

VILLAGE OF BIG SPRINGS, NEBRASKA

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was published in the Chappell Register and posted at the Big Springs Post Office, Community First Bank, Village Office, and village website. The agenda was kept current and available for public inspection at the Village Office and on the website. Advance notice with the agenda was sent to Board of Trustees members, with their acknowledgment attached to these minutes. The meeting was recorded while open to the public.

MINUTES

Roll Call: Present Trustees: Everitt, Payne, and Huff. Absent Trustees: Dinkel and Thompson. Others present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Tamera Loomis, Village Maintenance Supt. Curtis Brown, Librarians Connie Shaw and Janie Jimenez, Village Attorney Josh Wendell, and Deuel County Sheriff, Scott DeCoste.

Chairman Huff called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Huff announced that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Law Poster is posted on the north wall of the meeting room, accessible to the public.

Motion by Huff to approve the consent agenda, which included the April 2, 2025, meeting minutes, the April 7, 2025, Library Board minutes, the Treasurer's report, and the Payment of Claims. Seconded by Everitt. Yea: Payne, Everitt, and Huff. Motion carried.

CLAIMS \$59,211.76

| General                            |        |          |                                   |      |          |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|----------|
| PAYROLL                            | EXP    | 1,683.26 | U.S. Bank                         | PSTG | 32.66    |
| BIG SPRINGS CEMETERY ASSOC         | EXP    | 6,154.17 | US POSTAL SERVICE                 | PSTG | 36.59    |
| BLACK HILLS ENERGY                 | Gas    | 110.61   | VERIZON                           | PH   | 71.53    |
| CENTURY LINK                       | PH     | 51.73    | Sewer                             |      |          |
| CHAPPELL REGISTER                  | PUB    | 236.73   | PAYROLL                           | EXP  | 2,314.58 |
| DEUEL COUNTY TREASURER             | LE     | 8,166.66 | BLACK HILLS ENERGY                | Gas  | 268.26   |
| EdwardJones                        | RET    | 175.00   | CENTURY LINK                      | PH   | 219.64   |
| HSB-FBO Curtis Brown               | RET    | 225.00   | Henderson State Bank              | XFER | 6,982.50 |
| Henderson State Bank               | SU     | 25.68    | IRS                               | TX   | 717.87   |
| IRS                                | TX     | 319.30   | NE DEPT OF REVENUE                | TX   | 1,100.16 |
| JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL               | SU     | 8.49     | NPPD                              | ELEC | 574.66   |
| KEITH COUNTY NEWS                  | PUB    | 787.50   | US POSTAL SERVICE                 | PSTG | 36.59    |
| McQUILLAN & WENDELL PC, LLO        | LEG    | 172.50   | VERIZON                           | PH   | 71.53    |
| NE DEPT OF REVENUE                 | TX     | 52.02    | Trash                             |      |          |
| NEBRASKA PRINTWORKS                | SU     | 218.71   | US POSTAL SERVICE                 | PSTG | 36.58    |
| NPPD                               | ELEC   | 284.37   | WASTE CONNECTIONS                 | TRSH | 5,242.00 |
| OFFICE SERVICE                     | SU     | 388.76   | Parks                             |      |          |
| Olson's Pest Technicians           | R&M    | 150.00   | PAYROLL                           | EXP  | 2,506.40 |
| PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING LLP    | PUB    | 269.20   | 21ST CENTURY EQUIPMENT            | R&M  | 174.71   |
| Spectrum Business                  | PH/INT | 100.00   | AG VALLEY COOP                    | R&M  | 71.40    |
| U.S. Bank                          | R&M    | 218.51   | BLACK HILLS ENERGY                | Gas  | 45.42    |
| U.S. Bank                          | PSTG   | 17.83    | EICHNERS SALES AND SERVICE        | R&M  | 106.13   |
| U.S. Bank                          | SU     | 57.29    | IRS                               | TX   | 45.17    |
| Street                             |        |          | NE DEPT OF REVENUE                | TX   | 21.03    |
| PAYROLL                            | EXP    | 1,348.08 | NPPD                              | ELEC | 145.26   |
| BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS INC       | R&M    | 320.13   | WREST HARDWARE                    | R&M  | 198.93   |
| IRS                                | TX     | 497.17   | Pool                              |      |          |
| JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL               | SU     | 117.38   | Century Link (Lumen)              | PH   | 146.45   |
| NE DEPT OF REVENUE                 | TX     | 231.39   | MEAD LUMBER                       | R&M  | 151.30   |
| NPPD                               | ELEC   | 1,078.20 | Library                           |      |          |
| Water                              |        |          | PAYROLL                           | EXP  | 1,078.17 |
| PAYROLL                            | EXP    | 2,314.58 | IRS                               | TX   | 208.36   |
| BLOCHOWITZ DITCHING INC            | R&M    | 683.50   | NE DEPT OF REVENUE                | TX   | 13.38    |
| CENTURY LINK                       | PH     | 224.78   | Depot Museum                      |      |          |
| Henderson State Bank               | Xfer   | 7,149.50 | Chappell Lumber                   | R&M  | 355.59   |
| IRS                                | TX     | 717.87   | NEBRASKA PRINTWORKS               | SU   | 2.25     |
| NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB | TSTG   | 15.00    | NPPD                              | ELEC | 148.05   |
| NE DEPT OF REVENUE                 | TX     | 458.82   | U.S. Bank                         | R&M  | 108.80   |
| NPPD                               | ELEC   | 848.15   | U.S. Bank                         | R&M  | 46.94    |
|                                    |        |          | Village of Big Springs-Petty Cash | DON  | 55.00    |

