

-Village of Lodgepole
Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm @ Lodgepole Community Hall
730 Bates Blvd, Lodgepole NE 69149

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present: Jaime Dykman, Susan Mitchell, Al Runge, Ken Kepler and Rod Wilkins. The Chair informed the public of the location of the open meetings act in the Community Hall. Notices were placed at the Village Office, Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library, the Lodgepole Post Office, and on the Village's website. Chairman notified the public of the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary for any items on the agenda per section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statute.

Community Comments:

Gwen Devie advised the Board that the remaining members of the Community Improvement Board have voted to suspend operations, and she delivered pertinent papers to Chairman Mitchell.

Agenda Amendment:

Mitchell stated she needs to amend the agenda. At number 20, between 21 and 22, I need to add discussion and action on ending our contact with Rauners and Associates, as well as on retaining AMGL, PC out of Grand Island, to reconcile our 2024-2025 books. This is an emergency addition to the agenda because we need to determine whether we can get the audit waiver completed by December 2025. Runge motioned to amend the agenda; Dykman seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on passing ordinance 283, zoning PID lot number 170050904. This is the pasture at road 147 and road 22 to agriculture. This is the final reading and passage: Kepler moved that the ordinance number 283 be designated as ordinance number 283. Seconded by Runge. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion carried. Clerk read the ordinance by number and title: Ordinance number 283, an ordinance of the village of Lodgepole amending the official zoning map. Zoning a plot of ground beginning at a point 100 feet northerly of the northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 11, and parallel with the east line of said Block 11 in R.S. Oberfelder's section, addition to the Village of Lodgepole, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. Running thence westerly, parallel with the north line of said Block 11, about 200 feet to the section line between Sections 30 and 31, Township 14 north, Range 46 west of the 6th PM in Cheyenne County, Nebraska. Thence running east on said section line about 200 feet to the west line of Cleveland Street, thence southerly about 100 feet to the place of beginning, and a plot of ground commencing at the

before anyone is allowed to do anything at the cemetery, Karen Miller, Cindy Oliverius, or the Village Clerk must be notified so someone can be present to ensure the activity is performed correctly.

Discussion and action on reimbursement for overpayment on closed

utility (20:12) accounts: Kepler motioned for approval for Village Clerk to cut checks for these utility account overpayments. Dykman seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on adding Julie Hays to Adams Bank and Trust Accounts:

We need to add Julie Hays to ABT General Fund, ABT Debit, ABT Nancy Fawcett Memorial, ABT DBA General Fund, ABT DBA Construction, ABT Lottery, ABT Weigers/ Fawcett Memorial, Memorial number 4091, ABT Weigers/ Fawcett Memorial number 8158, ABT Remodeling, ABT Summer Ball Savings, ABT General Savings, ABT Sewer Reserve Assets, ABT Sewer Reserve Emergency, ABT Weigers/ Fossett Memorial CD, ABT Electric CD, ABT ARPA 2799, ABT DBA ARPA 5000, ABT Emergency Reserve, ABT Short-Lived Asset, Union Bank and Trust, STFIT, Edward Jones Weigers Memorial, LPL Financial, NPAIT, revitalization,, and Revitalize Rural Nebraska. Adding her to positive pay at ABT and online banking, and getting her a credit card through ABT, and discussing spending limits and credit limits. Wilkins moved to add Julie Hays to ABT General Fund, ABT Debit, ABT Nancy Fawcett Memorial, ABT DBA General Fund, ABT DBA Construction, ABT Lottery, ABT Weigers/ Fawcett Memorial, Memorial number 4091, ABT Weigers/ Fawcett Memorial number 8158, ABT Remodeling, ABT Summer Ball Savings, ABT General Savings, ABT Sewer Reserve Assets, ABT Sewer Reserve Emergency, ABT Weigers/ Fossett Memorial CD, ABT Electric CD, ABT ARPA 2799, ABT DBA ARPA 5000, ABT Emergency Reserve, ABT Short-Lived Asset, Union Bank and Trust, STFIT, Edward Jones Weigers Memorial, LPL Financial, NPAIT, revitalization,, and Revitalize Rural Nebraska. Adding her to positive pay at ABT and online banking, and getting her a credit card through ABT, Wilkins motioned Dykman seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed. Kepler motioned to approve getting Julie Hays a credit card through ABT with a \$1,500 credit limit and a monthly spending limit of \$200. Wilkins seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on getting Julie Hays her Notary license:

Julie passed her Notary test and needs authorization for a check to the Nebraska Notary Association for the license fee. It will pay her surety bond, the draft stamp, state fee, association dues, and errors in admission policy, which are both for four years. Everything's ready to be submitted if we can get authorization to write that check. Runge motioned to approve payment for Julie's Notary license fee. Kepler seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on contracting with ADP screening services for background checks:

Kepler said: After what I consider the deception that we had with backgroundchecks.com, I don't like being told that you get X for a certain amount, and then they start adding on fees after the fact. And I raised Cain with them, and I told them that I thought they were being deceptive with us. I told them that we're a very small entity and that we work on a very limited budget. That's why we wanted to go with them, because they proposed or they advertised a flat fee for a background check, and it wasn't the case. I don't think we should do anything with backgroundchecks.com. I reached out, and ADP came back to me with a quote, and it's in your packets. If we were to go with ADP for any background checks in the future, and are able to establish a relationship with them by November 10th, they normally have a \$300 setup fee that they will waive. They have no monthly service charge. If we do any background checks, they will guarantee a \$51 flat fee for any checks. I have that in writing. If we sign with them, they'll waive the \$300 fee. Wilkins moved to approve ADP as the vendor for background checks for the village. Kepler seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on purchasing a Nebraska municipal clerk treasurer reference manual from Cindy Bell:

Mitchell spoke with Nancy Byron, who was referred by the League of Municipalities. Mitchell was looking for help with the books. Nancy Bryon was unable to help us, but she asked me if we had this manual. The Village does not. Nancy Bryon stated that Cyndi Carlton, one of our clerks had purchased it. Mitchell reached out to Cyndi Carlton to see if she purchased it or the Village. Cyndi Carlton supplied us with her personal check from when she purchased it. Cyndi said she's willing to sell it to the village so the clerks that are in the office have it. It kind of gives you a checklist that you can use and model it after what is specific to your village. It's a very good reference manual for somebody who doesn't have any. It's a generalized clerk / treasurer manual. Do you want to look at this? Yeah. Because we're teaching Julie to use her resources. And I think this would be an investment in helping her develop her resources and her toolbox. You know I'm not disagreeing with this I'm just saying I'd like to see if Julie thinks she would need this. I'd like to wait until the next Board meeting so, we can get all the way through this training period. I want to see if we can do that. If she really wants it. What are your thoughts on this? Personally, I think it's a resource manual we should have.it. This item was tabled until the December meeting to determine the status of training and if Julie would want the manual.

request clarification. Both R.J. Myers and Julie Peaks expressed confidence in AMGL, an accounting firm out of Grand Island, describing them as "outstanding." if necessary, a **special meeting** will be called to review quotes. Rauners declined to continue due to workload and internal challenges, not board performance. Kepler moved to end designation with Rauners and Associates and to seek estimate and enter into talks with AMGL PC (Grand Island) to reconcile FY 2024–2025 books. Runge seconded. Voting Yes: Wilkins, Kepler, Dykman, Mitchell, Runge. No: None. Motion passed.

Discussion and action on Maintenance update:

Park restrooms have been winterized. Majority of leaves cleared. Oil supplies needed; filters discussed. Three motor grader air filters already in stock (approx. five years' supply). Need to avoid duplicate purchases. Cold mix requested for road repairs; county has filled cemetery road holes. Contact to be made with Tony (county staff) regarding cold mix availability. Maintenance & Supplies: Oil pricing reviewed: Frenchman Valley oil offered 10% discount. Hydraulic oil priced at \$16.65/gallon and \$17.40/gallon. Recommendation: purchase from Billings due to discount and reliability.

Discussion and action on Clerk duties update:

LEAP federal reporting data report submitted to Department of Health and Human Services on October 9. Report not included in board packet; Julie will forward copy to board members. Delinquent Notices: 12 mailed (4 sanitation, 8 water/sewer/sanitation). Total: \$1,244.86. Four water and one sanitation shut-offs; all but two water accounts restored. Workers' comp audit report received; due January 16, 2026. Julie and Cyndi will complete submission before deadline. Action Items: Obtain quotes from AMGL PC for reconciliation services. Prepare for potential special meeting to review quotes. Confirm maintenance supplies (oil, filters, cold mix). Julie will forward LEAP report to board members. Complete workers' comp audit report by January 16, 2026. NPPD representative, Jennifer Branson came by the office to give us more information regarding rate comparison for the PAC billing review: moving billing to committee's name would increase costs by approx. \$600 annually and could trigger demand charges. Recommendation: do not transfer PAC billing. NPPD scheduled vote on M1 street light rate increase (Nov. 13). Potential increase up to 9%. Concern raised about higher costs if additional street lights are installed. NPPD representative offered to present annual consumption/usage report to the board in 2025.

Clerk Training Update: Julie trained on utility billing during her first week; may require additional assistance next month. Payroll training completed during second week; additional support may be needed. Step-by-step instructions for G-Works processes provided. Training also included: board packets, agendas, FOIA requests, deposits, and

PRIZES,223.28;KELLY JOKOEHEN, BINGO PRIZES,33.38;DANA HILL,COOKIES,11.87;

Chair Comments:

Thank you everyone for coming. Any Board comments?

Board Member Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Next board meeting is Tuesday, December 2nd at 530 PM at Lodgepole Community Hall.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Submitted December,11 2025.

Julie Hays

Clerk/Treasurer

Susan Mitchell
Chairman 2/3/2026