

**VILLAGE OF DUNCAN BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 16, 2026@ 7:00pm – Village Hall, 906 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Duncan, NE 68634**

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The monthly board meeting of the Village of Duncan Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairperson, Gary Schlesinger. The Chairperson publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was held in the Village Hall. Board members present were Lance Denbo, Nick Wagoner, Gary Schlesinger, Van Steyn and Jerusha Ratcliffe. Also in attendance were Village Staff: Marianna Evans (Clerk) and Doug Michalak (Utility Superintendent). Michelle Schindel (Treasurer) was absent. *A motion was made to approve the January 12, 2026 meeting minutes by Wagoner, second--Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Steyn. Voting nay—none. Abstain--Ratcliffe. The Chairman carried the motion.* The Chairman provided an opportunity for public comments. Each individual is allowed to have a 5-minute time limit. The Board may only listen and add to the next agenda if approved. No public in attendance. No comments presented to the Board.

**New Business**

**Requested SDL (Special Designated Liquor License)** postponed to next month due to unavailability of the requestor.

**NRWA (Nebraska Rural Water Assoc.) Delegate & Alternate** After minimal discussion by the Board, *a motion to approve Michalak as the delegate and Steyn as the Alternate was made by Schlesinger, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**NRWA Annual Donation** Schlesinger reported that for the past several years, the Village has donated \$500 to NRWA. Schlesinger listed several benefits that the Village of Duncan receive from being members of the NRWA. Michalak and Evans reported that they are very professional and willing to help when needed. They have helped the Village of Duncan and its residents a lot, consistently over the years. *A motion to approve \$500 donation to NRWA was made by Denbo, second—Wagoner. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed Street Sweeping Contract** The Board reviewed the contract and price for services. *A motion to approve the contract with Gehring for street sweeping services was made by Schlesinger, second—Ratcliffe. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**R26-302 Lien on 721 6<sup>th</sup> Street for Unpaid Utilities** The Board discussed details of the lien and *a motion to approve R26-302 Lien on 721 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$407.60 was made by Ratcliffe, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Sewer Billing Option When Water Shut Off** Schlesinger reported that he believes that when someone's water is shut off, they should still be charged for sewer services. He stated that the sewer service is still available to be used even with the water shut off and that service should be charged to the resident regardless of water usage. Evans reported that the ordinance does not state that sewer service should be charged whether water on or off. She stated that the Board would only need to create an amendment to that ordinance and add the verbiage. Schlesinger reported what Columbus does in that they charge a lower rate for those situations. Schlesinger reported wanting to know the other Board members' opinions. Evans brought up one issue of 'snowbirds'. She stated that Duncan only has one home that is always up to date with payments and request water off for winter due to living in Arizona during winter. She stated it should be thought about when deciding whether it would be necessary to charge sewer in that situation or not. She reported that she could get information from other Villages in Nebraska on whether they charge this way. Schlesinger reported 'We are not other towns'. Evans reported that she was only offering more information on what the standard is. After Board discussion, Schlesinger suggested the rest of the Board think about this more to possibly be brought up again in a future meeting.

**Proposed Playground Equipment** Schlesinger reported that the playground equipment that he had previously reported that Columbus was going to give him, has now discovered that they must post the used equipment for bids. The posted minimal bid was \$100. After discussion, *a motion to bid \$201 was made by Denbo, second—Ratcliffe. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed Highway Speed Limit Sign Options** Schlesinger reported that he has been calling the state about moving the highway speed limit sign further east for westbound traffic due to speeding and engine brake issues through town. He asked them why the survey they did showed that it was not necessary. He was told that there was not enough traffic or a dangerous enough intersection. Schlesinger stated that if the sign is moved further out, they may not speed through town. He stated that the person he spoke with suggested the Village purchase a lighted, digital speed limit sign. Schlesinger stated that he tried to get the state rep to negotiate and allow us to move a solar speed limit sign out some. He stated the state rep was supposed to call him back but has not. He stated that was a few weeks ago. Schlesinger asked the Board if they would like him to continue looking into a grant for the new solar speed limit sign for the highway. He reported they cost between \$3-5k. Steyn stated he was more worried about speeders on 8<sup>th</sup> street passing his house and the west park, where there are several children playing. Wagoner thought was good idea and stated a lot of towns are doing it. *A motion to approve Schlesinger looking into grant for solar speed limit sign was made by Wagoner, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Departmental Reports:**

**Utilities** Michalak stated that the HOA panel for remote access was installing and working well now at the water plant. The Tonka panel is reportedly moving along but the wait for the equipment could take over a year. No further report.

**Parks & Rec none**

**Planning & Zoning** Don Reves (P&Z Chairman) presented to the microphone and addressed the Board. He reported that the committee has been working on updating the books for a few years now. They are unable to move forward without further outside help. Since The Board removed JEO Engineering from the Village and now have Advanced Engineering, Reves wanted to know if the Board would be ok with continuing to use JEO since they have been helping us, they created our books to begin with and they already know and have everything needed to do the job. Reves stated he understood that the new engineering firm did not have P&Z experts to help with this and he wondered if using whomever they refer people to would cost the Village more due to not having the history with the past work and creation of the books. Schlesinger immediately responded by saying he would defer to the Village current Engineer on this subject. No further discussion.

**Clerk Report** no further report

**Treasurer Report** Schindel was absent. The monthly recap was provided to Board members to review. Once the bills for the month were reviewed, *a motion to pay the bills was made by Wagoner, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger, Ratcliffe and Steyn. Voting nay—none. The Chairman carried the motion.*

All meetings are open to the public and a current agenda for said meetings will be posted and available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk, Post Office, T-Bone 2 and the Village website on the Thursday prior to the meeting. The next meeting will be on **March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM.** Being no other business, adjournment was made by Chairman Schlesinger at 7:55p.m.

*Minutes recorded and submitted by: Marianna Evans (Clerk)*