

VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
1-&-6-Year Road Plan PUBLIC HEARING at 6:20 P.M.

1 The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on February 12,
2 2025, at 6:00 P.M. and a Public Hearing for the 1-&-6-Year Road Plan at 6:20 P.M. in the
3 Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located at 1200 First Street, Sutherland, Nebraska. Notice
4 of these meetings was given by posting notice in four public places, the designated method by
5 the Village Board of Trustees. The agenda for this meeting was kept continuously current and
6 available for inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk.

7 Chairman Meyer called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00
8 p.m. Members present upon roll call were **Scott Meyer, Kimberly Backer, Felicia Patrick, Derek**
9 **Dempcy, and Justin Nelms**. Quorum was established. Also present were Village Superintendent
10 Casey Kendall and Village Clerk Bonnie Ralston. Village Attorney Rory Roundtree was absent.
11 The guests present were Jim Dickerson, Capt. Dan Newton from the Sheriff's Department,
12 Muriel Clark, Gene Tacey, Linda Tacey, and Village Engineer Tom Werblow. If all the names
13 are not included, it is only by error, absence of signature or undecipherable signature in the guest
14 book.

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

16 Chairman Meyer gave notice of the open meeting law poster and its location and proper
17 procedure for guests.

18 The Board read the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees January 22,
19 2025. Motion Backer to approve the minutes as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Backer,
20 Nelms, Meyer, Patrick, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

21 Meyer addressed the Sheriff's report agenda item. The report was included in the packet
22 and shows there were 132 calls for service, 7 traffic violations, and no Village code violations. The
23 Village has used 465 of the contracted 1200 hours. Capt. Dan Newton then addressed the report
24 he had sent to the office. Because this report contained personally identifying information, it was
25 not included in the packet. Capt. Newton did want to let the Board know that the Sheriff's office
26 has addressed several complaints concerning unregistered vehicles. Capt. Newton stated that 13
27 vehicle complaints had been mitigated. Destination for towed vehicles and the cost of this was
28 discussed. Some discussion was also held on Village ordinances and timelines for moving vehicles.
29 During codification, this was separated into two sections instead of being in the same ordinance
30 as it originally was. This will be discussed with Attorney Roundtree.

31
32 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

33
34 The topic of storm/sewer drainage was addressed, as was the sewer lagoon drainage. Tom
35 Werblow was in attendance and provided a rendering of what he believes to be the best placement
36 for a new lagoon. Werblow and Kendall had discussed adding it to the east of the existing cells,
37 the ground is a little higher there and a crossover pipe is already located there. He is of the opinion
38 that there would still be some overflows, stating that percolation and moisture rates cannot be
39 predicted. Discharge locations and timelines were also discussed. Werblow stated that this is all
40 very preliminary and informed the Board that if they wanted to not discharge and rely on
41 evaporation only, the Village would have to build a much larger L-shaped pond. Long term,
42 Werblow feels the Village will eventually need to discharge to the river directly. Adding another
43 cell will improve treatment of the wastewater. Kendall asked if Werblow felt it would be best to
44 build the cell and the pipeline at the same time. Werblow stated he thought it would be ideal, but
45 the pipeline crosses private property, and the owner would need to agree to the project. Meyer then
46 asked if it would be better to start the lagoon cell project and then work on negotiating with the
47 property owners that the pipeline would cross. Werblow agreed that would probably be the most
48 feasible plan.

49 While Werblow was addressing the Board, Meyer adjusted the agenda to New Business in
50 order to allow Werblow to speak on the soil testing agenda item. This testing must be completed
51 prior to the state approving the sewer lagoon project. Kendall wanted to make sure the Board
52 understood that even with this testing and a new lagoon cell, there are still state limits that the
53 Village will need to meet. Motion Backer to enter into a contract with Mid-State Engineering and
54 Testing for the stated proposal and authorize the chair to sign. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Patrick,
55 Meyer, Dempcy, Nelms, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

56 Walnut Street property was addressed. Roundtree was not in attendance, Clerk Ralston
57 reported she had not received an update from him on this.

