

Village of Lodgepole

Special Board Meeting Minutes

December 29th, 2025

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.

Community Comments – the following made comments: Gwen Devie, Glenda Shellhorn, Kurt Huff, Lori Abrams, Rita Bartling.

Motion made by Runge and seconded by Kepler to approve the agenda. Vote in favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Dykman, Kepler, Wilkins No: None Motion Carried.

Discussion was held on employee safety in the workplace. Clerk Julie stated cameras/DVR server issues: “The camera system isn't working. ... there's a DVR server inside. It's beeping every two minutes because it has an internal fan problem.” Board of trustees are concerned with lack of confidence that video feed is recording/retained. Discussions included “I feel like we don't have confidence in it. Let's find out who sold it to the village or if there's a manual to address fixing it.” Another option discussed was a physical barrier/plexiglass: trustees discussed prior plexiglass used during COVID. Board agreed to gather objective information on (a) camera/DVR operational status and vendor assessment, (b) cost/availability or location of prior plexiglass barrier and cost to reinstall or replace, and (c) further safety needs from staff. Item was tabled pending information gathering.

Discussion was held on pets in the workplace. Concern was raised about liability and insurance coverage. ADA/service animal distinction noted by a trustee. Board raised access to a public building concern. Motion was made by Wilkins and seconded by Dykman To allow pets temporarily while checking with the insurance carrier regarding village liability/coverage for pets in the office. Voting in Favor Yes: Dykman, Runge, Wilkins No: Mitchell Abstain: Kepler Motion Carried.

Discussion and action on visitors and volunteers in the workplace. Some non-staff persons had been present in office, including an individual who later completed a volunteer form only after having been present previously. Visitors should not go on the other side of the foyer. Motion was made Kepler and seconded by Runge to have a visitor log requirement for visitors who are not in to conduct normal transactional business; volunteers remain a separate classification and must meet the volunteer-form requirements when providing ongoing assistance. Voting in Favor Yes: Mitchell, Runge, Wilkins, Kepler No: None Abstain: Dykman

Discussion held about FOIA / public records request compliance and fees. Arrange for FOIA requester to pay the estimated/prepaid fee; provide system access or process required to fulfill request so that the FOIA requests can be fulfilled.

Chair Comments

Board Member Comments: Kepler spoke.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 P.M. The next regular board meeting of the Village of Lodgepole Board of Trustees is set for Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. at the Lodgepole Community Hall.

Submitted : Feb 3, 2026


Susan Mitchell, Lodgepole Board of Trustee Chairman