

VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting &
Public Hearing RE: Liquor License for Sportsman's Cove
March 11, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

1 The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on March 11, 2026,
2 at 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, Derek Dempcy,**
8 **Felicia Patrick, and Justin Nelms.** Quorum was established. Also present were Village Attorney
9 Rory Roundtree, Village Superintendent Casey Kendall, and Village Clerk Bonnie Ralston. The
10 guests present were Dora Seerley, Brian Vasa, Shannon Kulseth, Dave Kezer, Brennan Zasitto,
11 Sam Laugrin, Paul Brune, Jim Dickerson, Trena Seifer, Muriel Clark, RC Oneal, Milan Moore,
12 Jim Bliss, and Lora Bliss. If all the names are not included, it is only by error, absence of
13 signature or undecipherable signature in the guest book.

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

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

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

22 Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Patrick to
23 approve the agenda as presented. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Patrick, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer,
24 Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

25 The Board read the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and Public
26 Hearing on February 25, 2026. Motion Backer to approve the minutes as presented. Second
27 Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer, Backer, Dempcy, Nelms, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

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29 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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31 Walnut Street property was addressed. Chairman Meyer said there was nothing new to
32 report at this time. This will remain on the agenda.

33 A large animal permit for 730 N County Rd is still on hold pending the owners of the
34 property repairing buildings and fencing. Kendall requested this remain on the agenda.

35 The Robert F. Hanich Charitable Trust was discussed next. Discussion was held on
36 adjusting the design specifications from the original submission in order to meet budget
37 constraints. Village Engineer Tom Werblow had provided a blueprint for a park restroom he had
38 previously built for the Board to consider. Muriel Clark was present to discuss this with the Board.
39 Clark recommended the Board look over the sample provided by Werblow and consider sending
40 the project out for bid. Meyer asked Clark if she would be comfortable sending the bid out as either
41 a concrete block or ICF building. Clark responded that the grant application was specific about the
42 restrooms being a FEMA rated storm shelter, so she feels that if those types of buildings would

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43 meet that description then she would be comfortable moving forward with it. Meyer stated that
44 Werblow would know what would meet those requirements. Meyer asked if anyone had any
45 comment on the sample blueprint or the project in general. Backer said that since the grant was
46 written for a storm shelter the Board would need to stay within those requirements. Meyer agreed,
47 saying that Werblow would have all the specifications and that a motion could be made to send
48 this out to bid following all specifications and guidelines. Motion Backer to have Werblow send
49 the project out to bid with all specifications and guidelines included. Second Nelms. Voting yes:
50 Dempcy. Meyer, Nelms, Patrick, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

51 Planning Commission has forwarded a recommendation for permit fees, specifically
52 feeless permits, to the Board of Trustees. The Planning Commission is still making adjustments to
53 this item. This will remain on the agenda.

54 Sewer lagoon was on the agenda. Superintendent Kendall reported that Level, LLC has
55 begun moving dirt and may actually be ahead of schedule. Kendall stated that Werblow felt they
56 may have the project completed before the end of the month.

57 Frank Fleecs had requested to be placed on the agenda for a discussion on accounts. Backer
58 requested this be held until Fleecs is able to be present at a meeting.