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58 Fencing on the north lot was discussed. Kendall stated when the weather warms up they
59 will do more work on this.

60

61 **PUBLIC HEARING RE ONE- AND SIX- YEAR ROAD PLAN 6:20 P.M.**

62

63 At 6:20 P.M Meyer opened the Public Hearing for the One- and Six- Year Road
64 Plan. Werblow presented the plan to the Board. Werblow stated that the village receives
65 approximately \$17,000 per month from the state in the form of Highway Allocation funds and
66 Motor Vehicle taxes. The public hearing is held to allow the public to have input on what that
67 money is being spent on. A mile report and finances are kept account of to document the
68 processes. They are kept on record in case of audit. Werblow presented a map of proposed
69 projects. Maintenance activities are not part of the one -and-six-year road plan. Each proposed
70 project lists the topic, location, and proposed improvement, along with an estimated cost. None
71 of the proposed projects are mandatory, they are planned out to encourage systematic
72 development of the streets. Meyer asked Werblow if he was the opinion that the village streets
73 are in good shape. Werblow stated that he felt they were. He believes the crack sealing has been
74 key. Werblow said he had discussed armor coating with Kendall, specifically how the layers
75 build up with each application. Werblow thinks that in the future this may need to be ground
76 down around drains and manholes but doesn't feel this is needed right away. Some discussion
77 was held on whether armor coating would work on Walnut Street. Werblow doesn't recommend
78 doing the coating over concrete. Gene Tacey asked to address Werblow and the Board. Tacey
79 questioned what a section on the map was supposed to represent. Werblow clarified that the area
80 in question was kind of a holding pond for storm drainage. The states pipes are too small, so the
81 water pools until it can slowly drain. Meyer said that the plan is to install a grey water line or
82 storm drainage line down pine street, along with a new water main, and refinish the street.
83 Kendall discussed some of the gutters that need worked on also. With no further questions or
84 comments at this time, Meyer left the public hearing open and addressed other agenda items.

85

86

87 **NEW BUSINESS:**

88

89 The first new business item addressed was park improvements. Muriel Clark was present
90 to give a report on an initial meeting to discuss a possible splash pad, held by citizens. Clark
91 reported that the residents got together to discuss bringing the possibility of a splash pad to the
92 Board. Clark reported that due to other activities in town that night, there were very few people
93 at this meeting. Several questions were asked at the citizens' meeting concerning the fencing and
94 sidewalk that are going to be constructed at the Sutherland Swimming Pool Replat. Having not
95 enough information about these projects, Clark referred them to the Board of Trustees. Meyer
96 stated that topic had been discussed at the CRA meeting held prior to the Board meeting. Clark
97 stated that she was open to direction from the Board on how residents could move forward with a
98 project like this. Backer replied that, in her opinion, with the current Anchor Park project the
99 village has received a grant for, the focus needs to remain on that project and not split. Clark
100 feels putting together some sort of park plan, which would encompass all the parks in
101 Sutherland, identifying future projects, and getting residents involved would be beneficial.
102 Patrick also addressed this matter. Patrick felt that, as the Board has not determined what the use
103 of that parcel would be, doing any planning or fundraising is very premature. Patrick also said
104 that with no research into project costs, labor included, and various other expenses, it's hard for
105 the Board to even consider this as a future project. Patrick and Backer both expressed that they
106 felt proposing future project could impact current projects, causing residents to hold off on any
107 fundraising required for the current project in favor of an idea for the future. Both felt that one
108 project needs to be completed before any others are proposed. Some discussion was held on the
109 requirements for the current park project. Kendall informed the Board he had reached out to
110 several communities that currently have splash pads to get water usage amounts, treatment
111 options, and pros and cons of having on in a community. Patrick and Kendall both said the feel it
112 is something that is doable, but not something to be planning out until current commitments are

