VILLAGE of SUTHERLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular meeting
October 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on October 14, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., in the Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located at 1200 First Street, Sutherland, Nebraska. Notice of these meetings was given by posting notice in four public places, the designated method by the Village Board of Trustees. The agenda for this meeting was kept continuously current and available for inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk.

Chairman Meyer called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 PM Members present upon roll call were Scott Meyer, Kim Backer, Derek Dempcy, Felicia Patrick, and Justin Nelms. Quorum was established. Also present were Village Attorney Rory Roundtree, Village Superintendent Casey Kendall, and Village Clerk Bonnie Ralston. Guests present were Frank Fleecs, Milan Moore, Jim Dickerson, Pat Dickerson, Trenda Seifer, Bran Vasa from NPPD, and Kristi Singleterry from NPPD. If all the names are not included, it is only by error, absence of signature or undecipherable signature in the guest book.

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

Chairman Meyer gave notice of the open meeting law poster and its location on the west wall of the meeting room. Meyer also stated the proper procedure for guests.

At this time, the Board opened the floor for comments from the public. Chairman Meyer stated that all comments need to be directed to the Chair and that there was a five-minute time limit. Chairman Meyer also said that there would be no discussion by the Board on comments by the public that were not on the agenda. Milan Moore asked to addressed the Board regarding the sport court. Meyer told Moore this was on the agenda and Moore stated he would speak on the issue then. Meyer asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, Chairman Meyer continued with the regular meeting.

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

The Board read the minutes for the September 23, 2026 Budget Public Hearing. Motion Patrick to approve the minutes as presented. Second Backer. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Meyer, Dempcy, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

The Board read the minutes for the September 23, 2026 Special Meeting. Motion Backer to approve the minutes as presented. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Patrick, Nelms, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

The Board read the minutes for the September 23, 2026 Regular Meeting. Motion Patrick to approve as presented. Second Backer. Voting yes: Dempcy, Backer, Meyer, Patrick, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Walnut Street property was addressed. Chairman Meyer stated this would be addressed in executive session due to potential litigation.

Sewer lagoon was on the agenda. Kendall told the Board this could be removed since the project was complete.

Potentially dangerous dogs remained on the agenda. Backer told the Board she would like the Sheriff to come pick up the animals who are not in compliance. Meyer said this has been in process for two months. Motion Backer to direct village staff to reach out to the Sheriff's Office, per Village Code, to trap and otherwise take the dogs from the locations that have been deemed potentially dangerous. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Nelms, Backer, Dempcy, Patrick, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

Multi-sport court concerns were addressed next. Milan Moore addressed the Board regarding this. Moore stated he has concerns about basketball storage at the court. Moore said he thought the village would be purchasing a rack of some sort so balls could be put away, much like the pickleball players are expected to store their equipment when they are done using it. Backer told Moore that the basketballs are not village property, they are being left there by whoever is playing ball up there. Moore asked if some kind of rack could be put there so the pickleball players don't have to clean up basketballs when they want to play. Backer and Dempcy discussed that other public courts don't have storage. Backer had concerns that, if the village puts storage there, more balls will be left. She suggested confiscating the balls and posting on Facebook. Patrick was not comfortable with keeping balls, saying she feels like it is a parent issue. Patrick also said she thought that, even if storage was provided, kids wouldn't pick up after themselves anyway. Discussion was held on the pickleball net needing to be taken down and put away after use, Kendall said the village owns the net. Kendall also stated that if the net were to be left up it would get ruined by people swinging on it or by the weather. Meyer expressed concerns with someone tripping over the net and getting hurt. Patrick asked Moore how many balls are being left at the court. Moore and Backer both said there are times with 4 or more basketballs being left, Backer said there have also been backpacks left. Meyer said he would drive by the following day and see if there are names on any of the balls. Attorney Roundtree said the village could put up signage about things being left there overnight possibly being destroyed or collected. Backer asked if something could be put on Facebook reminding kids not to leave basketballs and other items at the park. Dempcy stated he would hate to discourage kids from using the park, Backer agreed. Kendall said that there are times when the balls are tossed into the court fencing to get them off the grass so they can mow.

The Board discussed the fee schedule next. Kendall had requested the cost for bulk water to be raised to $30 per 1,000 gallons. Resolution 2026-10-01 was presented to the Board along with Exhibit A reflecting this change. Motion Backer to adopt Resolution 2026-10-01. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Nelms, Meyer, Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

At this point Chairman Meyer adjusted the agenda to accommodate Frank Fleecs and the NPPD representatives. Those agenda items are new business.