59 Compost site electrical and shelter discussion was the first new business agenda item.
60 Meyer reminded the Board of the estimates provided by NPPD and Copeland Electric at the
61 previous meeting. Clerk Ralston confirmed that the estimates from NPPD were for \$22,643.19 for
62 NPPD to run poles all the way from the road to the top of the hill and \$14,084.26 for NPPD to run
63 poles from the road to the Village fenceline. The second option would be combined with a
64 Copeland Electric estimate of \$9,990.21 that would be to trench the lines from the fenceline to the
65 top of the hill. Meyer also said that some discussion had been held at the previous meeting
66 concerning placement of a shelter and where electricity would need to be run to. Backer stated she
67 is not opposed to electricity at the compost site, primarily for the needed security. She also said
68 she feels it doesn't need to be trenched. Meyer expressed his opinion that if power is only run to
69 the gate and that is where a shelter is placed for the attendant there would be traffic backed up
70 along the county road waiting to turn into the compost site. Backer stated that if a meter was put
71 at the bottom of the hill also then two sets of security cameras could be placed at the site. Meyer
72 agreed but said that there would need to be conduit or pipe run from the top of the hill to the gate,
73 unless there were a wireless solution that would reach for the cameras. Backer stated she knows
74 electricity is needed on the site but doesn't feel a building of the size discussed at the previous
75 meeting is necessary. Meyer responded that a building of some sort would be needed to house the
76 security system to protect the system from the elements. Backer asked if the topic could be placed
77 on hold to allow Tory Copeland to look over the options. Meyer agreed that could be done but said
78 the power options are to go overhead the entire way or to trench a portion of it. Building placement
79 is either lower by the gate or on top of the hill. Meyer felt that a decision needs to be made soon
80 since the site will be opening soon. Patrick asked if the intent was to put heat and air conditioning
81 in the building. Meyer replied that there would need to be enough heat to make sure the electronics
82 didn't freeze. Dempcy agreed that a heater wouldn't be needed, just a utility room space heater
83 style. Some discussion was held on the need to provide air conditioning and air movement for the
84 attendant during the heat of the summer. Meyer said that in the past attendants had run their own

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85 vehicles air conditioning in order to stay cool. Patrick asked if a sliding window of some sort would
86 be installed to minimize door opening and closing to be more cost effective. Meyer stated that the
87 prefab already had that in it. The Board discussed the building or shed options available and
88 approximate costs of each. Backer reiterated that she had no problem running the electricity but
89 thought the building should wait. Patrick also said she had no issue with the electricity but would
90 like more research to be done on buildings. Kendall stated that the electricity may take some time
91 to complete, so he feels it should be decided on soon. Meyer asked the Board if they would like to
92 move forward with the electricity portion and keep the building on the agenda so more ideas could
93 be gathered. Motion Patrick to accept the quote from NPPD in the amount of \$22,643.19 for the
94 overhead pole lines. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Backer, Nelms, Meyer, Dempcy, Patrick. Voting
95 no: none. Motion carries. Backer questioned where the funding was to come from. Meyer informed
96 the Board the money could come from the Infrastructure account if they chose. Roundtree told
97 Patrick she would need to clarify the funding for the project since it was not included in the motion.
98 Patrick stated that she would like funding to come from Infrastructure. Meyer asked if any Board
99 member objected to that. There were no objections.

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101 At 6:15 PM Meyer paused the regular meeting to open the public hearing. This is for a
102 liquor license for Lora Bliss for Sportsman’s Cove. Chairman Meyer stated for the minutes that all
103 Board Members are present as recorded at the beginning of the regular meeting. Meyer also
104 reminded the audience of the open meetings act poster located on the west wall of the meeting
105 room. Backer stated that the Bliss’ have been in business for 23 ½ years and there has never been
106 an issue with the state or anything else. Backer also said she appreciated the staff and the hours
107 the business is open. Meyer asked if there were any other public comments at this time. With no
108 comments forthcoming Meyer returned to the regular meeting. The public hearing was left open
109 to allow for questions or comments if the audience chose to make any.

110 The dedication of Anchor Memorial Park was discussed next. Backer addressed this and
111 asked Nelms if he had contacted the Legion Board members. Nelms stated they had spoken about
112 it but he didn’t have any details to give them. Backer wondered if the Board could turn this over
113 to the Legion to handle, Patrick questioned if the Legion would want this handed over to them to
114 run. Some discussion was held on the dedication ceremony being turned over to the Legion. Nelms
115 agreed to bring it to the Legion Board and allow them to discuss this. Backer offered to attend the
116 meeting and speak to the members. This item will remain on the agenda.

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119 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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121 Chairman Meyer adjusted the agenda to accommodate Dora Seerley. Seerley had asked to
122 have clean up assistance placed on the agenda so she could discuss this with the Board. Concerns
123 with yard waste cleanup were put before the Board by Seerley. She stated she has no means to get
124 rid of tree branches or yard waste. Seerley expressed that she lives alone and does not have a
125 vehicle that would allow her to transport yard waste to the compost site. Seerley feels this is a
126 common issue for senior citizens and those who are not able to take care of yard waste. She asked

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127 if the Village could do pick up of limbs and yard waste once or twice in the spring. Meyer stated
128 that the Village typically doesn't do this because what is done for one must be done for all. Backer
129 said it would be a nice service to provide, but if something were done for senior citizens the Village
130 would have to offer it to all residents. Speaking as a private citizen and not as a Board member at
131 this point, Backer told Seerley that she would look into some younger residents who may be willing
132 to volunteer and help out, stating that she would have them contact Seerley about this. No
133 guarantees were made, Backer said she would attempt to find some assistance on this for Seerley.

134 Meyer then adjusted the agenda to the NPPD transmission line project. Paul Brune and
135 David Kezer were in attendance to discuss this with the Board. Brune wanted to give an update on
136 the project to the Board. Brune had brought some of the leadership staff from the construction side
137 of the project to introduce them to the Board. NPPD had provided a presentation that was included
138 in the Board packets detailing the history of the project and the path the transmission line will take.
139 Brune stated this has been in the works since 2012. Brune went on to discuss the public meetings
140 held since then and the process of NPPD applying for and receiving permits to complete this
141 project. This included a lot of federal work to deal with a beetle which had been declared an
142 endangered species, that permit was awarded in 2019 and subsequently revoked in 2020. Since
143 then, NPPD has been working to reinstate that permit, this was finally completed in early February
144 2026. Reasoning behind the project was given. Brune stated that the north central part of the state
145 has very few lines and requires loads to be shifted from one area to another to reduce the loads on
146 the transmission system, particularly in the summer. Construction activities have begun, including
147 surveying access routes and right of ways, preparing some materials, and preparing to bring tower
148 pieces to the area in April. Heavier construction will not begin until probably June, with helicopter
149 construction and wire stringing happening in the middle of 2027. The intent is to have the project
150 completed by the middle of 2028. Brune also discussed work that needed to be done at substations.
151 Logistics of construction were talked about, Brune explained the different types of towers and
152 ways they need to be transported in. Restoration plans for affected grassland were also gone over.

153 At 6:32 PM Chairman Meyer redirected the meeting back to the public hearing for the
154 liquor license application. Meyer asked if there were any public questions or comments concerning
155 this. Hearing none, Meyer asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Motion Backer to close
156 the public hearing for a liquor license. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer, Backer, Nelms,
157 Dempcy, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Motion Backer to forward a positive
158 recommendation to the liquor control commission for the liquor license for Lora Bliss. Second
159 Nelms. Voting yes: Patrick, Meyer, Nelms, Dempcy, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

160 Meyer then adjusted back to the NPPD discussion. Backer asked Roundtree if he could go
161 over the easement option that had been mentioned previously in the discussion with Brune.
162 Roundtree stated he had pulled up the option from 2017 which stated if the option was not
163 exercised within five years the easement would be done. Roundtree also stated he would need to
164 speak with NPPD legal department on this. Brune replied that the district position is that the
165 easements are tied to property and are active. Roundtree said that he was not entering into a public
166 debate and asked that Brune have the legal department contact him. Meyer asked about the shifting
167 of the project ½ mile to the east. Brune agreed the project had been shifted. Meyer then asked if
168 there would be any structures on the Village of Sutherland property. Brune was unsure, stating he

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169 did not have that information at hand, but said it could be looked into and given to the Village. A
170 short discussion was held concerning behind the scenes work counting towards keeping the
171 easement options open, Brune said NPPD legal would discuss this with Roundtree.

