

**VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting**  
**October 9, 2024**  
**At 6:00 P.M.**

1 The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on October 9, 2024,  
2 at 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located at 1200 First Street, Sutherland,  
3 Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given by posting notice in four public places, the  
4 designated method by the Village Board of Trustees. The agenda for this meeting was kept  
5 continuously current and available for inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk.

6 Vice-Chair Backer called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00  
7 p.m. Members present upon roll call were **Kimberly Backer, Felicia Patrick, Frank Fleecs, and**  
8 **Derek Dempcy. Scott Meyer was absent.** Quorum was established. Also present were Village  
9 Clerk Bonnie Ralston, Village Superintendent Casey Kendall, and Village Attorney Rory  
10 Roundtree. The guests present were Lincoln County Commissioner Chris Bruns, Linda Tacey,  
11 Muriel Clark, Sam Haworth, and Trena Seifer. If all the names are not included, it is only by  
12 error, absence of signature or undecipherable signature in the guest book.

13 The Board of Trustees and all present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

14 Vice-Chair Backer gave notice of the open meeting law poster and its location and proper  
15 procedure for guests.

16 The Board read the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees September  
17 25, 2024, regular meeting. Motion Dempcy to approve the minutes as presented. Second Patrick.  
18 Voting yes: Backer, Dempcy, Patrick. Abstaining due to not being present at that meeting: Fleecs.  
19 Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. The Board was then presented  
20 with the minutes from September 25, 2024 Budget Hearing. Motion Dempcy to approve the  
21 minutes as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Dempcy. Abstaining due to not  
22 being present at that meeting: Fleecs. Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion  
23 carries.

24 The Sheriff's Report was presented to the Board. Backer stated that the Village was over  
25 the contracted hours, but it was the end of the month, and the hours reset with the new contract.  
26 Backer then asked if there were any concerns that needed to be addressed with the Sheriff's  
27 Department. Superintendent Kendall stated that it had been brought to his attention that there were  
28 gunshots in town on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Backer stated it was being worked on. Kendall said that  
29 as of then nothing had been done about it. Kendall had been told the incident took place in the  
30 vicinity of Elm and Liberty. Sheriff's office was called and was on scene quickly. He had not heard  
31 of any citations or arrests being made at that time. Backer stated she would follow up with the  
32 Sheriff's Department and request a Sheriff be present at the meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to address  
33 this. Kendall also said he had brought up a recent issue with young children riding 4 wheelers  
34 around town and people driving them on the streets when they are not licensed. The Sheriff's office  
35 will keep an eye out for this. Backer asked Commissioner Bruns if it would be possible to have a  
36 Sheriff in attendance at the next meeting, Bruns stated he would see to it.

37 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

38  
39 ARPA funding was discussed. The remaining amount has been committed to being spent  
40 on the purchase of the new generator. This can come off the agenda.

41 The topic of storm/sewer drainage was addressed, as was the sewer lagoon drainage.  
42 Kendall stated there was nothing new to report on this item. Fleecs stated his opinion that we need  
43 to move forward with this. Backer will reach out to Tom Werblow concerning this.

44 Walnut Street property was addressed. There were no updates since last meeting when  
45 Roundtree had spoken to Western Title.

46 There is nothing new on the audit agenda item. Fleecs feels it is important that people read  
47 the audit to gain a better understanding of the Village finances.

48 The Tree Board grant agenda item was discussed. Linda Tacey addressed this. She had  
49 reached out concerning the grant application. Tacey discovered that the grant application had not  
50 been submitted. Game and Parks has been reached out to in order to determine if it is possible to  
51 consider the application.

52 The rate and fee schedule had been introduced at the last meeting. Backer had asked the  
53 Board to consider the current fees and which, if any, need updated or added. After a short  
54 discussion, it was decided to table this item until Chairman Meyer was in attendance.

55 The next item concerns accounts at Adam's Bank & Trust. Fleecs had requested the  
56 Board consider opening more accounts to separate the operating funds even further. He  
57 suggested opening accounts for sanitation, streets, and possibly a reserve account. Fleecs feels

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58 this would make the monies easier to track and the finances of the Village more transparent. This  
59 item was tabled and will be revisited at the October 23, 2024 meeting.

60 Fencing on the north lot was discussed. Kendall had provided pricing for several options  
61 of fencing. He had checked into the tin panel option the Board had asked about and determined  
62 that option would not be cost effective. Fleecs questioned if the sunscreens had been explored.  
63 Kendall stated he did not like that idea because they catch a lot of wind and either come loose or  
64 tear. Discussion was held on which sections of the fence would need the privacy slats added.  
65 Backer questioned if a spreadsheet could be prepared for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for the Board  
66 to compare prices. Backer also asked Kendall if the tree option would be feasible. She wondered  
67 how well they would grow. Kendall will prepare the spreadsheet for the next meeting.

68 Manhole rehab and sewer jetting/cameras were discussed. Kendall has spoken with Tom  
69 Werblow about sending it out for bid.