Frank Fleecs addressed the Board first. Fleecs told the Board he had sent a letter to the Village prior to the Public Hearing held for the budget. Fleecs questioned why this letter was not read aloud at the public hearing. Chairman Meyer replied that he had notified the Board and the audience that the letter had been received and was included in the packet. Meyer said he had spoken with Attorney Roundtree, and he did not believe he was required to read public comments out loud. Fleecs asked how someone listening on the YouTube feed was able to know what the

comment was. Meyer said it was also included in the minutes that a public comment letter was included in the packet. F. Fleecs asked why the public comment was not recorded in the minutes. Patrick asked if he meant the entire letter. Fleecs feels the minutes don't reflect his concerns on the budget because his comments were not included. He stated he felt this was a problem because when the state is sent the minutes for the hearing, his concerns are not documented. Attorney Roundtree spoke up, telling Fleecs that the concerns and comment submitted were part of the formal packet generated for the meeting. Roundtree said that there is no requirement that anything submitted to the Board be read out loud. The comment letter was given to the Board, made available to the general public, and would be made available to anyone who submitted a public records request. Fleecs went on to address his concerns. On the topic of the bond for the lagoon expansion, Fleecs said that revenue generating departments should pay for the projects out of their revenue, not be bonded. Fleecs asked why a bond was requested against the property tax. Meyer told Fleecs that is what the Board opted to do. Fleecs said he would like to know why, and what the bond was for. Meyer replied that the bond was for the sewer expansion project. Backer said that Bob Meyer had also told the Board that the bond amount requested from property taxes could be used for other purposes besides the sewer if the Board chose to, such as street improvements. Bob Meyer said the sewer should fund itself. Chairman Meyer said it was a general obligation bond. Backer said her reasoning behind voting for the property tax request was for this reason. F. Fleecs asked why the money in the sewer fund was not used for the expansion. He asked the Board how much was in the sewer fund. Clerk Ralston was asked to get that number for the Board. While Ralston got the requested information, Chairman Meyer asked if there was another question to be addressed. Fleecs said he has expressed concerns before about the Board not knowing what incomes and expenses were. A meeting had been held with Bob Meyer where Fleecs expressed this concern. Bob Meyer suggested a spreadsheet be used to keep the beginning balances from the audit and the monthly profit and loss so there is a running total of what is in each fund. Fleecs said he thought the Board had implemented this, but Fleecs has not received this report yet. Chairman Meyer told Fleecs that the report created was in the packet for the last meeting. Patrick spoke up, saying it was not done the way Fleecs was talking about. Meyer asked the Board if they wanted something changed. The report was presented to the Board, and Meyer said everyone seemed comfortable with what was presented. Backer said she thought it was for them to look over and think about. Backer discussed the recycling/compost fees, saying the income for that was not separated and is included in the general account. Backer said she would like a report that shows recycling to see if it is in the red still and by how much. Fleecs said that in the past, before the Village switched to the gWorks software, Banks had a report that broke down departments, he would like this report again, starting from the audit balances. Clerk Ralston told the Board there was currently $249,491.44 in the sewer account. Ralston stated this did not include the last quarter of user fees as those are transferred over quarterly and will show up in October transfers. Fleecs referred to the last audit numbers saying that funds had been co-mingled and the sewer should have $1,034,000.00 in the fund, including what was in the general fund. He questioned why there was a bond taken instead of using those funds. Fleecs did agree a rate increase needed to be done to catch up. Fleecs said he had provided a sample of how the spreadsheet could be done. Backer said she thought the confusion came from the question of fund balances and account balances.

