

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 **March 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, Crystal Walgren, Kathy Kerchal, Rick Einspahr and Page Johnston

Guests: RaNae Richardson (WCTC Administrator), Arlan Wine (Village Attorney), Jake Maris, Luke & Hannah Curl, Rogan & Ashley Einspahr

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Imperial Republican on March 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 Einspahr, seconded by Walgren, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, held on February 10, 2026. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

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

Water/Sewer:

NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Jan 2026	328.35
SWPPD	Utilities – well 3	274.81
Craig Wicke	Meter deposit refund	18.60
AMGL	Audit Report 9/30/2025	2192.50
Advanced Auto	Repairs	45.96
American Agri Labs	Water test fees	117.56
BSB Construction	Water main repairs – Shawnee	3795.00
BW Telcom	Phone & Internet for SCADA System	147.25
Bomgaars	Repairs & maintenance	152.65
Imperial City Utilities	Water main repairs – Shawnee	355.00
Miller & Associates	Water maps	135.00
Municipal Supply	Manhole lid tool	895.00
Nebr Public Health	Water test fees	446.00
Pioneer Research Corp	Sewer degreaser	627.19
PowerTech	Service generator – well 3	1555.13
Pye-Barker Fire Safety	Backflow device testing	285.00
SWPPD	Utilities – new wells	786.76
Water USDA Loan Reserve	Transfer	400.00
Water/Sewer Building Fund	Transfer	1337.00
Water/Sewer Insurance Fund	Transfer	1370.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Operating supplies	36.77

Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	264.67
Electric:		
NE Dept of Revenue	Sales tax – Jan 2026	3550.49
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – Jan 2026	10745.66
Frenchman Auto	2012 Ford F150 Pickup	9250.00
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 2/12	8579.45
Carleigh Lewis	Meter deposit refund	50.29
Craig Wicke	Meter deposit refund	74.80
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 2/26	8149.17
Merchant Bank	Credit card processing fee	462.97
Intuit	QuickBooks fees	44.73
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – Stipend/HSA	1,998.82
AMGL	Audit Report 9/30/2025	2190.00
Advanced Auto	Repairs unit #3	51.00
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	75.00
Bomgaars	Repairs – toolbox	77.97
Border States Industries	Supplies	41.35
D&S Hardware	Chain sharpening	35.00
Electric Insurance Fund	Transfer	1570.00
Fanning Farm Repair	Repairs – bucket truck	1093.63
Healthiest You	Supplemental insurance-Teladoc	37.80
Ideal Linen	Shop towels	45.21
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	150.29
Nebr Public Power District	Power – Feb 2026	23188.10
One Call Concepts	Diggers hotline locates	4.92
Power Manager	Billing supplies	97.21
SWPPD	Subtransmission charge	1485.60
USPS	Postage	478.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies	363.02
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	485.21
US Dept of Energy	WAPA Power – Feb 2026	9609.07
Sunbelt Soloman	Voltage regulator	9811.50
Village:		
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 2/12	2130.06
Village of Wauneta	Payroll p/e 2/26	2375.18
Harland Clarke	Check supplies	98.65
Village of Wauneta	Payroll – stipend/HSA	666.28
AMGL	Audit Report 9/30/2025	2192.50
Advanced Auto	Repairs	561.48
American Heritage Life	Accident insurance	25.00
BW Telcom	Phone	629.18
Tina Barnard	Cleaning	36.00
Bomgaars	Operating supplies	48.97
Chase County Treasurer	Police service contract	3131.20
Eakes Office	Office supplies	85.74

