

VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting
October 23, 2024
At 6:00 P.M.

1 The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on October 23,
2 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located at 1200 First Street,
3 Sutherland, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given by posting notice in four public places,
4 the 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 **Scott Meyer, Kimberly Backer, Felicia Patrick, Frank**
8 **Fleecs, and Derek Dempcy**. Quorum was established. Also present were Village Clerk Bonnie
9 Ralston and Village Attorney Rory Roundtree. Superintendent Kendall was absent due to issues
10 with a water line. The guests present were Village Engineer Tom Werblow, Trena Seifer, and
11 Milan Moore. If all the names are not included, it is only by error, absence of signature or
12 undecipherable signature in the guest book.

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

14 Chairman Meyer 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 October 9,
17 2024, regular meeting. Motion Patrick to approve the minutes as presented. Second Dempcy.
18 Voting yes: Fleecs, Patrick, Dempcy, Backer. Abstaining due to not being present at that meeting:
19 Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. The Board was then presented with the minutes from the
20 October 10, 2024 Budget Work Session. Motion Dempcy to approve the minutes as presented.
21 Second Patrick. Voting yes: Dempcy, Fleecs, Backer, Meyer. Abstaining due to not being present
22 at that meeting: Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

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24 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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26 The topic of storm/sewer drainage was addressed, as was the sewer lagoon drainage.
27 Werblow was in attendance at this meeting and stated there was nothing new on this item. Backer
28 asked Werblow if it were possible to move ahead with this item. Discussion was held on steps that
29 would need to be taken.

30 Walnut Street property was addressed. There were no updates on this. Roundtree will reach
31 out to Western Title.

32 The Tree Board grant agenda item was discussed. Ralston stated that the office had heard
33 nothing on this. The Tree Board had requested this stay on the agenda.

34 The next item concerns accounts at Adam's Bank & Trust. Fleecs had requested the
35 office consider what other accounts may be beneficial to open to separate funds even further.
36 Ralston expressed concern with breaking accounts down too far, reasoning that this would
37 require the office to make multiple transfers every pay period and every claims list in order to
38 print the checks for these. Ralston questioned if accounts should be left as is for now and this
39 item could be revisited later. Backer stated she understood this concern and suggested keeping a
40 spreadsheet in the office of different funds that are deposited into the general account and also

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41 the claims or payroll coming out of those funds. Discussion was held on different reports the
42 office can pull showing transactions and balances of funds designated for specific departments.

43 Fencing on the north lot was discussed. Ralston had included the estimates from Kendall,
44 along with a company out of Grand Island. Meyer had also priced wood panel fencing. Backer
45 questioned if a wood fence would be butted against the chain link. Meyer expressed that his
46 concern with the privacy slats was the labor intensiveness of the project. Slats need to be woven
47 into the chain link fence and could potentially eat up any savings versus wood fence in labor cost
48 alone. Meyer stated that a third option that had been mentioned would be the concrete bunkers.
49 These could be stacked two high. This would result in a five-foot fence. Meyer did mention that
50 slats are more likely to shift or break during windy weather. Meyer suggested purchasing one
51 bag of privacy slats and one box of wood panels to determine how labor intensive each is.
52 Ralston pointed out that the locking channel for the bottom of the slats is an additional cost.
53 Patrick questioned if the summer help could be asked if they would be interested in assisting
54 with this during the holiday break, weather permitting.

55 Manhole rehab and sewer jetting/cameras were discussed. Werblow was in attendance to
56 address this item. He had reached out to Roundtree to assure him that these are two separate
57 projects, so would not fall in the dollar amount requiring projects to be sent out to bid. Werblow
58 supplied a letter to the Board expressing this also. Werblow also submitted estimates for each
59 project. Motion Fleecs to accept the Johnson Service Co. estimate for the manhole rehabilitation
60 project in the amount of \$28,550.00 to come from the sewer fund. Second Backer. Voting yes:
61 Backer Fleecs, Meyer, Patrick, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Motion Backer to
62 approve and accept the Johnson Service CO. estimate for the sewer jetting and recording in the
63 amount of \$10, 125.00 to also come out of the sewer fund. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer,
64 Dempcy, Backer, Fleecs, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

65 Meyer then adjusted the agenda to the South Street water project while Werblow was still
66 at the meeting to address it. Werblow stated the project should begin by next week, they were
67 locating and uncovering lines this week.