Meyer asked if there was a separate sewer account, Ralston stated there was. Backer thought this was where the miscommunication is, the account balance is not reflecting the fund balance that is in general account. Fleecs spoke about the funds being co-mingled and that RJ Meyer said a running spreadsheet of incomes and expenditures would track funds using the profit and loss report. Chairman Meyer asked Ralston about the request for the spreadsheet Fleecs would like to see created. Meyer wanted to know what it would take to create this. Ralston told the Board that she had spoken with Tiffany from Miller and Banks, and it would involve combining several reports and take most of the day to create because QuickBooks doesn't have anything like what Fleecs wanted. This would also take 1-2 hours monthly to update. Ralston said she could ask Tiffany about it again if the Board would like. Fleecs stated that Tiffany had it set up so reports could be generated by department from QuickBooks and it was short and easy to do. He said it was a matter of going to the sewer department and it and all the other departments were there so it would be easy to add up the bottom lines. Clerk Ralston told the Board that Tiffany had stated at a Borad meeting and in the office that the report cannot be generated in QuickBooks but is a process of pulling multiple reports and updating the spreadsheet monthly. Fleecs commented that it was easy in the past and asked the Board what knowing financials was worth to the village. Meyer discussed the differences in amounts, Clerk Ralston said her understanding was that million-dollar number included cash and cash assets. Ralston also told the Board that the user fees did not cover operating and maintenance costs, so the sewer savings were used to make up the difference. Meyer said that the last rate increase was 2016. Fleecs said again that there should be over a million dollars in sewer fund and told the Board that cash equivalents would be a CD. Fleecs stated again that the funds are co-mingled in the general account. Meyer said he would have to look into this, Fleecs responded that he has brought it up several times. Fleecs referred again to the last audit, Patrick asked if it would behoove the village to do it Frank's way to determine if the Board wanted to keep doing it that way. Backer said the report is something that could be built and instructions given so the office could complete it. Patrick feels it would show more transparency, stating that Fleecs was asking for this and he does pay taxes. Roundtree spoke, saying the Board needed to set the ceiling for discussion. Clerk Ralston referred to the Profit and Loss report that gives the numbers requested, reminding the Board that the quarterly transfers don't reflect on it yet since the office is still completing reconciliations.

At this point Attorney Roundtree apologized, saying he had to leave to attend the Board meeting in Paxton.

Chairman Meyer continued the discussion, saying that Tiffany will be asked about the requested report and address this afterwards. Fleecs asked if the money from the sale of the old payloader had been divided like he had asked it be. Meyer told Fleecs that the money from the sale went into the Equipment fund. Fleecs said it was recorded on the audit as sanitation. Ralston said Bob Meyer had told the office that was a one-time sale and was not an issue as recorded on the audit. Fleecs and Backer said it makes the sanitation look like it has a lot of money. Meyer said this would require research. Fleecs said last years audit showed $90,000.00, Meyer said the old loader brought in $40,000.00. Fleecs said the audit is a true picture of the village financials and he thinks no one really understands it. Meyer asked if there was anything else, Fleecs stated that

covered all his concerns. Chairman Meyer asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none Meyer continued with the next agenda item.

Brian Vasa and Kristi Singletary were here to present the NPPD yearly report. Vasa provided a printout to the Board and those present in the audience. Vasa discussed the energy report first, pointing out the amount of the 12% lease payment made to the Village of $360,882.00 along with any sales tax collected for the city on the sale of electricity. Vasa also discussed the state required gross revenue tax of 5%. This is rebated back to the county and from there is split between all taxing entities. Energy efficiency incentives were discussed. Vasa said he would like to see this utilized more and all the information on this program is available on the NPPD website. Vasa also touched on the pennies for power program that assists people in difficult situations with their bills. Statistics for the carbon intensity number were presented, showing percentages of gas, solar, and wind power purchased by NPPD. Vasa said part of the reason NPPD has been able to stay lower cost and reliable is because of the diverse generation mix. Discussion was held on the last time a generator was built and where the newest one is being built now. The SMR program was touched on, Vasa said a grant was received to continue research into which community to place this in. The rate structure was discussed also. NPPD is below the national average for energy costs, Vasa said there had not been a rate increase for 11 years until the last 2 years which were 2% and 3%. This averages out to a 1% increase per year over 14 years. Dempcy asked if that was wholesale or retail. Vasa said that was retail. A coming rate increase was discussed by Vasa, stating there will be an 8.6% increase, as a preliminary number, for next year. Because it had been so long with very little increase, this is something that needs to be done. Patrick asked if Vasa thought that a gradual increase would be done going forward to avoid large jumps in rates. Vasa said he believed that would be the plan going forward, but he is not high enough on the food chain to guarantee this. Vasa told the Board that NPPD's goal is to keep rates affordable. Patrick asked how rates would be affected if Sutherland were chosen for the SMR. She wondered if the residents would have to absorb some of the cost of construction. Vasa told her that the plants currently being built are bonded, so a portion of the rates may be raised for payment, but it would be spread out over all customers. Dempcy asked if wholesale and retail are being increase by the same percentages. Vasa replied that those numbers are completely isolated business units. Retail is about a $300 million dollar business unit. Dempcy asked what the retail increase would be. According to Vasa, the 8.6% is the retail increase, wholesale is a 6% increase. All wholesale customers are getting the same increase. Patrick asked why businesses are charged more than residences. Vasa explained the cost of service difference, saying that industrial and commercial have fewer expenses because of fewer meters, wires, and points of contact for repairs. Jim Dickerson asked how the increase related to nationwide increases. Vasa replied that NPPD still aims to maintain their 15% below national average. NPPD pulled a lot of information across the nation to see if other providers were going up also and to compare their increase with others. Dickerson asked if the increase in coal cost would affect things. Vasa said that as long as NPPD can continue to meet environmental standards they would continue using coal, he also said the lowest cost plant is Gerald Gentleman. Frank Fleecs asked if there were any thoughts about putting another unit out at the plant. Vasa replied that he had not heard anything about that. Vasa said that most of the energy has historically

