

**Village of Lodgepole  
PO Box 266 • 630 Orchard St.  
Lodgepole, NE 69149  
308-483-5353  
lpclerk@daltontel.net**

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ Panther Activity Center  
630 Orchard St.  
Lodgepole, NE 69149**

Called to order by Chair Savely 7PM.

Present: Chair RJ Savely, Mark Bartling, Samuel Cheramie, Gwen Devie, Brenda Parsons, Attorney Jerry Ostdeik. Absent: None.

Board chair informed the public of the location of the Open Meetings Act poster and the Board's right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

Chair open the floor for community comments and informed the public that the Board could not discuss or act at this time on any matter presented. Dana Hill thanked Ethan Kraus for fixing her water valve and asked the Board to investigate fixing the Village's security cameras.

Mike Trbovich, Miller Engineering, provided context for the \$9525.46 change order submitted to the Village by Gerad Tank & Steel for new dates and sales tax to be paid in the December 2023 claims. Parsons moved to approve Gerad's change order for processing by the USDA in the amount of \$9525.46. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding old water tower with Mike Trbovich. Trbovich will bring info on steps and paperwork for the State of Nebraska needed to decommission to the old water tower to the December 2023 meeting and, per Devie's request, will provide a quote to tear down the tower. No action taken.

Discussion and action on Resolution 271: Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classification & Standards 2023. Clerks directed to share completed roads report with Board when completed, to ask Village accountant if highway allocation money placed into Street Fund can be saved for future street repairs, and to compare equipment inventory with LARM inventory record. Devie moved to adopt Resolution 271. Cheramie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and action on Resolution 272: Year-End Certification of Doug Hart as City Street Superintendent. Devie moved to adopt Resolution 272. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and action on Sidney-Lodgepole Mutual Aid Agreement. Savely will bring information to December 2023 meeting as to what expected costs under an agreement with Sidney could be. Discussion also included Savely presenting MEANS as a secondary mutual aid option. Action postponed until December 2023 meeting.

Parsons moved to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation to allow the Fraass subdivision. Devie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Plat info will be provided to Cheyenne County by Stuart Fraass or his representative.

Action on the Nebraska Public Power District's proposal for an operations/maintenance agreement or a pro (lease) agreement postponed to December 2023 meeting to give Wheatbelt time to develop and present options. Clerks directed to email Wheatbelt info to Board members when it arrives. Ethan Kraus shared the ruggedized meter reader can be coded for water meters if electric meters replaced by NPPD or Wheatbelt.

Ostdiek suggested the Board reappoint Cemetery Board members rather than change Ordinance 2-203. Cemetery Board agreed with suggestion. No further action required.

Clerks will disburse Cemetery Board's FY2023-2024 budget funds via check signed November 7, 2023. No further action needed.

Loveland Area Projects 2025 Resource Pool Exhibits A&B from Western Area Power Administration approved at August 1, 2023, Board meeting. Final documents expected week of November 13, 2023. Clerks will complete paperwork. No further action needed.

Proposed employee handbook edits discussed. Board members made suggestions and clarified paid time off policy for part-time employees and discussed travel time compensation. Clerks to email pay period information to Devie for insertion into handbook. Devie will provide final version of handbook for Board review at the December 2023 meeting.

Water meter delivery expected end of December 2023 as per Ethan Kraus' conversation with Dutton Lansing representative. No further action needed.

Ron Shellhorn provided information regarding ARAP fund designations. Suggested best projects are those related to drinkable water or sewer system. New projects will need a name and expected cost and will be logged in via the appropriate portal. Kraus proposed sewer project and was asked to bring details to December 2023 meeting for further discussion. Funds must be committed by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. Clerks should update the Village's status through the appropriate portal in April 2024.

Revised water rates ordinance actions: Devie moved that *An Ordinance of the Village of Lodgepole, Nebraska Municipal Water System; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or parts thereof; to provide for an effective date; to provide for that the provisions of this ordinance shall be made a part of the code of the Village of Lodgepole, and the sections may be renumbered; to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and that the ordinance shall take effect of January 1, 2024, after passage, publication, posting, and proclamation as otherwise provided* be designated as Ordinance 267. Parsons seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Devie moved that the three readings be waived. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Clerk read the ordinance by number and title. Parsons moved *Ordinance 267 An Ordinance of the Village of Lodgepole, Nebraska Municipal Water system; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or parts thereof; to provide for an effective date; to provide for that the provisions of this ordinance shall be made a part of the code of the Village of Lodgepole, and the sections may be renumbered; to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and that the ordinance shall take effect of January 1, 2024, after passage, publication, posting, and proclamation as otherwise provided* be finally passed. Cheramie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Bartling moved that Ordinance 267 be published in the Sidney-Sun Telegraph. Devie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Discussion followed regarding additional methods and locations to publish ordinance.

Revised sewer rates ordinance actions: Devie moved that *An Ordinance of the Village of Lodgepole, Nebraska Municipal Sewer System; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or parts thereof; to provide for an effective date; to provide for that the provisions of this ordinance shall be made a part of the code of the Village of Lodgepole, and the sections may be renumbered; to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and that the ordinance shall take effect of January 1, 2024, after passage, publication, posting, and proclamation as otherwise provided* be designated as Ordinance 268. Cheramie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Parsons moved that the three readings be waived. Devie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Clerk read the ordinance by number and title. Parsons moved *Ordinance 268 An Ordinance of the Village of Lodgepole, Nebraska Municipal Sewer System; to provide for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or parts thereof; to provide for an effective date; to provide for that the provisions of this ordinance shall be made a part of the code of the Village of Lodgepole, and the sections may be renumbered; to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form and that the ordinance shall take effect of January 1, 2024, after passage, publication, posting, and proclamation as otherwise provided* be finally passed. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Devie moved that Ordinance 267 be published in the Sidney-Sun Telegraph. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Board discussion on the process of communicating to the public the procedure for filing complaints for nuisance violations. Clerks will research and review the existing complaint form and will develop a communication outlet for this information.

The Long-Term Planning meeting was scheduled for January 16, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the PAC.

Ostdiek asked to help develop a code of conduct for volunteers.

All items on the consent agenda tabled until December 2023 meeting so that minutes from meetings July 2023 through November 2023 are confirmed to include requested changes.

Bartling moved that under Nebraska statute 84-1410 that the Board move into a closed session to discuss personnel performance review as a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. Devie seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Closed session entered into at 9:52 p.m.

Devie moved to come out of closed session. Bartling seconded. Votes: Yes: Savely, Parsons, Devie, Cheramie, Bartling. No: none. Absent: none. Motion carried. Closed session ended at 11:02 p.m.

Chair comments: Performance review for Ethan Kraus will be held at December 2023 meeting. Board comments: Devie shared items recommended for December meeting. Clerks asked Devie to email the list. Julie Peetz to be invited to discuss Village's audit.

Chair adjourned meeting at 11:16 p.m.