

**REGULAR MEETING FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF FAIRMONT, NEBRASKA
MONDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

The Village Board of Fairmont, Nebraska met in regular session on Monday, March 10th, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at the Fairmont Village Hall, 635 6th Ave., Fairmont NE. Notice of the meeting was given in advance according to proper notification by posting of meeting notice at Heartland Bank-Fairmont Branch, U.S. Post Office and Fairmont Village Hall. Chairman Rod Ehmen called the meeting to order. Clerk/Treasurer Karen Margheim recorded the minutes. Board members present upon roll call were: Rod Ehmen, Matt Hafer, Victoria Verhage, Bill Schropfer and Stuart Bridges. Visitors to the meeting were: Martin Schildt, Rhonda Veleba, Ken Eller, Tyler Salmon, Georgia Schropfer, Stephanie Chambers, Wanda Marget and Shandra Reinsch. Chairman Ehmen noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the bulletin board in the council meeting room for public inspection and review. Verhage moved and Hafer seconded to approve the minutes from February 10th, 2025 Regular Meeting. Voting: ayes-Verhage, Hafer, Schropfer and Bridges; nays-none; abstain-Ehmen. Motion passed. The Treasurer's Report for February 2025 was placed on file.

Property updates on "E" Street

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Community Club

Rhonda Veleba was present on behalf of the Fairmont Community Club. A review of the 2025 Schedule of Events was shared. They include Easter Fun Day (April), Spring Community Clean Up (TBD), 149th Old Settlers Picnic (June), Golf Cart Poker Run & Husker Watch Party (Sept.), Trunk or Treat (Oct), Fall Clean Up (TBD), Thanksgiving Meal Donation (Nov) and Christmas in the Village (Dec). June 26th-28th, 2026 will be the 150th Old Settlers Picnic. The question was asked if the Village would be willing to cover the \$350/event liability insurance. The board wanted time to consider the additional expense and will give an answer in the near future.

Street repair-600 block of "F" Street

Ken Eller mentioned drainage issues in this area when it rained. Some suggestions for a solution were considered. A remedy will be looked in to further.

Audit

Martin Schildt (GBE) introduced himself before presenting an overview of the Village audit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. He explained audit reports are never complimentary in nature. The first two items mentioned will always appear with staff being limited due to a small office and continuing education requirements. The third item mentioned was regarding a debt amortization schedule and the desire to change the coding of payments. Then he gave compliments on the ease of receiving reports and process of the audit procedure with Fairmont.

Pay Application #5 Hackel Construction

A motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Schropfer to approve Pay Application #5 to Hackel Construction in the amount of \$63,047.70. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Employee Handbook

The board members are in agreement on reviewing and updating the employee handbook. An e-mail message from the Village Attorney on how to handle this task was read with a suggestion being to appoint two board members to serve on a committee to review the handbook, then to meet with the attorney and review adjustments. Next, the committee will present a draft to the board for consideration. Trustee Verhage and Trustee Schropfer agreed to serve on the committee.

Vehicle Tracker

After some discussion, it was decided to discontinue the service with Linxup for the vehicle trackers and eliminate the expense.

Mowing Fees/Review Fee Schedule

An assessment of the current Fee Schedule was completed. It was decided to increase copy fees to \$.25/page and set mowing fees at \$100/hour in the event the Village must mow unkept properties. The Clerk will prepare a new resolution with updated changes to the Fee Schedule to be considered at the April board meeting.

Sales Tax

Dialog ensued regarding sales tax.

Part-time maintenance position

A motion was made by Verhage, seconded by Bridges to advertise an opening for a part-time maintenance position. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

An examination of the order of the meetings occurred with the decision to move employee reports towards the beginning of the meeting and on a quarterly basis for some department heads beginning in July.

Library Report-Stephanie Chambers

Building plans completed in the past by JEO Consulting Group were presented to the board members for remodeling modifications of the library building. Georgia Schropfer gave a compliment on the adult craft nights and Blind Date with a Book events.

Aging Services-Shandra Reinsch

The steam table issues have all been sorted out. 34 Electric came to check out the outlets and breakers. It seems everything is on one breaker. An interview for the part-time position will be completed on Tuesday. Assisting in paying fees with Senior Services were mentioned. There will be an increase in meal prices due to inflation. Here soon there will be a switch to the summer menu. The Valentine's Day fundraiser was a huge success with funds of over \$550 being raised.

Village Marshal Report – Tyler Salmon

A monthly report was given to the board members. Before the meeting the Clerk and Marshal received an e-mail message from the Village attorney to annually appoint the Marshal as building inspector and shared a couple of ordinances regarding vacant properties. The ordinances will be reviewed at the April meeting. Then a conversation occurred over nuisance properties.

Utility Superintendent Report – Mike Scheil

Since Mike was attending a Water Operator Conference in Kearney for continuing education, he was unable to attend the meeting. His monthly report was shared prior to the meeting and included in the board packet. A 4-step treatment estimate was shared by Miller Seed for treatment of the parks. The estimate for the 6th Avenue Park was \$1,071 and \$1,920 for the Pool Park. The treatment will be discussed further.