gone east, but recently this has opened up some to the west. Meyer asked if there were any more questions for Mr. Vasa. Hearing none he adjusted back to the regular agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

The sanitation rate increase was the first item of new business. Provided in the meeting packet was a spreadsheet showing the current rate and the rates after the 3% increase. Clerk Ralston told the Board that Peyton Zeller had reached out concerning this increase, telling the office that the tipping fees at the transfer station in North Platte had gone up $4.00 per ton. The higher tipping fees are the reason behind this increase. Backer told the Board that the fee increase at the transfer station has already gone into effect, so Rooster Sanitation is paying more to collect the village trash and not making more for this month. Motion Backer to adopt the 3% sanitation increase. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Nelms, Meyer, Backer, Dempcy, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Patrick asked about the difference between a commercial toter and a residential toter. Ralston said her understanding is commercial toters may have different waste in them.

A proposed sewer rate increase was also on the agenda. The office had worked to fill out the rate study worksheets, Clerk Ralston told the Board she thought they had done it correctly, they were using the worksheets from NeRWA. This report estimates the yearly operating and maintenance costs to determine if the rates are sufficient for the needs. The profit and loss report is used to generate the estimated costs. Ralston told the Board that using the numbers from the report, the sewer is not bringing in enough revenue to support itself. Patrick asked if raising the rates would allow the sewer bond payment to be made from the revenue. Meyer said this would cover operating costs. The report had an estimated bond amount included, Ralston told the Board that she had included this amount in the estimate of revenue required. Fleecs pointed out that depreciation should not be included in the figures, because depreciation isn't figured in cash flow. Meyer asked if this was the worksheet from the DEQ formulas. Meyer refigured the amount without the depreciation value. Ralston told the Board she had input the figures that there were spaces for on the worksheet based on the instructions from NeRWA. Chairman Meyer worked through percentages to see what was needed to increase revenue to cover expenses. A 20% increase would be roughly $198,000 and 30% would be close to $215,000. The Board discussed what each percentage would bring the rates up to. Fleecs commented that the engineering fee could also be removed since the sewer lagoon project is completed. Backer said she was not comfortable taking a 20% jump in the sewer rates, especially with NPD and sanitation rates going up. Kendall commented that most communities do small steps over several years, that is the way it used to be done here also. Fleecs commented that the village also used to have rate studies done. Meyer replied that the request for a rate study was put in three years ago. Dempcy stated that he would like to not raise the rates. Backer agreed. Dempcy said that the 21% was too much all at once. Meyer calculated percentages without the engineering fees. This lowers the amount needed to 8%. Dempcy proposed a 5% increase this year. Milan Moore asked when the last increase was, Meyer responded that it was in 2016. Patrick asked where the bond payment was coming from if no one wanted to increase anything. Meyer said that the payment amount was included in the property tax

request. Backer said that money was not designated for the bond payment, Bob Meyer has said several time that the money could be used for anything. Chairman Meyer agreed that if there were other funds available to pay the bond with then the property tax money could be used for other things. Adding the bond payment into the amount required to operate and maintain the sewer system raised it to $235,000 yearly, this leaves the property tax money free for other uses. This would mean a larger rate increase to cover that amount. Motion Dempcy to raise sewer fees 5%. Second Backer, for the sake of discussion. Patrick asked what a 5% increase would raise rates to. The Board discussed the rates proposed. The $23.00 rate becomes $24.15, $45.00 would be $47.25, $73.00 becomes $76.25, and $225.00 would be $236.25. Kendall recommended the rates be revisited next year also, Dempcy agreed. Patrick asked when this would be in effect. Dempcy suggested November 1st. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Patrick, Nelms, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