172 Makers Market was next on the agenda. Muriel Clark was present to address this with the
173 Board. The first topic was the peddler's permit. Clark asked that the Board formally invite the
174 vendors to town in lieu of a peddlers permit for every vendor. This has been done the last couple
175 of years. Meyer asked if a motion would be needed to waive peddler's permit requirement. Clark
176 said that in the past years the Board has just invited the vendors. Clerk Ralston clarified that the
177 peddler's permit definition states an "uninvited person". Roundtree agreed this was the definition.
178 Backer said she thought it was just the Board offering the area to the Chamber of Commerce with
179 an open invitation for vendors who are participating. Motion Patrick to formally invite vendors to
180 participate in the Chamber of Commerce Maker's Market. Second Backer. Voting yes: Nelms,
181 Patrick, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. A street closing application
182 was also submitted for Maker's Market. Clark informed the Board that the closure will run up
183 Walnut Street from 1st Street to the alley in front of Sutherland Farm and Auto so vendors can set
184 up along the sides of the road. This will also include 2nd Street from the west property line of the
185 library to Walnut Street. Clark also said the Chamber of Commerce is also requesting the
186 barricades and port a potties like last year. Kendall asked if the Chamber would be setting the
187 barricades up and moving the port a potties, Clark confirmed this. Motion Patrick to approve the
188 street closure application. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Patrick, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer, Nelms.
189 Voting no: none. Motion carries.

190 The Citizen's Advisory Review Committee Annual Report was presented to the Board.
191 Muriel Clark addressed this as the program administrator. Clark reported that 2025 ended with
192 \$106,920.71 going into the Economic Development fund. Clark pointed out the increase in total
193 amounts each year. Interest amounts were also discussed, along with noticeable growth in the
194 amount brought in total from the sales tax. Clark discussed applications received and applications
195 that were completed in 2025. She reported there were no outstanding residential projects and one
196 outstanding commercial project. Clark also discussed the Economic Development directory signs.
197 Clerk Ralston told Clark that the signs had arrived and were currently in the recycling center
198 waiting to be placed. One is to be placed at the Oregon Trail campgrounds, one at Anchor Park,
199 and one at the inlet. Clark said there is a new game and parks superintendent so she has been in
200 contact with him regarding the sign. There were two digital marketing grants awarded in 2025,
201 one to the Camber of Commerce for the Maker's Market, and the other went to Kate Smith to
202 promote the purchase and renovation of the Trick Pony, formerly the Park Motel. Going forward,
203 Clark proposes the CARC program work on developing grant programs to address current needs.
204 Currently, commercial property improvement grants are limited to façade, Clark feels another
205 appropriate use would be simply commercial building rehab. This would allow owners to get grant
206 funding to help with wiring, plumbing, or interior repairs instead of just what can be seen from the
207 street. Housing development is another area Clark feels the CARC board could expand into. This
208 could include owner/occupant rehab or rehab for sale or lease. She would also like to see an
209 awareness push to let people know about existing programs. Clark reported that the Citizen's
210 Advisory Review Committee met three times in 2025. Clark also presented the Board with a

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211 spreadsheet showing all income and outflow from the economic development fund since the
212 beginning of the program. There is a balance of \$240,097.59 in the account and \$10,000.00 of that
213 has been committed to a grant project. Milan Moore was present and spoke up, saying the CARC
214 board could use everyone's help promoting the sidewalk project. Some discussion was held on
215 areas of town where sidewalks would be most beneficial. Backer suggested Prairie Trace Road.
216 Locating property lines was discussed as an impediment to this. Moore wondered if the CARC
217 board could grant money for a survey to find those property lines. Moore and Meyer talked about
218 approximate costs of a sidewalk. Drainage issues in that area were also discussed. Patrick
219 suggested involving Tom Werblow to determine if the project is doable and what it would entail.
220 Clark will reach out to Werblow concerning this. Motion Patrick to formally accept the Economic
221 Development annual report. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Nelms, Dempcy, Patrick, Meyer, Backer.
222 Voting no: none. Motion carries.

223 Wellfield lease was next on the agenda. The office placed this on there to get a scheduled
224 date for the auction. With the sewer lagoon project going on, this land will not be leased out this
225 year. The Board discussed possible dates and settled on April 8, 2026, at 6:15 PM. The office will
226 have this published in the paper and posted around town.

