuild	1,910.06
League of Nebr Municipalities	Membership dues	455.00
Municipal Supply	Supplies	138.74
Nebraska Public Health	Water test fees	32.00
SWPPD	Utilities – new wells	1,373.95
TKO Pest Control	Pest control – well houses	90.00

Util Section – LMN	Membership dues	338.00
Water Loan Reserve Fund	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1,339.00
Water/Sewer Insurance Fund	Transfer	1,370.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Supplies	37.95
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	152.86
SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	159.61

Electric

NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – June 2025	2,192.38
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – June 2025	10,727.01
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 7/17	9,644.43
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fee	353.55
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 7/31	9,045.09
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – Stipend/HSA	1,998.82
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	75.00
Carquest of McCook	Shop towels	107.68
Dutton-Lainson	Operating supplies	3,894.08
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1,570.00
Frenchman Auto	Tire repair, hydro fluid	120.00
Good Times Bar	Lunch – power outage	95.85
Justin Haskins	Reimb – uniform	240.64
Healthiest You	Supplemental insurance – Teladoc	37.80
HomeTown Agency	Work comp audit adjustment	723.00
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	45.21
JK Energy Consulting	Electric rate study	1,500.00
League of Nebr Municipalities	Membership dues	455.00
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	124.21
Nebraska Public Power District	Power – July 2025	19,095.08
One Call Concepts	Diggers hotline locates	13.86
Premier Power	Pole replacement, upgrades	36,125.00
SWPPD	Subtransmission charge	1,485.60
US Dept of Energy	WAPA power – July 2025	12,148.14
Util Section – LNM	Membership dues	170.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies	647.93
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	293.77

Village Bills

Village of Wauneta	Payroll - pool	3,795.56
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – p/e 7/17	3,332.12
Village of Wauneta	Payroll - pool	4,944.93
Sandhills State Bank	Safe deposit box fee	15.00
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – p/e 7/31	3,303.82
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	666.26
Amazon Capital Services	Books	190.35
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
BW Telcom	Phone	876.47

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Barco Municipal Products	Sign supplies	298.93
Bomgaars	Supplies	113.96
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	3,040.00
Dan's R Us	Trash service	205.34
Eakes Office Plus	Office/oper supplies, copies	902.65
Frenchman Auto	Tires	320.00
Gibbens Tree Service	Tree spraying (x2)	4,005.00
Great Plains Communications	Phone	58.31
HomeTown Agency	Work comp audit adj	1,148.00
Imperial Fire Department	½ e-Dispatch	231.00
Imperial Republican	Subscription	39.00
League of Nebr Municipalities	Membership dues	455.00
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	34.35
MacQueen Equip	½ - service SCBA's	762.46
NMC LLC	Repairs	785.00
Nebr State Firefighters	½ - membership	347.50
Nebr Dept of Roads	Lease pymt – truck prkg	300.00
Nebr State Fire Marshall	Elevator inspection	120.00
Owens True Value	Repairs	19.99
Prairie State Communications	½ - programming radios	185.00
Scotties Potties	Pot cleaning	80.00
Evelyn Skelton	Mower parts	134.71
TKO Pest Control	Pest control	360.00
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3,340.00
Wauneta-Palisade Post Prom	Advert – calendars	55.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Pool – concessions	266.03
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies, repairs	1,372.91
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	1,977.67
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00

Keno Fund:

Petty Cash	Postage	20.40
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Kramer, Johnston and RaNae Richardson reviewed the Nursing Home Financial Reports for June 2025 with the Village Board and gave a report on the Committee meeting held on August 11, 2025.

Discussed purchase of an additional module from Point Click Care, the Nursing Advantage Module. An updated quote is needed from Point Click Care – possible purchase is tabled until next month.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Walgren, to approve the purchase of a new oven for the Nursing Home; a Vulcan commercial oven for \$4509.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Discussed purchase of an additional upright freezer; no action taken and tabled until next month.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kerchal, to approve the purchase of a new patient lift for the Nursing Home; Smart Lift model 500PN-05 for \$3611.76. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to approve the purchase of a new vital sign monitor for the Nursing Home; Welch Allyn monitor for \$1840.34. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

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

Remove: July Hardy & Bob Goings.

Current signers will be:

RaNae Richardson, Administrator, WCTC

Karen Reynolds, Business Office Manager, WCTC

Darr Stehno, DON WCTC (checking accounts only)

All Village Board Members: Page Johnston, Rick Einspahr, Beau Kramer, Kathy Kerchal, Crystal Walgren Evelyn Skelton, Village Clerk

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

Bob McBride requested that the Village redirect a certain water way/flow so that it doesn't go across his property. The Board will have our Street Superintendent, Greg Wolford, look into this and give suggestions.

Hondo Fanning presented a proposal for planting trees on main street (Tecumseh). No action taken.

The Board heard a request from the Wauneta Senior Center, Pam Bunker and Karon Pantera, for Keno funds for a new oven. The Senior Center will do more research on prices and present again at next month's meeting.

Reviewed the Sheriff's Report for July 2025.

Board member Kramer introduced Ordinance No. 2025-03, an ordinance establishing a schedule of rates to be charged for electric energy usage. The proposed ordinance reflects an approximate 8% increase to current rates for the next two years (based on the recommendation from JK Energy Consulting). Clerk Skelton read the Ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF WAUNETA, NEBRASKA, ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE OF RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR ELECTRIC ENERGY SOLD BY THE UTILITY SYSTEM; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND TO DECLARE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Discussion was held on said ordinance. Chairman Johnston closed the public discussion on Ordinance No. 2025-03.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, that the Statutory Rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended for consideration of said Ordinance. Chairman Johnston asked the question: "Shall the Statutory Rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended?" Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion Approved.

Skelton read the title of Ordinance No. 2025-03. Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Einspahr, to approve the final passage of Ordinance No. 2025-03. Johnston asked the question: "Shall Ordinance No. 2025-03 be passed and adopted?" Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion Approved. Johnston declared Ordinance No. 2025-03 duly adopted.

Walgren presented proposals for upgrades (exterior paint and new signage) to Municipal Buildings – Community Building, Fire Hall and Village Office, were reviewed and approved to move forward.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve Resolution 2025-03, a resolution assessing a property with a lien to secure payment of the cost of nuisance abatement (145 S. Sioux). Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

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Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kramer, to approve membership with West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) and annual dues of \$1365.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

The Board discussed establishing a policy for loaning/renting the Community Building sound system. No formal action taken.

Ambulance Building Committee - Kramer gave a report on meetings with the Chase County Commissioners and Wauneta EMS, and the assessment of possible Ambulance Building renovations.

Clerk's Report was given by Skelton. Tentative dates were given for starting the budget process; workshop on August 27th and Budget Hearing on September 23rd.

NPPD is proposing a new Wholesale Power Contract. Chris Hegert, NPPD, will be at the September meeting to review the contract with the Board.

NPPD will host a community meeting to address "Small Modular Nuclear Reactors" on August 29th, at the Community Building.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

Motion made by Einspahr, seconded by Kerchal, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk