

Village of Lodgepole

Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026 at 5:30 pm

724 Oberfielder Street, Lodgepole NE 69149

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Present: Susan Mitchell, Al Runge, Rod Wilkins and Ken Kepler. Jaime Dykman was absent.

Community Comments – the following made comments: Gwen Devie, Glenda Shellhorn, Gordan Wilkins, Joe Mann, Cynthia Bell.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded for approval of the amended agenda. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion from Gwen Devie occurred regarding public comments at meetings and transparency. No action taken.

Discussion and possible action on qualification for Library Board members was tabled.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded to accept Julie Hayes' resignation. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Wilkins moved and Kepler seconded to remove Julie Hayes from the following bank accounts: Adams Bank & Trust; Library Fund #4083; Rhynold H Wieggers Memorial Fund #4091; General Fund #2728; Lottery Acct Acct #2810; Debt Acct # 0740; DDA Construction Acct #8502; DDA Option- Construction Fund #9170; DDA Option- General Fund #9189; Water Project EMG Reserve Acct #1146; Water Project Short Lived Asset #1154; ARPA Funds #2799; DDA Option ARPA #5500; General Fund Savings #6744; Remodeling Fund #2444; Savings Nancy Fawcett Memorial Fund #8158; Sewer RD Reserve Asset Replace #4326; Sewer RD Reserve Emergency #4334; Summer Ball #2774; Revitalization Rural Nebraska Grant Fund; Rhynold H Wieggers Memorial Fund CD; Electric CD; NPAIT #3136; Union Bank & Trust: STFIT Acct #1001; Edward Jones: Rhynold H Wieggers Memorial Fund #1119; LPL Financial. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Runge moved and Kepler seconded for temporary reassignment of treasurer duties to AMGL and to reach out to prior applicants to see if they are still interested in the clerk/treasurer position. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Runge moved and Wilkins seconded for the appointment of Wade Dickinson as Municipal Fire Chief. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded for the appointment of Cemetery Board as follows: Tom Weber, Cindy Oliverius, Terry Christensen, Laurie Abrams, Kurt Huff, and Karen

Miller. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action on appointment of the Library Board: Kelly Koehn, Nicki Messersmith, Glenda Shellhorn, Connie Stanley, and Pam smith. Action was tabled.

Wilkins moved and Kepler seconded to Appoint the following to the PAC Committee: Kasey Huff, Alex Weiss, Gwen Devie, Catie Bondegard, Brent Stoll, Mark Bartling, and Dana Hill. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Appointment of Community Improvement Board: No current members. No action taken.

Kepler moved and Wilkins seconded for appointment of Banks: Adams Bank and Trust, NPAIT, Union Bank and Trust, Edward Jones, and LPL Financial. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded for appointment of the following Village Newspaper: Sidney Sun-Telegraph. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Wilkins moved and Runge seconded for appointment of Village Insurance: LARM, Fox Insurance Services. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action from Gordy Wilkins on apology for September 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting. comments were made. No action taken.

Kepler moved and Wilkins seconded for the Village to continue for one year paying for water, sewer, and sanitation for the PAC. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Wilkins moved and Runge seconded to approve the Highline proposal for upgrading Internet and telephone in the Village Office and cost savings analysis. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Runge moved and Wilkins seconded to approve of Orion Electric, LLC for the Water Tower and Tornado siren electrical work. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action on SLFRF Grant to determine what will need to be repaid no later than December 31, 2026 for not implementing water meter readers. Action was tabled.

Discussion on PAC committee and compliance with Ordinance 281. No action taken.

Keith Mitchell gave report to the Planning and Zoning Commission recommending approving zoning to commercial for Lot PID # 170049779, Lot PID # 170049760.

Public Hearing on rezoning of the Lot located at 431 Sheldon Street (Lot PID #170049779) from R2 to Commercial or Other, at 7:55 p.m. Public comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 7:57 p.m.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded to rezone of the Lot located at 431 Sheldon Street (Lot PID #170049779) from R2 to Commercial. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, and Kepler. No: Wilkins. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on rezoning of the Lot located at 423 Sheldon Street (Lot PID #170049760) from R2 to Commercial, at 7:59 p.m. Public comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

Kepler moved and Runge seconded to rezone of the lot located at 423 Sheldon Street (Lot PID #170049760) from R2 to Commercial. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, and Kepler. No: Wilkins. Motion carried.

Runge moved and Kepler seconded to prohibit remote access to Gworks to Julie Hays and any other Board Members wanting to have access. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. No: none. Motion carried.

Kepler moved and Wilkins seconded to offer the selected candidate the maintenance position starting at \$21.00 an hour subject to favorable interview and passing of the background check. Voting in favor: Mitchell and Kepler. Voting against: Runge and Wilkins. Motion failed. Wilkins moved and Kepler seconded for offering the open maintenance position to the selected candidate with a salary range of \$19-\$21 contingent upon favorable interviews and passing the background checks. Voting in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins and Kepler. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action on the status of training for Julie Hays and the potential for additional training. No action taken.

Discussion and action on Maintenance update. Report by Preston.

Discussion and action on Clerk duties update. Report by Susan Mitchell.

Appointment of Planning Commission. Motion to move to close session was denied because Keith Mitchell objected and wanted to remain in open session. Discussion regarding appointment of planning commission was had. Kepler moved and Runge seconded to approve Keith Mitchell, Cassie Mardis, Beau Cullum, Josh Frerichs, and Susan Ommen. Voting in favor Yes: Runge, Mitchell and Kepler. No: Wilkins. Motion carried.

Citizen Complaints: No action taken.

Consent Agenda Tabled.

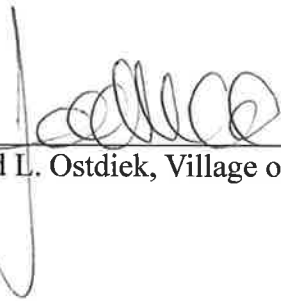
- a) Claims
- b) Approval of November 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of November 13, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
- d) Approval of December 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- e) Consideration of items extracted from the Consent Agenda, if any.

Chair Comments

Board Member Comments

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees is set for February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Lodgepole Community Hall.

Submitted: 2-9, 2026



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Jerald L. Ostdiek, Village of Lodgepole's Attorney