

VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting
April 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

1 The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on April 9, 2025, at
2 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located at 1200 First Street, Sutherland,
3 Nebraska. Notice of these meetings 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 Chairman Meyer 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, Derek**
8 **Dempcy, and Justin Nelms**. Quorum was established. Also present were Village Superintendent
9 Casey Kendall, Village Clerk Bonnie Ralston, and Village Attorney Rory Roundtree. The guests
10 present were Kathy McCune, Jim Dickerson, and Trena Seifer. If all the names are not
11 included, it is only by error, absence of signature or undecipherable signature in the guest book.

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

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

15 At this time, the Board opened the floor for comments from the public. Chairman Meyer
16 stated that all comments need to be directed to the Chair and that there was a five-minute time
17 limit. Chairman Meyer also said that there would be no discussion by the Board on comments by
18 the public had addressed items that were not on the agenda. With no comments forthcoming from
19 those in the audience, Chairman Meyer moved on to the agenda items.

20 The Board read the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees March 26,
21 2025. Motion Backer to approve the minutes as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer,
22 Patrick, Backer, Dempcy, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

23 The Sheriff's report was presented to the Board. In March there were 86 calls for service,
24 7 traffic violations, and 1 code violation. The Sheriff's Department logged 137 hours in Sutherland
25 this month. To date Sutherland has used 707.25 of the contracted 1200 hours yearly.

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27 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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29 The topic of storm/sewer drainage was addressed, as was the sewer lagoon drainage.
30 Superintendent Kendall stated there was no update at this time.

31 Walnut Street property was addressed. Attorney Roundtree had been in touch with Thalken
32 title and will be scheduling a meeting with them to discuss the needs of the Village.

33 Fencing on the north lot was discussed. Kendall reported that at this time there was
34 nothing new on this.

35 Ballfield needs were next on the agenda. Two quotes for field dirt were received. The
36 youth program had submitted a quote for \$3800.00, this is for approximately 10 tons of field dirt.
37 Superintendent Kendall had also submitted a quote. This was for \$2900.00 for approximately 24
38 tons of field dirt. Kendall stated his quote was from the same place the Village had purchased
39 dirt from previously. Backer questioned if there was room to store the dirt that was not needed on
40 the field at this time. Kendall assured the Board that there was room to store it as the container
41 was empty. Motion Backer to accept the quote for \$2900.00 from Mill Iron H and for the money
42 to come from the Keno account. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Nelms, Dempcy, Patrick, Meyer,
43 Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. The youth program would also like some shade
44 structures over the dugouts on the small field, and shade tarps for the bleachers. Quotes and
45 designs had not been submitted to the office, this will stay on the agenda. The final ballfield
46 topic was for padding for the scoreboard. A quote was submitted to the office in the amount of
47 \$199.00 per pad, Kendall informed the Board that 2 pads would be needed. Backer questioned if
48 this included the shipping cost. Patrick pointed out that the site stated free shipping. Meyer
49 commented that the scoreboard pads are in rough shape, Kendall agreed. Motion Patrick to
50 approve the purchase of 2 scoreboard pads at \$199.00 per pad with the money coming out of the
51 Keno funds. Second Nelms. Voing yes: Patrick, Nelms, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no:
52 none. Motion carries.

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54 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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56 The first new business item on the agenda was to accept or reject bids for the Anchor
57 Park Expansion project. Edward Dunn from West Central Nebraska Development District met

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with the office and Chairman Meyer on April 8th to open bids. One bid was received, and it was only for the playground portion of the project and would require the village to prepare the site prior to installation. Mr. Dunn recommended the project be sent out for bids again and place bid notices in newspapers in the Colorado area along with the Omaha area. He felt the village would receive more bids because more companies would see the notice. Mr. Dunn will also restructure the proposal so it can be bid in three parts: the multi-use court only, the playground only, or the entire project. This may require the village to coordinate with more than one contractor but should also result in more bids. If the Board rejects the current bid and agrees to the restructuring and reissuing of the bid notice, new bids will be opened on May 12th before being presented to the Board to accept or reject on May 14th. Motion Backer to reject the bid provided. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer, Patrick, Backer, Dempcy, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Motion Backer to allow West Central to restructure and reissue the bid notice. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Nelms, Dempcy, Patrick, Meyer, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

