

VILLAGE OF CLEARWATER, NEBRASKA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Clearwater met for a regular meeting Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7 p.m., in the fire hall meeting room. Meeting opened at 7 p.m. Notice of meeting was given in advance by publication in *Summerland Advocate-Messenger*, posted at US Post Office, Clearwater Market, and Cornerstone Bank and given to board members prior to meeting. Public was informed of location of Open Meeting Act poster.

Present: Kelly Kerkman, Marsha Hart, Cody Kester, Brian King, Jeff Schlecht. Others present: Clerk Angie Hupp, Attorney Kyle Petersen, Curt Thiele, Amy Schonemann, Cole and Amy Scott.

Motion by Hart, seconded by Kester, to approve minutes of Mar. 9 regular meeting as presented. Voting aye: Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht, Kerkman. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kester, seconded by Hart, to approve treasurer's report as presented. Voting aye: Kester, Hart, Kerkman, Schlecht, King. Voting nay: none.

Public comment heard. Cole Scott, 209 River Rd., asked if fire hydrant by their house could be flushed soon, as water beginning to stagnate.

Opened hay and pasture bids. Curt Thiele, 85260 516 Ave., asked for clarification on wording of bid notices. Jay Snider bid \$3,500 to pasture lagoon parcels and \$700 to hay tree dump and dike. Fred Thiele bid \$2,551 to pasture lagoon parcels and install or repair fenceline as needed. Blake Kester bid \$2,750 to hay all parcels. Kasey Shenshaw bid \$2,000 to hay all parcels. Discussion held regarding Village budgeting to install fence next year. King asked about liability if cows damage someone else's property. Attorney Petersen stated contract will place liability and maintaining fence on cattle owner. King asked about issues with Jay Snider hay contract last year. Kerkman said Snider didn't remove hay before deadline.

Motion by Kester, seconded by Schlecht, to approve Jay Snider bids totaling \$4,200, with Snider responsible for fencing. Voting aye: Kester, Schlecht, King. Voting nay: Hart, Kerkman. Motion passed.

Opened cemetery mowing bids. Rustin Fletcher bid \$12,000 for May 1-Sept. 30 season. Brian Scholl bid \$1,000 per mowing between May 1-Sept. 30. Discussion held regarding keeping it local with Fletcher, but if another dry year, paying less with Scholl.

Motion by King, seconded by Schlecht, to approve Brian Scholl mowing bid of \$1,000 per mowing of Clearwater Cemetery May 1-Sept. 30. Voting aye: King, Schlecht, Kerkman, Hart, Kester. Voting nay: none.

Discussion held regarding building permit application for CW and Amy Schonemann storage container at 307 Montana St. King asked about ordinance stating no containers and why okay on Schonemann's but not his mom's. Clerk Hupp explained Schonemann's in commercial highway district, where containers are allowed. Amy Schonemann, 307 Montana St., explained container obtained from CW's dad's estate. It's painted solid color, in good condition and would be anchored on concrete slab. Kester worried about being inconsistent when all other requests were denied. Petersen stated could amend storage container ordinance to prohibit anywhere, but King said unfair to Chamber, which uses containers at rodeo grounds. Decision tabled until May, to gather more information.

Motion by Hart, seconded by King, to approve building permit application for Cole and Amy Scott addition to shop at 209 River Rd. after confirming distance from street. Voting aye: Hart, King, Schlecht, Kerkman, Kester. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Hart, to approve resignation of Troy Behnke as Maintenance Operator, dated Friday, March 13, 2026. Voting aye: Kerkman, Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Hart, to approve running help wanted ad for maintenance operator online and in several newspapers until replacement hired. Voting aye: Kerkman, Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Schlecht, to amend Resolution 2026-3 to remove Marsha Hart from list of board members performing maintenance work for pay. Voting aye: Kerkman, Schlecht, King, Kester. Voting nay: none. Abstain: Hart.