Clerk/Treasurer Report-Karen Margheim

After eliminating random drug testing, it was discovered the Village would need to establish its own account with Quest Diagnostics for pre-employment drug testing if it was to continue. The board was okay with the fees associated with setting up the account. Snow days were discussed, and a decision will be made at the April meeting. Updating our GIS maps for the water/sewer system was mentioned. The board agreed to update the maps as part of our project with the water treatment plant. Over 25% of the Cross Connection Surveys have been received so far.

Claims

A motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Schropfer to approve the claims as they were presented except the claim for William Schropfer. Roll call vote-5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Verhage to approve the claim to William Schropfer. Roll call vote: ayes-Hafer, Verhage, Bridges, and Ehmen; nays-none; abstain-Schropfer. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Documentation from Nebraska Public Power District was received and will be discussed in further detail by Carsten Mlady at the May meeting.

Old Business

None

Payment Arrangement(s)

A motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Verhage to approve Payment Arrangement #417. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Appointing Pool Manager & Assistant Managers Positions

At 9:58pm, a motion was made by Verhage, seconded by Schropfer to enter into executive session to review applications received. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

At 10:46pm, a motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Verhage to exit executive session.

A motion was made by Schropfer, seconded by Bridges to approve the applications received by Dave Seggerman and Kelly Nun for Assistant Manager positions. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Adjournment

At 10:55pm, a motion was made by Hafer, seconded by Verhage to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote – 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion passed.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, April 14th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

ROD EHMEN,
CHAIRMAN

KAREN MARGHEIM,
CLERK/TREASURER

Claims

34 Electric, LLC	Re	220.06
Aflac	Ins	841.50
Amazon	Su	326.46
Ameritas	RE	2,723.73
3 & J Automotive, LLC	Ma	125.98
Bankcard/CMS	Fee	155.93
Black Hills	Ut	1,912.39
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Ins	10,236.77
Burton Enterprises	Ex	100.00
Cash-Wa Distributing	Su	456.75
CPI	TIF	23,860.81
Consumer Reports	Su	36.93
Cummins Sales & Service	Ma	666.19
Eakes Office Products, Inc.	Su	63.99
EMC Insurance	Ins	589.00
Farmers Coop	Fu	1,480.72
Farmers Coop-Fire Dept.	Fu	377.73
Fillmore Central School District	Ex	300.00
First Concord Benefits	Be	524.34
First Concord Benefits	Be	36.00
First National Bank of Omaha	Su	1,707.45
First National Bank of Omaha	Su	700.07
First National Bank of Omaha	Su	85.37
First National Bank of Omaha	Su	240.65

First National Bank of Omaha	Su	32.70
Friesen Contracting	Ex	200.00
Gabriel, Burger & Else, CPA, PC	Audit	2,000.00
Hackel Construction	CI	63,047.70
Heartland Bank	Fee	20.00
IEO Consulting Group, Inc.	Ex	6,225.00
Kopchos	Ex	33.00
Lincoln Winwater Works	Su	163.15
Madison National Life	Ins	38.34
Mother Earth News	Su	39.95
Napa Auto Parts	Su	9.26
Nebraska Department of Env. Quality	Fee	40.00
Nebraska Department of Env. Quality	Fee	40.00
Nebraska Public Health Env. Lab	Ex	252.00
Nebraska Public Power Dist.	Ut	26,767.50
NeonLink	Ex	87.00
One Call Concepts	Ex	16.79
Overland Ready Mixed Concrete	Su	1,109.78
Paycom	Fees	519.14
Payroll		19,261.66
Payroll Taxes		6,379.87
Perennial Public Power Dist.	Ut	12.03
Perennial Public Power Dist.	Ut	2,051.99
Pitney Bowes	Fee	254.55
Post Office	Su	201.00
Quilters World	Su	29.97
Shandra Reinsch	Mi	64.68
State of Nebraska	Tax	2,576.48
State of Nebraska	Ut	212.69
The Nebraska Signal	Pu	286.83
USDA	Loan	4,640.00
Vericheck	Fee	53.65
Vestis (Aramark)	Su	247.66
Viaero	Ut	325.61
Village	Ut	3,991.46
William Schropfer	TIF	363.59
Windstream	Ut	359.37
Windstream	Ut	504.03
Windstream	Ut	211.12
Windstream	Ut	95.28

Publication Codes Be: Benefits; Eq: Equipment; Ex: Expense; Fee: Fee; Fu: Fuel; Ma: Maintenance; Mi: Mileage; Misc: Miscellaneous; Pu: Publications; Re: Repairs; Sa: Salaries; Se: Service; Su: Supplies; Ut: Utilities; CI: Capital Improvement; TIF: Tax Increment Financing, RE: Retirement; Ins: Insurance, Tax: Taxes