

BIG SPRINGS VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Special Meeting
(Primary Purpose – Budget Workshop)
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
6:00 pm

Present Trustees: Dinkel, Thompson, Everitt, Kyrklund, and Van Zee. Others present: Village Clerk/Treasurer, Tamera Loomis.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Big Springs, Nebraska was called to order at 6:00pm on August 27, 2024, in open and public session by Chairman Van Zee.

Notice of the special meeting was given in advance by posting at the Village Office, U.S. Post Office, Community First Bank and by publication in the Chappell Register and on the Village Website + Mobile App at bigspringsne.org, the Village's designated methods for giving notice, and delivered to members of the Board of Trustees with a copy of their Acknowledgment of Receipt and the Agenda attached to these minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were recorded while said meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Van Zee welcomed visitors and announced copies of the Open Meetings Act and Meeting Code of Conduct are posted on the wall of the meeting room with copies available from the Village Clerk if wanted.

Motion by Everitt to approve the minutes of August 6, 2024, seconded by Dinkel. Yea: Thompson, Kyrklund, Van Zee, Dinkel, and Everitt. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Kyrklund to approve the \$45,419.00 Library budget and the \$73,850.00 Cemetery budget that were presented at the August 6, 2024 meeting, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Kyrklund, and Everitt. Nay: Van Zee, Thompson, and Dinkel. Motion failed.

The Chairman announced that there is no intention to shut down or defund the library or cemetery. The purpose of this budget workshop is to discuss the budget requests with the library board and the cemetery board to understand their spending plans. Each year, the budget requests are simply provided and set before the board to accept as presented. We want to ensure that the requested funds are justified, especially when other departments of the village are in the negative. Money shouldn't just be turned over without proper justification. For effective information sharing, discussion, and feedback, it is crucial that the budgets are represented by at least the chairman from each board year over year. This process is essential to the budgeting process and the final decision-making of the board of trustees.

Library Board Chairman, Bill Studham, presented a revised library budget stating that this new budget is deemed fair and equitable it amounts to approximately 6% of the total village budget.

In reviewing the revised library budget, the Chairman noticed there is still no expense line for advertising and promotions. What is being done to attract kids to the library?

Librarian Connie Shaw and others attended the "Helping Grow Your Library" presentation in Chappell on Monday, August 26th, which provided some ideas. They plan to start a program in May for three weeks, but it ends due to softball, tee ball, and other summer activities. This is what the library aims to work towards, which is great to hear.

Some of the library funds should be allocated towards advertising, promotions, and programs for kids. The library should have a kid-friendly atmosphere, and parents need to help engage their kids. We have a great library that has been well-maintained with money well spent.

Since the Village of Big Springs owns the library and supports the library with its funds, why is there a \$45,000 checking account balance? This balance has accumulated because the budget has been approved year after year without question, but the actual expenses have been less than the budget request each year. The budget requests have never been denied, and no one has ever questioned the budget before.

The budget should be approved, but the expenses for the next budget year should be paid out of the checking account balance before any additional funds are disbursed from the general fund to support the library. Any excess amounts from one year should be used in the following year.

The library should provide services to every generation. It is important that we try to educate parents that this starts at home to read a book. Advertising promotion needs to be pointed at parents.

Looking at the budget, it could possibly still be trimmed. For example, consider replacing traditional telephone and internet services with Starlink. This would provide a Wi-Fi hotspot and allow the use of VoIP instead of a traditional telephone line. Just a suggestion from a millennial.

Motion by Van Zee to approve the revised \$36,794.00 Library Budget, minus the \$18,024.00 salary retained and paid by the village. The expenses will be paid out of the library checking account, with no funds to be disbursed from the general fund unless additional funding is needed to support the library. The motion was seconded by Dinkel. Yea: Thompson, Everitt, Van Zee, Kyrklund, and Dinkel. Motion passed unanimously.

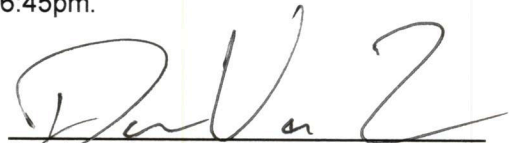
Cemetery Board Chairman, Tom Landis, presented a brief history of the cemetery, which was founded in 1962. Before that, it was known as Sunshine Cemetery, created by nine prominent businesspeople from Big Springs. The board oversees four counties: Deuel, Garden, Keith, and Perkins. They manage not only Big Springs Cemetery but also two country cemeteries, Lutheran Cemetery and Methodist Cemetery.

Due to space constraints, Big Springs Cemetery has opened a new addition. The cemetery is maintained with a sprinkler system and R-Lawn Spraying service is justified to ensure its beauty. We take pride in its upkeep. We occasionally receive donations, and lots are sold for \$100. There are no other sources of income, and our bank account balance is not large.

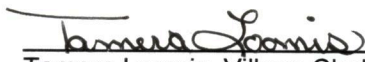
Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer Jodi Christensen provided revenue and expense statements for the periods 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 and 7/1/22 to 6/30/23. The fiscal year for Nebraska counties, as set by the State of Nebraska, runs from 7/1 to 6/30. However, the Village's fiscal year, also set by the State of Nebraska, runs from 10/1 to 9/30. Due to these differing fiscal years, cemetery expenses appear high because the revenues are recorded later, aligning with the respective fiscal year periods. This discrepancy will even out over time as the revenues catch up with the expenses.

Motion by Van Zee to approve the \$73,850.00 Cemetery Budget, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Dinkel, Kyrklund, Van Zee, Everitt, and Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Van Zee, we adjourn, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Thompson, Dinkel, Kyrklund, Everitt, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.


Dan Van Zee, Board Chairman
Village of Big Springs Board of Trustees

ATTEST:


Tamara Loomis, Village Clerk