68 Meyer adjusted a second time to some new business agenda items that Werblow was here
69 to address. First was the watermain replacement on Victory Street. Werblow has, in the past
70 provided an estimate for this project. Fleecs would like this put out for bid to get the project
71 started. Motion Fleecs to authorize Werblow to place this project for bid, using specs he had
72 provided to the Board previously. Second Dempcy. Fleecs asked when Werblow would like bids
73 to be received by. Werblow stated it would probably be after the first of the year before he could
74 get it out for bid. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Meyer, Fleecs, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion
75 carries. Next was the watermain replacement on 2nd Street from Maple to Spruce. Motion Fleecs
76 to authorize Werblow to put this project out for bid using specs provided by him. Second
77 Dempcy. Voting yes: Meyer, Fleecs, Dempcy, Patrick, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
78 Sewer Lagoon cell was the last item to be addressed by Werblow. An estimate has been given to
79 the Board in the past, Werblow believes this project will run close to half a million dollars. This

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80 project had been submitted to the state to see if the Village qualified for any funding, which it
81 did not. Fleecs expressed the opinion that either the lagoon or the pipe needs to be done. Meyer
82 agreed and stated that he felt the lagoon would be easiest to start with. If the town grows at all it
83 will be needed to keep up with an expanding population, it may also help resolve some of the
84 discharge issues. Motion Backer to authorize Werblow to place this project out for bid. Second
85 Patrick. Voting yes: Patrick, Dempcy, Meyer, Fleecs, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
86 Fleecs expressed to Werblow that the water line projects were of higher priority due to several
87 breaks recently. Fleecs also asked what Werblow feels would be the next on the list that needed
88 replacement. Werblow stated he would defer to Kendall on this. Kendall is not in attendance at
89 this meeting.

90 The West Central Nebraska Development District administration agreement agenda item
91 was next on the agenda. Ralston had been in contact with the new administrator, Edward Dunn.
92 The agreement was being worked on and had been sent to WCNDD lawyers to review before
93 being sent to the Board. This item will remain on the agenda.

94 Wage report and cost of living allowance was next on the agenda. Roundtree had
95 prepared a spreadsheet containing the 3% the Board had discussed at the last meeting. Fleecs
96 stated he felt 3% was fair. Discussion was held on the increases given last year. Meyer reminded
97 the Board that last year included a 3% increase and a merit increase based on performance.
98 Backer expressed that she is concerned about the increase in the cost of health insurance. Backer
99 stated that this is paid for by the Village and is considered part of the overall compensation
100 package. Backer went on to state she felt the 3% increase was fair also. Motion Backer to
101 approve a 3% cost of living increase. Second Fleecs. Backer then asked if it would be retroactive
102 to the beginning of the fiscal year or take effect the next pay period. It was decided that the
103 motion would be amended to include the fact that the cost-of-living increase will be reflected on
104 the next pay period, inclusive of the current pay period. Voting yes: Meyer, Backer, Patrick,
105 Dempcy, Fleecs. Voting no: none. Motion carries. At this point Roundtree excused himself to
106 update the ordinance with the percentage decided on by the Board. This agenda item will be
107 returned to once Roundtree has this completed.

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112 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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The Board addressed the rate and fee schedule item. Backer questioned if pool rates should be included on the fee schedule. She feels that all fees charged by the Village should be listed. Discussion was held on several fees that the Board considered increasing or adding. Backer stated that since several of them involve the Utility department she would prefer to have Kendall in attendance to weigh in and to answer questions the Board has regarding how much time several items take for him to do. This item will remain on the agenda until Kendall can address them with the Board.

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122 The Board then returned to the wage report and cost of living allowance at 7:05 PM.
123 Roundtree had finished updating the wage percentage of the ordinance. Meyer asked Ralston to
124 complete the first reading of Ordinance #682 by title.