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113 done. Clark agreed, and stated it should be a stair step approach, as a project is finished the next
114 one could be considered and researched. Clark also reminded the Board that Sutherland's
115 comprehensive plan has park inspection, inventory, and replacement built into it. She feels this is
116 important to building a solid foundation for improvement projects. Some discussion was held on
117 safety issues with the railroad park and how Anchor Park could be utilized for more of the
118 community celebrations as a way to keep them away from the busy highway. Linda Tacey
119 addressed the original plans for Anchor Park, and how the grant project will integrate with
120 existing equipment. She pointed out where a shelter area was proposed that would be similar in
121 size to the one currently at railroad park. Discussion was held concerning changes made to the
122 original plans and where equipment is now located.

123 At 6:42 PM Meyer adjusted the agenda back to the public hearing for the one- and six-
124 year road plan. With no further comments or questions, Meyer closed the public hearing and
125 asked Werblow if anything further needed done. The resolution accepting the plan will need to
126 be signed. As it was mistakenly left out of the email received by the office, the resolution will be
127 signed at the meeting on February 26th.

128 The regular meeting then resumed. The Citizen's Advisory Review Committee 2024
129 annual report was addressed by Muriel Clark. Clark had the office include spreadsheets she had
130 created detailing monies received by the committee and monies spent by the committee. The
131 account detail sheet was discussed, with Clark pointing out that interest was not included for
132 several months when the village utilized fund accounting before separating this out to a separate
133 account. There was also one duplicate entry that the office is working on correcting. This report
134 outlines grants paid out and outstanding. A copy of their proposed 2024-2025 budget was also
135 included.

136 Next was the reappointment of Bob Maline to a 4-year term on the Citizen's Advisory
137 Review Committee. Motion Backer to reappoint Bob Maline for the 4-year term. Second Patrick.
138 Voting yes: Patrick, Meyer, Dempcy, Nelms, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

139 Patrick took this opportunity to ask Clark how extensions for grants were figured into the
140 yearly report and budget. After some discussion Clark explained that the money is earmarked for
141 the approved appointment and is not considered available funds. Questions were asked about the
142 extension process, Clark explained that this was built into the program.

143 The appointment of Dave Gleason to the Citizen's Advisory Review Committee was
144 discussed next. No letter of intent was turned in to the office, but Muriel Clark had spoken with
145 him and he was interested in accepting a position on the committee. Mr. Gleason would fill the
146 open term, which would expire in May of 2028. Motion Meyer to appoint Dave Gleason to fill
147 the remainder of the open term. Second Backer. Voting yes: Nelms, Patrick, Backer, Dempcy,
148 Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

149 The positive recommendation of a grant award for the demolition of 641 Liberty Street
150 was placed before the Board. The Citizen's Advisory Review Committee approved this grant for
151 half of the quoted cost, which equals \$9,400.00. There were some questions from the Board on
152 the amount because the village had been told the owners planned on having the building burned
153 down. Clark explained that it was still planned to have the house burned down, this grant would
154 cover the higher costs of asbestos removal and disposal, along with tearing down the basement
155 and foundation. Meyer questioned if demolition was something any resident could come the
156 CARC board about. Clark explained that demolition and sidewalks are the only things in the
157 property improvement grant program that can be awarded to residential properties. Gene Tacey
158 asked if the property would be for sale or used as a rental. Clark stated that her understanding
159 was the property would be for sale. Motion Dempcy to approve the grant recommendation.
160 Second Nelms. Voting yes: Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Patrick, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion
161 carries.

162 Maker's Market was next on the agenda. This is scheduled to take place on September
163 27th. Muriel Clark presented the Board with a street closing application and a preliminary layout
164 for the stalls along Walnut Street. There are some changes from last year, mostly to keep visitors
165 further from the highway and keep vehicles from parking on the sides of the highway and
166 obstructing sightlines for other vehicles. Clark discussed that the alley behind the post office and
167 the alley behind the library would be left open for traffic to use. Discussion was held on available
168 areas for parking. Motion Patrick to approve the street closure. Second Dempcy. Voting yes:
169 Dempcy, Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Clark also requested

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170 the Village of Sutherland welcome the Maker's Market and all participants. Roundtree had
171 explained previously that an invitation from the Board for a community event would negate the
172 need for vendors to get a peddler's permit for that event. Motion Patrick to welcome the Maker's
173 Market participants. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Patrick, Backer, Nelms.
174 Voting no: none. Motion carries.