70 Kendall addressed the veterinary services agenda item. Since the Sutherland vet clinic  
71 has closed, Kendall had reached out to surrounding area veterinarians to get rates for nuisance  
72 animals. Ogallala offered the best rate. Motion Patrick to move forward with Baltzell Veterinary  
73 Hospital out of Ogallala for nuisance animal veterinary services. Second Fleecs. Voting yes:  
74 Patrick, Dempcy, Fleecs, Backer. Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion  
75 carries.

76

77 **NEW BUSINESS:**

78

79 The West Central Nebraska Development District administration agreement agenda item  
80 was tabled until the October 23, 2024 meeting. The new WCNDD administrator was unable to  
81 attend this meeting.

82 Wage report and cost of living allowance was the next agenda item. Ralston stated this  
83 item is on the agenda at the start of each fiscal year, so she had included it for the Boards  
84 consideration. Discussion was held on an increase percentage. Fleecs suggested 3% across the  
85 board. Dempcy referred to the federal cost of living. Ralston stated that the increase last year was  
86 3% across the board with merit increases on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Bruns informed  
87 the Board that Lincoln County follows the Kansas City CPI and would encourage the Village to  
88 follow a CPI also. Discussion was held concerning the Social Security, Lincoln Count, and City  
89 of North Platte increases for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Further research will be done on this for  
90 the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

91 Clerk Ralston had placed holidays on the agenda. Ralston asked the Board about the  
92 possibility of closing the office and shop for Christmas Eve. Ralston added that she was not  
93 asking to add it to the paid holidays received by village employees, but with Christmas on a  
94 Wednesday this year the employees would like the option of taking either comp time, vacation  
95 time, or an unpaid day to spend it with their families. Motion Fleecs to allow the office and shop  
96 employees to use comp or vacation time and be closed on December 24, 2024. Second Dempcy.  
97 Voting yes: Dempcy, Fleecs, Patrick, Backer. Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none.  
98 Motion carries.

99 The issue of possible lightning damage at the wellfield was next on the agenda. Kendall  
100 informed the Board there have been multiple issues. When it was being looked at, Kendall was  
101 told is was likely that it was hit by lightning sometime over the summer. When attempting to  
102 order the part to fix the issue, it was discovered that the part is obsolete. A replacement part was  
103 found, but the concern is that since one has started to fail, the others will fail also. Kendall  
104 provided two quotes for the Board. One was for rebuilding the failing parts on all three wells, the  
105 second is for replacing them on all three wells. Kendall also informed the Board he has been in  
106 contact with the insurance company concerning this. Discussion was held on the quotes  
107 provided. Rebuilding all failing parts on all three wells was more expensive than replacement.  
108 Kendall stepped out of the meeting for a few minutes and contacted the company to clarify that  
109 the quotes were labeled correctly. The price for replacement is \$4,706.00 and the price for  
110 rebuilding is \$5,631.00. Kendall stated that the company had concerns with just replacing parts,  
111 since one has begun to fail, the others would probably fail soon also. Parts are hard to come by  
112 for the older system. Fleecs asked Kendall what the insurance company said when he spoke with  
113 them. Kendall stated that we could not know for sure that it was lightning damage until we start

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114 tearing into the system, but he was told to submit the bill and the findings to the insurance.  
115 Kendall explained the meter and pressure issues that have been going on for the last few months.  
116 Motion Fleecs to accept quote S00208 from Atlas Automation to replace the control panels on all  
117 three wells in the amount of \$4,706.00 plus all applicable taxes, to come out of the water fund.  
118 Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Fleecs, Backer, Dempcy, Patrick. Absent and not voting: Meyer.  
119 Voting no: none. Motion carries.

120 Kendall addressed the grub control issue for Anchor Park. He stated we have a serious  
121 grub issue that needs to be addressed. Kendall had contacted three companies for pricing to treat  
122 this. If this is not treated there is the risk of losing all grass at the park. Mopar quoted \$3,200.00  
123 for the chemical and the application, Jorgenson quoted \$3,400.00 for chemical and application,  
124 or Kendall could purchase the chemical from Van Deist for \$1,823.50 and apply it himself.  
125 Linda Tacey commented that typically grubs are treated in the spring. Kendall stated that it was  
126 highly recommended to do it now. Normally this time of year grubs are dormant, it is possible  
127 there was a late hatch or some other mitigating factors. Kendall had also spoken with Attorney  
128 Roundtree about the possibility of using Keno funds for this. Roundtree did say that because it  
129 was for the parks the cost of this could be taken from Keno funds. Motion Patrick to approve the  
130 purchase of chemical from Van Deist in the amount of \$1,823.50 with the funds coming out of  
131 the Keno account. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Fleecs, Dempcy. Absent and  
132 not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

133 Budget was also on the agenda. Fleecs addressed this issue. A budget work session will  
134 be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM. The internal budget for the village will be  
135 looked over to determine what cuts will need to be made and to prioritize projects. Department  
136 and committee members have been invited to attend. L. Tacey questioned why the 1% was not  
137 requested before the budget was submitted and the mill levy was not raised. Backer stated those  
138 questions would be addressed at the work session.