227 Rooster Sanitation billing was placed on the agenda. This is more informational, as the
228 office simply wanted to let the office know that instead of the Village paying for services from the
229 previous month the invoice will be sent at the beginning of the month being billed for. This will
230 mean the Village is paying ahead instead of a month behind. Meyer asked how additional
231 dumpsters would be billed if brought up part way through the month. Clerk Ralston said those
232 would be billed on the following month.

233 The Legion Hall had come to the Board with a sanitation request. When the Village
234 sanitation was picked up by Schaben's, the Legion was receiving a larger dumpster at a lower price
235 as a special deal offered by Schaben's. RC O'Neal was present to discuss this. The Legion board
236 had reached out to Rooster Sanitation to see what could be done about getting a bigger dumpster.
237 O'Neal states that, with the blessing of the Board, the Legion could get a 4 yard for the cost of a 2
238 yard. Backer asked if something could be put in writing from Rooster Sanitation. The office will
239 reach out to get something in writing and bring it to the next meeting.

240 Crack sealing was the final new business agenda item. Kendall had submitted an estimate
241 from ShelCo for this. Backer asked what the amount was last year for this. Kendall stated he
242 believed it was approximately \$27,000.00. Discussion was held on the mild winter leading to fewer
243 cracks that need repaired. Jim Dickerson asked if this estimate was from the same company who
244 usually does the crack sealing. Kendall confirmed it was. Meyer stated that there was one year a
245 different company had done the crack sealing and there were multiple issues with the way it was
246 done. Discussion followed about sealant building up and causing streets to be rough, and also the
247 cost of milling some of the rougher areas. Motion Backer to accept the quote from Shelco for the
248 crack sealing with a typo correction to adjust the quote to 2026 instead of 2025. Second Dempcy.
249 Voting yes: Nelms, Patrick, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

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OTHER:

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- Claims in the amount of \$78,525.31 were presented to the Board. Backer asked if the Waste Connection bill was the final bill. Clerk Ralston confirmed this and informed the Board that the office had calculated the amount for the additional week and added it into the bill. Motion Backer to approve the claims as presented. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Patrick, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.
- Payroll Reports were presented to the Board for the March 2, 2026 Board payroll and the March 13, 2026 regular payroll.
- Comp Time Reports and paid time off reports were also included in the packet.

FYI INFORMATION:

REPORTS:

- Superintendent Kendall reported that the sewer lagoon project is moving along quickly. Flagpole cable at the Veterans Memorial has been fixed and all flags are up again. Paint has been ordered for the pickleball court. Work on the pool will begin on Monday the 16th. This will be an annual spring repair. New mower has been delivered, Kendall and Meyer discussed declaring the old mower surplus. Sprinklers will be going in next week at the pool park also. Backer asked if payment was being held until completion of the project. Kendall stated that half was paid up front and the remainder would be on completion.
- Clerk Ralston reported that she would be gone the following week to attend the clerk's academy. Ralston told the Board the office was in good hands with Hayley.

Trustees Reports:

- K. Backer had attended the garden club meeting, the new sign had been delivered. Kendall took her on a tour of the sewer lagoon. She feels this should not be placed on auction for lease this year since there is work being done.
- D. Dempcy had nothing to report.
- F. Patrick had nothing to report.
- J. Nelms reported that Anchor Park is great. He sees a lot of kids whenever he goes up there.
- S. Meyer had nothing to report.

At this point, Meyer stated he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session for discussion of potential litigation. Motion Backer to enter into executive session for reasons of potential litigation. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Meyer, Backer, Dempcy, Nelms, Patrick.

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292 Voting no: none. Motion carries. The Board entered into executive session at 7:15 PM. No
293 action will be taken.

294 At 7:28 PM the Board came out of executive session. No action was taken.

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297 With no further agenda items to discuss, Meyer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion
298 Dempcy to adjourn the meeting. Second Backer. Voting yes: Dempcy, Meyer, Nelms,
299 Patrick, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

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302 These minutes are set to be approved at the March 25, 2026, regular meeting.

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Scott Meyer, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

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[Seal]

Bonnie Ralston, Clerk
Village of Sutherland

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