175 Nuisance violations were next on the agenda. The Board discussed timeline, notification
176 method, and types of violation. Backer feels a different notification method is needed; she would
177 like a way to shorten the timeline for abatement. Kendall also suggested having an outside
178 company carry out abatement for the Village. Discussion was held on the process of doing this.
179 Backer suggested this item remains on the agenda until the next meeting when Attorney
180 Roundtree will be present.

181 Crack sealing was on the agenda. Due to a mix-up in paperwork, this item will remain on
182 the agenda and be addressed at the February 26th meeting.

183 Planning and Zoning conference registration was discussed next. The conference is
184 March 5th through March 7th in Kearney. Kendall would like to send Cody Trusty-Solko to the
185 conference. The Planning Commission chairman has also stated he would attend if allowed.
186 Backer stated her opinion that it is a wonderful learning opportunity. Backer stated she would be
187 comfortable sending Cody and 1-3 people from the planning commission if they wanted to go.
188 Discussion was held on if it should be worded as "up to 4 people" to allow Board members to
189 attend also if they are able. Motion Backer to send up to four people to the Planning and Zoning
190 conference. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Patrick, Dempcy. Voting no:
191 none. Motion carries.

192 The Board discussed the possible sale of property. This was also discussed during the
193 CRA meeting held prior to this meeting. This concerns a village owned lot east of the old fire
194 hall and would require the lot be transferred from Village of Sutherland ownership to
195 Community Redevelopment Authority ownership. Since Attorney Roundtree is not present at
196 this meeting, this item will stay on the agenda.

197 BSB Construction payment was next on the agenda. Tom Werblow has recommended the
198 village move forward with paying this installment. Motion Backer to pay BSB Construction in
199 the amount of \$43,746.43 to come from the water funds. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Dempcy,
200 Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

201 Chamber of Commerce membership dues were discussed next. Motion Backer to pay the
202 2025 Chamber of Commerce membership. Second Patrick. Clerk Ralston asked for clarification
203 concerning the account the dues were to come from. It was decided that Keno funds would be
204 used. Voting yes: Nelms, Patrick, Backer, Dempcy, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

205 Nicole Weiss submitted a letter of intent for the Library Board. Motion Patrick to appoint
206 Nicole Weiss to the Library Board. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Patrick,
207 Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

208 Linda Tacey was present to address the agenda item of new lettering for the History
209 Center door. The current lettering is curling and peeling off. Tacey presented the Board with a
210 quote from Condon Signs for \$250.00. Motion Backer to approve the new lettering. Backer
211 questioned if the funds could come out of the Keno account. Meyer stated that this would
212 probably need to come from the general account. L. Tacey questioned if the Board was not
213 taking monies out of individual accounts. Meyer clarified that the History Center does not have
214 an individual account, Clerk Ralston clarified that History Center funds were contained in the
215 general account, but marked for specific departments. An accounting of these funds could be
216 given due to the classification tags assigned to funds. Tacey asked if the individual groups could
217 work off their budget if those funds were earmarked, Backer explained that groups could work
218 off their submitted budgets, but all expenses must be approved through the Board. Dempcy asked
219 if the History Center had spoken with anyone else to get a quote. Dempcy stated there is a local
220 resident who does projects like this. He stated he saw no problem utilizing Condon Signs if that
221 is who Tacey preferred to go through but mentioned that supporting small local businesses was
222 something he felt should be considered. Tacey requested this item be tabled to allow her to reach
223 out to get additional quotes. Backer rescinded her motion at this time. This item will be
224 addressed at the next meeting.