**Correspondence:** McQuillan & Wendell, P.C., L.L.O., Attorney hourly fee increase.

### **Department Reports**

**Animal Control:** Huff contacted Adopt-a-Dog Animal Rescue in Chappell, NE. While they have space for 17 dogs, they currently have 26, including one expecting puppies, and are unable to assist currently. He will reach out to veterinarians in Ogallala regarding boarding options. Some residents may be able to provide short-term assistance. **Law Enforcement:** No updates. **Library:** The library is actively preparing for the upcoming summer reading program. **Maintenance:** A new soft start controller was installed for one of the major sewer pumps. Diagnosing the issue took time, but the system is now functioning properly. The system has two pumps to ensure backup functionality. A proposal for a new pump will be presented soon, with an estimated replacement cost of approximately \$7,000. Everything is currently operating smoothly. **Parks/Pool:** The pool is ready for the season, and the parks are in excellent condition. The museum project has been completed. Special thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time and effort. NE Passport visitor numbers remain low. Additionally, concerns have been raised regarding neighborhood children riding scooters on park grass, despite posted signs advising against it. Possible solutions for reinforcing this rule should be considered. **Sewer/Water/Trash:** No additional updates beyond what was addressed in the maintenance report. **Streets:** Street conditions are satisfactory. The Big Springs Saloon has expressed concerns about the intersection at 3rd and Chestnut, citing safety risks due to traffic speeding through the intersection. Maintenance Superintendent recommends installing either a stop sign or yield sign. The Deuel County Sheriff has noted that parking in front of the business is contributing to increased congestion and making the intersection more hazardous.

**Fiscal Year 2024 Audit report presented by RJ Meyer, RJ Meyer & Associates, LLC:** The Village saw a positive General Revenue balance this year, a notable improvement given that services like Parks, Pool and Law Enforcement do not generate income. A \$36,000 gain in general revenues, including grants not available previously, contributed to this progress. A significant increase in City Sales Tax revenues was a key driver. **Proprietary Funds – Water & Sewer Operations:** Operating Revenues: \$363,000. Operating Expenses (incl. depreciation): \$369,000 → Operating Loss. Non-Operating Revenues: GO Water Bonds, Series 2024 (\$215,000 for meter project) & Sewer Loan (\$7,800 balance, paid off by June 2025) **Cash Position, Debt & Bonding:** Overall Cash Available: \$519,000 (consistent with prior years). **Bonding & Debt:** All bond payments are on time. **Insurance & Budget Considerations:** Insurance costs have risen significantly. Annual coverage reviews are advised. Severe weather remains a financial risk. **Budget Performance:** Actual revenues: \$1.204M vs. expenditures: \$1.106M, staying \$453,000 under budget. **2024 Fiscal Year Results:** Net position increased by \$59,416 (from \$352,509 to \$411,925), reflecting strong financial management.

Motion by Huff we accept the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Report as presented by RJ Meyer, RJ Meyer & Associates, LLC. Seconded by Everitt. Yea: Huff, Everitt, and Payne. Motion passed.

**Pickleball Court Conversion Proposal:** Kevin Van Zee requested the Board's consideration to convert a tennis court at Swimming Pool Park into a dual use pickleball and tennis court. He noted that pickleball requires a gripping, non-slip surface and a shorter net. Maintenance Superintendent Brown expressed unfamiliarity with the necessary surface setup and markings and recommended soliciting bids from professionals if special paint is required. To gather insights on similar projects, the clerk will contact North Platte, Grant, and Imperial and add the topic to the agenda for the next regular meeting. KENO funds are available for this type of project.

