

VILLAGE OF DUNCAN BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2025 7:00 PM – Village Hall, 906 8th Street, Duncan, NE 68634

The monthly board meeting of the Village of Duncan Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 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 and Jerusha Ratcliffe. Van Steyn was absent. Also in attendance were Village Staff: Marianna Evans (Clerk), Michelle Schindel (Treasurer) and Doug Michalak (Utility Superintendent). *A motion was made to approve the May 12, 2025 meeting minutes by Wagoner, second---Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Steyn was absent. 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 visitors presented any comments.

Unfinished Business

Back-up Utility Superintendent Review Schlesinger reported that he had spoken with a guy that is interested in the position however, he would not be able to help with snow removal due to his current job. Schlesinger suggested finding someone else to help with snow removal. Michalak reported one new applicant otherwise. Michalak stated the ‘interview committee’ could discuss. Schlesinger stated he would prefer someone who lived in Duncan. He suggested having the interested party come in to interview. No further discussion.

Proposed Annexation (ROW Hwy 30, UPRR ROW) Schlesinger reported that he will speak with the Union Pacific representative and do himself. He stated they would give Duncan permission to annex their Right of Way. The board agreed not to have the attorney look any further into this issue after recommending that it may be difficult for the Village to annex due to law and case law involving Gretna and the Supreme Court voiding their annexation of similarity. Schlesinger stated that the UP ROW is connected and that should be legal.

New Business

LARM Evaluation of Property Review (Clint/Issac) Clint and Issac introduced themselves as LARM employees as Clint passed out the property review report to the board. Each item was reviewed with the board and amounts of coverage agreed on. Schlesinger called Duncan Rural Fire to question who insures the siren. Full disclosure and discussion on property items and how to insure were had. No further changes or discussion. New policy report will be given to the office once updated.

1&6 Year Road Plan Review (Brent Ceicior, JEO) Ceicior not present. Schlesinger postponed item.

Ordinance 25-211 Storage Unit/Truck Box Prohibited Schlesinger read the ordinance aloud thoroughly. The board requested one change to include all zoned districts. Evans noted the change and stated she would have the updated ordinance available for the next meeting to pass.

Proposed Crack Seal Quote The board reviewed the quote. Michalak stated that the company we used for PVC and crack seal last year, no longer does crack seal. He was able to obtain this quote at this time. The board discussed and decided to postpone to the next meeting to allow more quotes to choose from.

Proposed Additional SRF Funds Usage Schlesinger explained that there is leftover funding from the current water project grant/loan. He recommended adding the water tower maintenance, water treatment control panel and water sprinkler line for west park on to the funding. This would still provide 55% grant and 45% loan. The Village would at least save some money on these expensive items. The board agreed. Schlesinger stated that the Village will need a new tower and he has talked with someone from NENEDD about grant funding for a new tower. He stated they would pay 75%. He stated that a typical new tower would cost one million dollars. He stated that the only grant requirement was that the Village would need to prove we have \$100k. Schlesinger stated he would move forward with looking into a new tower with grant funding. *A motion to approve adding the water tower maintenance, control panel, remote access and west park water sprinkler line onto the current SLRF funding was made by Schlesinger, second Wagoner. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Steyn was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

Proposed Reimbursement Columbus Baseball (plumbing bathrooms) The board reviewed the invoice from Shelby Lumber for the new toilet and plumbing for the bathrooms at the ballpark. Schlesinger stated that the prior agreement was that the Village would pay half and that a Schlesinger would install. Evans reported that Gillespie told

her they changed/fixed the door locks as well and still need to provide the key to Michalak. Contract also agreed on stated that the Village would need notified of any changes or additions prior to work being done. Evans stated that she was emailed by Gillespie that he had already done all of the work and provided the invoice for the Village to pay him back. Gillespie was under the impression that the last meeting with him and the board agreed that the Village paying for the entire amount. However, that is not what the recording of the meeting shows. It was advised to let Gillespie know that any work from now on needs to be brought to Michalak or the Board's attention for prior approval. Schlesinger stated he would call Gillespie to discuss and clarify. Postponed to next meeting.

Proposed Water Rate Increase/Sewer Account Review Schlesinger stated he did not like any of the recommendations. He stated that once we have the debt paid off, we will have plenty of revenue coming in. Wagoner suggested 'we need to do something'. The sewer rate study showed that the sewer rate should be \$47/month instead of \$40/month, in order to stay out of the red in the future. The Village accountant reported that the sewer rate could not survive being lowered or having money taken from it to cover water account. He reported that the last sewer lining project drained the sewer reserves and the last few years, the sewer account has had 15% lower revenue. Schlesinger postponed to next meeting and recommended each board member think about it and come back with a solution of what the water rate increase should be. Schlesinger would like to only increase it a percentage each year.

Proposed Gravel/Rock Addition to Post Office Building Rear Schlesinger stated weeds were an issue and when sprayed, looks bad. Suggested red rock or something of the sort to cover the area. The board agreed. Michalak to obtain red rock from Johnson's Gravel and spread over the area between the post office building and the My Place outdoor fence.

Proposed Snow Fencing at West Park Schlesinger stated that snow fencing is needed on the north side of the park to prevent all of the cornstalks etc. from flying into the park and basketball court fence. The board agreed and Michalak was directed to purchase snow fencing and install prior to winter.

Proposed Mowing of Highway Right Of Way to Lagoon Schlesinger stated that he is big on first impressions and that when driving through a town with mowed roadsides looks cleaner and nicer. He recommended Michalak mow the sides of the highway from main intersection out to the lagoon on both sides of the highway. Evans suggested may need to ask NDOT. Schlesinger and Wagoner stated there was no need as the state would not care if they didn't have to mow it. Evans asked if any of it was bailed and Michalak reported that none of it is bailed at this time. Michalak was directed to begin mowing each side of the highway out to the lagoon from now on.

Departmental Reports:

Utilities Michalak reported the new lagoon pump has been installed and is working properly. Schlesinger reported he gave permission for the pump to be installed by the company in order not to void the warranty. Michalak reported there was some west park vandalism with spray paint. He had spoken with the parents or attempted to and had a few of the kids cleaning it up. Michalak and Schlesinger will attempt to repair the bump on the south side of the railroad tracks. Schlesinger stated he would like to get the parking lines completed before the end of June. He suggested touching up the old ones including the handicapped spot. Michalak reported that the Lloyd home is progressing well. No further report.

Parks & Rec no report.

Planning & Zoning no report

Clerk Report no report

Treasurer Report Schlesinger questioned the Jay's Automotive bill for \$120. Michalak reported it was for sharpening mower blades. Schlesinger recommended Michalak do that himself. Michalak stated that he normally does do them himself but he was very busy that week and needed them prepared for mowing that week. After the Treasurer reported on the bills for the month and the Board reviewed the monthly recap, *a motion to pay the bills was made by Ratcliffe, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Steyn was absent. 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 **July 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM**. Being no other business, adjournment was made by Chairman Schlesinger at 9:04p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: Marianna Evans (Clerk)