225 The Hershe Help Club had requested a donation of a family pool pass to be auctioned off
226 at their carnival. Meyer pointed out to the Board that without an attorney present to confirm if

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227 this is something the village could do it's hard to know if this is possible. This item will remain
228 on the agenda until Attorney Roundtree could be present.
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231 **OTHER:**
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- 233 • Claims in the amount of \$56,029.27 were presented to the Board. Discussion was held on
234 the overpayment to Waste Connections. The Board chose to reject that claim until Waste
235 Connections gets back in touch with the office to determine options to correct this. This
236 makes the claims amount \$43,540.74. Superintendent Kendall questioned the Atlas
237 Automation bill. Clerk Ralston stated that it was for the new control screens at the
238 wellfields. Meyer added the BSB Construction claim in the amount of \$43,746.43, the
239 check will be printed the following day. This raises the previously adjusted claims
240 amount to \$87,287.17. With no further adjustments to the claims list, Meyer asked for a
241 motion to approve. Motion Dempcy to approve the claims as adjusted. Second Patrick.
242 Voting yes: Patrick, Meyer, Dempcy, Nelms, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
- 243 • Payroll Reports were presented to the Board for the January 31, 2025 Board and regular
244 payroll and for the February 14th regular payroll.
- 245 • Comp Time Reports were also included in the packet.
- 246 • Balance of Accounts was included in the packet. Clerk Ralston pointed out a few errors
247 that were in the process of being corrected due to the copy made for the audit and the
248 accountant lock on files before October 1st. The office will continue working with Tiffany
249 on these errors.

250
251 **FYI INFORMATION:**
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- 253 • Clerk Ralston informed the Board that one of the office computers had crashed and a new
254 one needed to be purchased. This fell under the allotted amount Ralston was authorized
255 to spend on office necessities. Integrated Computer Systems has installed the new
256 desktop computer in the office and will invoice the Village for this. As of this meeting
257 the majority of the software has been reinstalled and files backup as needed.

258
259 **REPORTS:**
260

- 261 • Superintendent Kendall reported that there is a bad fire hydrant on South and Vine
262 Streets. He has ordered a new one to replace it. When it arrives and the weather warms up
263 a little he will get that installed. One of the trucks is having transmission issues, he has
264 taken it to be looked at. Well 1 blew a fuse on the pole, NPPD has replaced it. They don't
265 seem to think it will be a recurring issue. The salt dog broke down, Kendall and Trusty-
266 Solko have been working on fixing it. Patrick questioned if any applications have been
267 received for pool manager. Kendall said he had reached out to a Paxton Board member to
268 suggest a sharing of pool manager between them and Sutherland. No definite answers
269 yet. Kendall also stated he hired a part time person who will begin March 3rd.
- 270 • Clerk Ralston reported she had also reached out to Paxton to get the number for their pool
271 manager to discuss utilizing her in Sutherland. Paxton was not certain their manager
272 would be returning. The office will keep checking on this. Discussion was held on
273 advertising for the pool staff and applications. The office will reach out to former
274 lifeguards to get confirmation of which ones are returning. Ralston also reported that the
275 office will be getting CPR certifications, the fire department has scheduled the training.

276
277 **Trustees Reports:**
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- 279 • K. Backer had nothing to report.
- 280 • D. Dempcy had nothing to report.
- 281 • F. Patrick attended the community meeting regarding a splash pad and park

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282 improvements. Very few people were there. The school is putting on a self-defense class
283 if anyone would like to attend. The class will be March 15th.

- 284 • J. Nelms had nothing to report.
285 • S. Meyer had nothing to report.

286
287
288
289 With no further agenda items to discuss Meyer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion
290 Dempcy to adjourn the meeting. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Backer, Nelms, Meyer,
291 Dempcy, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

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293
294 These minutes are set to be approved at the February 26, 2025, regular meeting.

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303 _____
304 Scott Meyer, Chairman
305 Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

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311 _____
312 [Seal] Bonnie Ralston, Clerk
313 Village of Sutherland