The proposed franchise agreement with Spectrum was next on the agenda. Mr. Murty was not able to attend this meeting but wanted it resented to the Board to decide if they wanted to act on this or wait. Ralston told the Board the plan is to be underground for the entire project. Some discussion was held on easement space and pole surveys. Patrick asked if the Board wanted to wait. Meyer stated again that he would be abstaining from this agenda item. Dempcy didn't think there was anything that could be changed. Motion Backer to approve the franchise agreement with Spectrum. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Patrick, Nelms, Dempcy, Backer. Abstaining: Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

An SDL application was submitted by Aden Enterprises. This is for the Delta Waterfowl Banquet on December 5, 2026. Motion Backer to approve the SDL for Aden Enterprises. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Dempcy, Backer, Meyer, Patrick, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

A pay application was received for the sewer lagoon project from Carkoski Construction and Trenching. A letter was also presented to the Board from Tom Werblow recommending the village pay this invoice in the amount of $182,352.00. Werblow stated in his letter that $5000 was held for credits and remaining work. Motion Backer to approve the payment to Carkoski Construction in the amount or $182,352.00 with the funds to come from the sewer bond account until zeroed and the remaining funds to come from Infrastructure. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Backer, Patrick, Nelms, Meyer, Dempcy. Voting no. none. Motion carries.

Werblow also sent a pay application from Paulsens Inc. for the Anchor Park restroom project. He recommended the village pay this invoice in the amount of $56,880.00. Motion Backer to approve the payment to Paulsens in the amount of $56,880 with the first $50,000 to come from the CARC grant and the remainder to come from the Hanich Trust funds the village received. Patrick asked why that order for funding, Backer replied that the CARC funds need to be used before the first of the year. Second Dempcy. Voting yes: Nelms, Meyer, Backer, Dempcy, Patrick. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

OTHER:

- Claims in the amount of $92,489.62 were presented to the Board. Backer would like the

claims amended to include the payment to Paulsens Inc for $56,880.00, with $50,000 to come from the grant funds from the Citizen's Advisory Review Committee and the remainder to come from the Hanich Trust funds granted to the Village. Backer also wanted to include the claim from Carkoski Construction for $182,352.00. These funds will come from the Sewer Bond account until it is zeroed out, and the remainder will come from the Infrastructure account. Motion Dempcy to approve the claims as amended. Second Nelms. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Patrick, Nelms, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

- Payroll reports, sick and vacation reports, and comp time reports were presented to the Board.

FYI INFORMATION:

REPORTS:

- Superintendent Kendall reported that the water and sewer to the Anchor Park restrooms are done. The last of the lagoon project is being completed. Kendall told the Board that the roll-off will come off the hill at the end of October and be placed on the North Lot.
- Clerk Ralston reported that she is working on the September reconciliations and has reached out to RJ Meyer to get on their schedule for the audit. In the meantime, she will have Tiffany look over the reconciliations with her to make sure there are no issues. .

Trustees Reports:

- K. Backer said she will be attending the Housing Authority meeting the following day. Backer also said she had been asked what could be done about speeding and driving issues, she told those who had approached her to call the Sheriff's Department.
- D. Dempcy had nothing to report.
- F. Patrick had nothing to report.
- J. Nelms had nothing to report.
- S. Meyer had nothing to report.

At this time Backer motioned to enter into executive session for reasons of possible litigation. Second Patrick. Voting yes: Dempcy, Backer, Meyer, Patrick, Nelms. Voting no: none. Motion carries.

At 7:32 pm the Board entered into executive session for reasons of potential litigation. No action will be taken.

At 7:40 pm the Board came out of executive session. No action was taken.

With no further agenda items to discuss, Meyer asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Dempcy to adjourn the meeting. Second Backer. Voting yes: Patrick, Nelms, Dempcy, Backer, Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

These minutes are set to be approved at the regular meeting on October 28, 2026.

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Scott Meyer, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

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[Seal] Bonnie Ralston, Clerk
Village of Sutherland