Fanning Farm Repair	Repairs – snowplow	317.47
Great Plains Comm	Phone	58.51
Imperial NAPA	Oil, shop towels	261.16
Lincoln National Life	Life, A&D insurance	39.64
Scotties Potties	Pot cleaning	160.00
Village Insurance Fund	Transfer	3340.00
Wauneta-Palisade School	Remit fees collected	200.00
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel	30.07
Wauneta Crossroads	Fuel, supplies	605.87
Wauneta Municipal Utilities	Utilities	2018.90
Wauneta Volunteer Fire	Santa Saturday candy	331.63
Arlan Wine	Retainer	300.00
Dan's R Us	Ambulance Barn – trash	29.17
Sinner's Truck Alignment	Tires	1597.00
Highway Acct:		
NMC CAT	Blades – skid steer	727.93
KENO Funds:		
NE Dept of Revenue	Renew Lottery License	100.00
Transfer Acct:		
Wauneta EMS	Donations	6024.00

Johnston, Kerchal and Richardson reviewed Nursing Home Financial Reports for January 2026 and the Committee Meeting Report with the Village Board.

Motion made by Einspahr and seconded by Walgren, to approve the updated Wauneta Care and Therapy Center (WCTC) Employee Policy #7.4, "Shift Differential – Weekend", increasing the rate from \$1.00 per hour to \$3.00 per hour. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to approve and accept a quote for interior paint work to be done at WCTC. Quote received from Tim Kniep for \$4600.00. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to approve WCTC subscribe to "Dining RD", a dietary menu planning program. Annual subscription cost is \$2182.95. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

Reviewed the Sheriff's Report for February 2026.

The Board reviewed a request from Rogan and Ashley Einspahr to forgive their Owner-Occupied Rehab (OOR) loan and release the related lien. The Einspahrs are applying for a Home Equity Loan, and the lender has requested the Village release the lien. The Board asked if it would be an option for the Village to retain their lien but subordinate to the new loan. Einspahrs will check into this with the lender.

Luke and Hannah Curl would like to add a new electric service in the Village's service area. Village Superintendent Lawless provided an initial estimate on the cost of adding the new service. The Curls were present to request the Village look into additional options or obtain additional quotes to see if the cost could be lowered. Lawless will look into this.

Reviewed request from Southwest Public Power District (SWPPD) to grant an additional easement on Village property. Motion made by Kramer, seconded by Einspahr, to grant additional easements on Village property to allow SWPPD to install, upgrade and maintain power lines. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr, and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion Approved.

Skelton reported that to apply for a Rural Economic Development Grant from the USDA, the Village must first become RUS (Rural Utilities Service) eligible. Skelton will start this process. This does not obligate the Village to apply for the grant.

Motion by Einspahr, seconded by Kerchal, to approve the updated "Emergency Plan" for the Village of Wauneta, Water System. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

The Board discussed options and issues related to the acquisition of additional land to expand the sewer lagoons (for compliance with State regulations). Johnston reported on existing easements that need to be updated on the possible site.

Einspahr presented an opportunity to purchase several used appliances for the Community Building. Motion made by Kerchal, seconded by Kramer, to authorize the Community Building committee to purchase used appliances (Refrigerator/freezer and stove) for the community, up to an amount of \$1500.00. Funds from the "Celebrate Wauneta" fundraiser event will be used toward the purchase. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Kerchal, Einspahr and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Motion approved.

The Board discussed ongoing nuisance properties and follow- up letters to be sent to several residential properties.

The Board formally accepted Crystal Walgren's resignation from the Village Board of Trustees, effective at the end of this meeting. The Board discussed the Board of Trustees vacancy. The length of the unexpired term will be until December 31, 2026. Jacob Maris has expressed interest in the Trustee position. Johnston nominated Jacob Maris to fill the vacancy. The Board voted to approve/appoint Jacob Maris to the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the unexpired term, until December 31, 2026. Voting Aye: Kramer, Walgren, Einspahr, Kerchal and Johnston. Voting Nay: None. Nomination/appointment approved. Maris will take the Oath of Office at the next Village Board 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.

Superintendent's Report was given by Lawless.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

Page Johnston, Chairman

Evelyn Skelton, Clerk