**Lawn Mower Replacement Discussion:** Seasonal Part-time Maintenance employee Dave Sauder requested a new mower due to ongoing equipment issues. The 2018 John Deere has 2,800 hours, while the backup Walker is aging and lacks an hour meter. The bagging

system is nonfunctional, requiring modifications to keep it running. Budget Considerations Chairman Huff questioned whether the current mower could last the season, as park equipment was not budgeted this year. The General Fund holds \$46,463, but Parks, Pool, and Depot Museum funds are in deficit and expected to decline further. Maintenance Superintendent Brown supported the purchase but warned of budget strain, particularly in emergency situations (e.g., water main breaks). Funding & Purchase Options KENO funds cannot be used, as lawn mowers are classified as maintenance expenses rather than community betterment initiatives. The Treasurer noted that an immediate purchase could affect payroll, supplies, and emergency reserves. Sauder provided three quotes: John Deere: \$8,402, Country Load Trailer Sales: \$9,195, Rankin Sales & Service: \$10,051. The treasurer recommended selecting the lowest bid if the Board proceeds. The auditor suggested leasing options to reduce upfront costs, and a line of credit with John Deere may be viable given the Village's strong payment history.

Motion by Huff we have Dave investigate leasing options for a new riding lawn mower. Seconded by Everitt. Yea: Payne, Huff, and Everitt. Motion passed.

Motion by Huff to allow Seasonal Part-time Maintenance employee Dave Sauder to use his personal equipment for village work, contingent on submitting a list of equipment for Village Insurance records. Seconded by Everitt. Yea: Everitt and Huff. Abstain: Payne. Motion failed due to lack of a majority. Action: Sauder is not permitted to use personal equipment for village duties.

Motion by Payne to request Seasonal Part-time Maintenance employee Dave Sauder to submit a list of personal equipment used for the Village Insurance review and to table further action until the next meeting. Seconded by Huff. Yea: Everitt, Payne, and Huff. Motion passed.

Motion by Everitt to grant Seasonal Part-time Maintenance employee Dave Sauder a \$1,000/month spending limit on village charge accounts. Seconded by Payne. Yea: Huff, Payne, and Everitt. Motion passed.

The Clerk/Treasurer emphasized the importance of tax-exempt purchasing, confirming the municipality's tax-exempt status. Compliance with state regulations is essential, as paying sales tax on public funds is an unnecessary expenditure. The State Auditor's office monitors financial practices to prevent misuse of public funds, including improper tax payments. Strict adherence to tax-exempt purchasing is a standard best practice for local governments and must remain a top priority.

Motion by Everitt to have the Clerk submit a grant application to the Deuel County Visitor's Committee requesting \$225 to support community volunteers Marion and Kathy Peterson in their efforts to refurbish the Big Springs Sign at the South entrance. Seconded by Payne. Yea: Payne, Everitt, and Huff. Motion passed.

Motion by Huff to accept E-Logic's estimates for new computer systems for the Clerk and Maintenance Superintendent, citing outdated systems putting us at risk. Seconded by Everitt. Yea: Huff, Payne, and Huff. Motion passed.

Motion by Payne to approve Clerk/Treasurer Tamera Loomis to attend the 2025 Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference in Lincoln, June 18-20, 2025. Seconded by Huff. Yea: Everitt, Huff, and Payne. Motion passed.

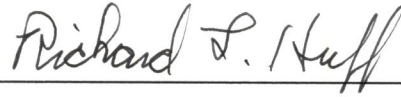
Motion by Payne to transfer \$127,000 from the Combined Utility Bond Reserve account and \$139,000 from the Sewer Fund into Flex CDs. Additionally, the Treasurer is authorized to reinvest maturing CD amounts into Flex CDs, based on prevailing interest rate yields at the time of maturity. Seconded by Huff. Yea: Huff, Everitt, and Payne. Motion passed.

Motion by Huff to direct the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance adopting Vacant Property Registration in accordance with the Registration Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 19-5403 et

seq., to be presented at the next regular meeting for further consideration. Seconded by Payne. Yea: Everitt, Payne, and Huff. Motion passed.

Motion by Payne to authorize Trustee Everitt to hire the 2025 Swimming Pool Staff, including the Manager, Assistant Manager, and Lifeguards, with confirmation by the Board at the next regular meeting. Seconded by Huff. Yea: Everitt, Payne, and Huff. Motion passed.

Huff moved to adjourn, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Huff, Everitt, and Payne. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard L. Huff", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Huff, Chairman  
Village of Big Springs Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tamera Loomis", written over a horizontal line.

Tamera Loomis, Village Clerk