Kathy McCune was in attendance to address the multi-sport court item she had requested be placed on the agenda. McCune wanted to express some community concerns with the pickleball nets for the court not being permanent. McCune spoke about the convenience of permanent nets, allowing those who want to play pickleball to do so without needing to set nets up first. She also expressed that permanent nets provide consistency in net height and tension. Durability was also addressed, McCune stated that permanent nets last longer in the elements. Other reasons shared were aesthetics, lower maintenance, and more cost efficiency due to less chance of theft and damage. She also feels that since there is not a court for pickleball in the community, permanent nets would lead to increased use. Patrick spoke up and stated she felt this information was good to have before construction started. Backer and Meyer both said that if the nets were permanent it would no longer be a multi-sport court and would void the grant the village received. The project must be completed as submitted for the grant. Patrick questioned where the nets would be stored. Discussion was held on different options such as checking nets out from the office, which everyone agreed would be inconvenient, a storage building or container was also discussed. Nets could be available for use and kept out of the elements when not in use. Backer suggested that the net that gets used the most could remain in place and if someone wanted to use the court for a different purpose they could put the nets away. Patrick said she feels like putting them away wouldn't be a big deal. More discussion was held on how difficult the nets are to put up and take down. Meyer stated that the nets should be easy to use. Meyer also stated that if a dedicated pickleball court is what is wanted, the village would have to turn down the grant, and fundraising for a pickleball court to be placed somewhere else would have to take place. To keep the grant the project must be completed as presented. Meyer also suggested that a separate court could be built beside the multi-sport court if funding could be found. With no further comments or questions on this topic Chairman Meyer moved to the next agenda item.

Resolution 2025-04-01 was presented to the Board. Attorney Roundtree explained that this resolution was to clarify and establish definite policy on due dates for utilities provided. Roundtree stated that the resolution requires all accounts to be paid in full to avoid termination. Motion Backer to approve resolution 2025-04-01 and authorize the appropriate people to sign. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Nelms, Dempcy, Patrick, Meyer, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

Clerk Ralston placed choice gas selections on the agenda. Ralston told the Board that choice gas enrollment is open until April 23rd. The office had gathered quotes from several companies, but Ralston reported there were a few the office had not heard back from. Discussion was held on whether the village should opt for a 1-year or 2-year price lock since only one company offered a 3-year option. With the closing date being the 23rd, the night of the next meeting, Ralston stated she could present more options at that meeting and call to lock in the choice after the meeting. Meyer asked Roundtree if the office could be directed to make a final choice once all quotes had been received. Roundtree stated that it could be done with specific directions. Meyer clarified that the lowest price would be the direction. Motion Backer to authorize the office to receive quotes and determine the lowest price for a 2-year contract, and to lock the Village of Sutherland into that contract. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Meyer, Nelms, Patrick, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

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OTHER:

- Claims in the amount of \$88,486.57 were presented to the Board. Backer asked for clarification on what the payment to the Lincoln County Court was for, Ralston stated that this was for the second half of the interlocal agreement with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. Patrick asked what the pathology services bill was for. Backer informed her it was for employee drug testing. Motion Backer to approve the claims as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Patrick, Nelms, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
- Payroll Reports were presented to the Board for the April 11, 2025 regular payroll.
- Comp Time Reports were also included in the packet.

FYI INFORMATION:

- Clerk Ralston told the Board that she had been in touch with RJ Meyer concerning the audit. They had an issue with a bank transfer that needs cleared up before they can move forward. They will be contacting the office for any needed documents.

REPORTS:

- Superintendent Kendall reported that the concession stand repairs have been completed and it looks nice. He also said that a solution had been worked out with the monument company concerning the Veterans Memorial stones. When the replacement stone arrives, it will be set using 1 1/8" powder coated rebar. The monument company will also be testing how well the other stones are set. Kendall stated that the monument company is going to try to hold the crane company responsible for the damage to the grass and if that didn't work the monument company would take care of it. Kendall doesn't think we will see this finished for 6-8 months.
- Clerk Ralston had nothing to report.

Trustees Reports:

- K. Backer had nothing to report.
- D. Dempcy had nothing to report.
- F. Patrick had nothing to report.
- J. Nelms said he had been asked by several people about the memorial stone so is glad to have an update to give them.
- S. Meyer had nothing to report.

With no further agenda items to discuss Meyer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Dempcy to adjourn the meeting. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Meyer, Patrick, Backer, Dempcy, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

These minutes are set to be approved at the April 23, 2025, regular meeting.

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Scott Meyer, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

Bonnie Ralston, Clerk
Village of Sutherland