139 Muriel Clark was in attendance to present the paperwork for a completed grant through  
140 the Citizen's Advisory Review Committee. The project at 130 Walnut Street, Stolen Vault  
141 Records, has been completed. Discussion was held on the project and improvement made to the  
142 building. Patrick questioned what the time limit is on these grants. Clark informed her that the  
143 original contract allows for 6 months, and the applicants are allowed to request one extension if  
144 there are mitigating circumstances. Motion Patrick to approve the payout of the grant monies.  
145 Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Patrick, Dempcy, Fleecs, Backer. Absent and not voting: Meyer.  
146 Voting no: none. Motion carries.

147 The South Street water project was the final item of new business. Kendall stated that  
148 materials and equipment have been delivered, but no locates had been called in at this point.  
149 Roundtree stated he had also contacted Werblow and the company and was told that the project  
150 would begin soon. Werblow had submitted his invoice and the initial invoice for the materials  
151 purchased for the project. Discussion was held on the invoice and how the projects payments are  
152 divided. Motion Fleecs to pay the amount of \$111,836.63 as per the payment plan approved by  
153 village engineer Werblow, to come from the water account. Some discussion was held on the  
154 chart of completed work that was provided for the Boards review. This contained a detailed  
155 breakdown of the material cost. Backer questioned if the office could contact the construction  
156 company to clarify if they wanted to pick the check up in the office or have it mailed. With the  
157 large amount of the check, this could ensure that there is no mail delay. Ralston assured her that  
158 could be done. Project timeline and bid specifications were briefly discussed. Second Dempcy.  
159 Voting yes: Backer, Fleecs, Patrick Dempcy. Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none.  
160 Motion carries.

161  
162 **OTHER:**

- 163
- 164 • Claims were presented to the Board in the amount of \$227612.14. This amount will need  
165 adjusted to reflect the reissued check to Trever Hall in the amount of \$1620.00. This  
166 amount was on a previous claims list. Fleecs asked the office to reach out to Tiffany and  
167 bob to determine if the utility rate report and spreadsheet need to be refigured. The office  
168 will work on that. Dempcy questioned the Jonny Klein productions claim. Kendall  
169 clarified that claim was for bottom ash used at the sewer lagoon. Motion Dempcy to

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- 170 approve the claims with the specified adjustment. Second Fleecs. Voting yes: Backer,  
171 Dempcy, Patrick, Fleecs. Absent and not voting: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.  
172 • Payroll Report was presented to the Board.  
173 • Comp Time Report was also included in the packet.  
174

175 **FYI INFORMATION:**

- 176  
177 • Ralston informed the Board that Hershey State Bank had contacted her concerning the  
178 release of holdings due to closing two accounts. She had spoken with Backer, questioning  
179 if she was allowed to sign. Backer had stated it was fine for Ralston to sign those.  
180

181 **REPORTS:**

- 182  
183 • Superintendent Kendall reported that they are done weed eating for the year, he will  
184 continue with some watering as needed. The pool has been winterized for the year and he  
185 will start winterizing the sprinklers soon. There has been a lot of roll off usage lately.  
186 Fleecs asked Kendall about the painting of the lines across Highway 30 for the walkway.  
187 Kendall had reached out to Werblow concerning this. Werblow was going to contact the  
188 state about cutting in and filling the lines with the reflective plastic as opposed to paint  
189 which wears off quickly. Kendall stated it was too dangerous for he or his employees to  
190 paint the lines due to the amount of traffic along the highway. Kendall will reach out to  
191 Werblow to see if he had heard back from the state. Patrick questioned the use of pallets  
192 on a property in town as a fence. Kendall stated that the ordinance doesn't say anywhere  
193 that you can't use pallets. Backer stated it is simply considered a wood fence. Kendall  
194 also said that it does seem the owners are purchasing fence panels and attaching them to  
195 the pallets for the fence.  
196 • Clerk Ralston reported that she has been moving the monies to the newly opened  
197 accounts. Ralston also informed the Board that the September bank statements have  
198 come, and she and Fear have been working on getting those reconciliations completed.  
199

200 **Trustees Reports:**

- 201  
202 • K. Backer had nothing to report  
203 • D. Dempcy had nothing to report.  
204 • F. Fleecs had nothing to report  
205 • F. Patrick had nothing to report.  
206 • S. Meyer was absent.  
207

208  
209 With nothing further on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.  
210

211  
212 These minutes are set to be approved at the October 23, 2024, regular meeting.  
213  
214  
215

216  
217 \_\_\_\_\_  
218 Scott Meyer, Chairman  
219 Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland  
220

221  
222  
223  
224 [Seal]

225 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie Ralston, Clerk  
Village of Sutherland