

VILLAGE OF DUNCAN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2026@ 7:00pm – 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) and Michelle Schindel (Treasurer). Doug Michalak (Utility Superintendent) was absent due to annual Water Conference. *A motion was made to approve the February 9, 2026 meeting minutes by Schlesinger, second--Ratcliffe. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Absent--Steyn. 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

2024-25 Audit Review (AMGL Accounting—Michael Hoback) Hoback handed out a summary of his report to each board member. He went through his report in full, with the Board, allowing for comments and questions. Hoback discussed the need for and recommendation for the Board to increase water rates to cover the debt. He stated that he knows the rates were just raised, however, they were not raised enough to account for all of the water debt service. He reported the water account should be able to pay for itself. Meaning, the water rates should be sufficient to cover all water department expenses, plus have some reserve for emergencies. He reported that the sewer account is doing fine, however since lining the sewer lines a few years ago did drain all of the sewer account reserves. He did state that the sewer rate should be fine for awhile and still continue to cover that department expenses. Hoback reported that with small villages, it is hard to have the required ‘separation of duties’ by law and recommended that the Board stay involved with the finances to help with that. He stated that the Treasurer and the Clerk are doing a great job and were well prepared for he and his team for the fieldwork day. He again restated to the Board that the only ‘black eye’ for the Village is the water account and stated that the water rates need to be increased to balance that fund out with the debt service. No further questions or report.

Requested SDL (Special Designated Liquor license—Duncan Rural Fire Dept., Chief Dustin Schaefer) Schaefer presented to the microphone and introduced himself to the Board and discussed the details of the request. It is for a benefit being held for a local resident who was recently diagnosed with cancer. The Board discussed briefly and a *motion to approve recommending the SDL for DRFD was made by Schlesinger, second—Denbo. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Absent--Steyn. The Chairman carried the motion.*

Proposed Independence Day Celebration Ratcliffe presented the idea of the Village having an event day for July 4th celebration. She stated that maybe could be during a day that most others are not celebrating. So as not to take away from anyone else’s celebrations. The Board agreed it could be good. Schlesinger stated he would give her the phone numbers of some car show people. Schlesinger suggested Ratcliffe return with more specifics at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Proposed Playground Equipment Schlesinger stated that he knows our bid was accepted but it needed to be approved by the council. He reported they meet tonight. Then will still have to wait until they are ready to take it down.

Proposed Solar Digital Hwy Speed Limit Sign Schlesinger reported that he had spoken to a senator and was referred to someone else and was advised not to get grant yet because that person would speak with the DOT first. Schlesinger stated that he was waiting to hear back from that person.

Departmental Reports:

Utilities Michalak is at water conference...no report.

Parks & Rec none

Planning & Zoning no report

Clerk Report no further report

Treasurer Report The monthly recap was provided to Board members to review. Once the bills for the month were reviewed with Schindel, *a motion to pay the bills was made by Ratcliffe, second—Schlesinger. Vote was as follows: Voting aye—Denbo, Wagoner, Schlesinger and Ratcliffe. Voting nay—none. Absent--Steyn. 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 **April 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM**. Being no other business, adjournment was made by Chairman Schlesinger at 8:00p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: Marianna Evans (Clerk)