Ordinance #682

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128 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUTHERLAND, NEBRASKA, amending
129 Ordinance #672 by establishing annualized salaries and wages for the fiscal year beginning
130 October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025 of the Village Officers and Employees; repealing
131 all prior conflicting ordinances and ordering the publication of this Ordinance in pamphlet form.
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133 Motion Backer to suspend the required three readings of Ordinance #682. Second Dempcy.
134 Voting yes: Fleecs, Meyer, Patrick, Backer, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Motion
135 Backer to approve Ordinance #682 and authorize the Chairman to sign. Second Dempcy. Voting
136 yes: Fleecs, Meyer, Patrick, Dempcy, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

137 The Interlocal Agreement with the North Platte Police Department and Animal Impound
138 was discussed next. Ralston had been reached out to by the North Platte Animal Impound and
139 sent an older copy of the agreement to present to the Board. This agreement sets amounts paid by
140 the Village to the Impound. The agreement is set to renew automatically. Ralston has been asked
141 to submit and changes the Village would like to the North Platte Police Department to be
142 presented to the City Council. After discussion the Board concluded there are no changes they
143 wish to have made. Ralston was asked to reach out and let the department know that the contract
144 is fine as is.

145 The Planning Commission had requested the Board allow them to utilize Roundtree to
146 assist in either adding an emergency clause to their bylaws or removing the supermajority
147 requirement for platting from the bylaws. Roundtree clarified for the Board that Nebraska does
148 not have a supermajority requirement for platting, so he feels this would be the simplest solution.
149 Roundtree will move forward with this and remain in touch with the office.

150 The ARPA account at Hershey State Bank was next on the agenda. The remaining funds
151 have been spent from this account. Motion Patrick to close the ARPA account at Hershey State
152 Bank and remove all signers. Second Backer. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Backer, Fleecs,
153 Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

154 Fleecs addressed the budget issue. He expressed his opinion that nothing was
155 accomplished at the internal work session. He felt that cuts need to be made and none were
156 decided on at that meeting. Meyer addressed several items which were accounted for in the
157 budget but were being funded in alternate ways. Discussion was held concerning the mill levy
158 request the Village chose to submit to the state. Milan Moore was in attendance and asked how
159 the mill levy was determined. He also expressed the opinion that this will need to be increase
160 going forward to provide additional revenue for the Village.

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163 **OTHER:**

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- 165 • Claims were presented to the Board in the amount of \$77,551.44. Motion Backer to
- 166 approve the claims as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Fleecs, Meyer, Patrick,
- 167 Dempcy, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
- 168 • Payroll Report was presented to the Board.
- 169 • Comp Time Report was also included in the packet.

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171 **FYI INFORMATION:**

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174 **REPORTS:**

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- 176 • Superintendent Kendall reported that the water issues on South Street had been taken care
- 177 of, there had been a couple of breaks that he and Trusty-Solko had been dealing with.
- 178 Kendall also said that BSB Construction was set to being the water line project on South
- 179 Street next week. He reported that the roll off truck was being repaired, so he had been
- 180 unable to take the roll off to North Platte to dump it. Because of this the roll off had not
- 181 been available for residents to use. Kendall and Trusty-Solko have begun winterizing the
- 182 parks, they will finish doing that this week.
- 183 • Clerk Ralston had nothing to report at this time.

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186 **Trustees Reports:**

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- 188 • K. Backer had attended the housing authority meeting in Ogallala. She also had spoken to
- 189 the Sutherland Chamber of Commerce about the Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska event
- 190 they have been contacted about. This will bring a lot of people to town and will have a
- 191 positive impact on the community.
- 192 • D. Dempcy had nothing to report.
- 193 • F. Fleecs wanted to emphasize that the deadline for getting things submitted to the office
- 194 needs enforced. He would like to receive packets earlier so he had more time to look
- 195 them over.
- 196 • F. Patrick had nothing to report.
- 197 • S. Meyer had nothing to report.

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200 With nothing further on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

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203 These minutes are set to be approved at the November 13, 2024, regular meeting.

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Scott Meyer, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

Bonnie Ralston, Clerk
Village of Sutherland