Motion by Hart, seconded by Kester, to approve Resolution 2026-3 permitting Village Board members Kelly Kerkman, Cody Kester, Brian King and Jeff Schlecht to perform maintenance work during time of emergency, while Village without maintenance operator, and to provide compensation of \$20 per hour. Voting aye: Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht, Kerkman. Voting nay: none. Some discussion held regarding list of responsibilities that need to be taken care of.

Motion by Kester, seconded by King, to approve creating hiring committee of Kelly Kerkman and Marsha Hart to conduct interviews for maintenance operator position. Thiele mentioned person who may be interested in the job. Kerkman stepped out of meeting to set up an interview. Board agreed if interview went well, to hire as summer help and talk more in May. Voting aye: Kester, King, Schlecht. Voting nay: none. Abstain: Kerkman, Hart.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Schlecht, to approve hiring Kala Kruger as summer help. Voting aye: Kerkman, Schlecht, King, Kester, Hart. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Hart, to approve leaving park bathrooms locked through summer, except during baseball games, due to continuing vandalism. Voting aye: Kerkman, Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Hart, seconded by King, to approve having baseball coaches drag and chalk ballfield before games for 2026 season to alleviate responsibility from Village while without maintenance operator. Voting aye: Hart, King, Schlecht, Kerkman, Kester. Voting nay: none.

Economic development report presented.

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Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Schlecht, to approve Connie Bellingtier for Citizens Advisory Review Committee. Voting aye: Kerkman, Schlecht, King, Kester, Hart. Voting nay: none.

Grant report presented. Funds released and Requests for Proposal sent for planning grant. Release of funds expected within week for street paving grant.

No library or sheriff reports presented.

Clerk report presented. Reminder that incumbents due for reelection must sign up by July 15 and nonincumbents by Aug. 1. Board has to help with tasks around town until new maintenance person is hired. Keno Community Day with additional \$7,000 possible payout will be Saturday, Apr. 18 at Two Bills Steakhouse. Miaha Scott sent letter asking that property not be sprayed with weed or mosquito chemicals.

Motion by Hart, seconded by King, to approve 2024-2025 audit performed by Lengemann and Associates. Voting aye: Hart, King, Kester, Kerkman, Schlecht. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by King, to approve Clearwater Chamber special designated liquor license for rodeo June 26-28, 2026. Voting aye: Kerkman, Kester, King, Schlecht, Hart. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Schlecht, seconded by Hart, to approve appropriating \$50,000 from water/sewer savings to general checking to assist with operating expenses. Voting aye: Schlecht, Hart, Kerkman, King, Kester. Voting nay: none.

No discussion necessary regarding vehicle ordinance violations at 601 Custer St., as it was cleaned up.

Confirmed next regular meeting date of May 11 at 7 p.m.

Motion by Hart, seconded by Schlecht, to approve amended veterans' park maintenance agreement as presented. Voting aye: Hart, Schlecht, King, Kester, Kerkman. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by King, to approve interlocal agreement with Antelope County to assist with placing half-percent sales tax increase on November election ballot. Voting aye: Kerkman, King, Schlecht, Hart, Kester. Voting nay: none.

Motion by Hart, seconded by Kester, to approve claims of \$43,501.71 and payroll of \$7,828.83. Voting aye: Hart, Kester, King, Schlecht, Kerkman. Voting nay: none.

General Checking: ALLO Business, srv, 48.00; Antelope Co. Sheriff, srv, 1,352.25; Black Hills Energy, util, 410.96; Bomgaars, sup, 225.20; Bryant Home Comfort LLC, rpr, 553.43; Carhart Lumber Co., sup, 209.71; Clearwater Library, tnfr, 2,250.00; Clearwater Market, sup, 13.89; ColdType Publishing, adv/rent, 1,203.34; ERPPD, util, 1,270.33; Economic Savings, tnfr, 2,446.58; Farmers Pride, fuel, 302.42; Jarecki Sharp & Petersen, lgl, 300.00; Lengemann & Associates, srv, 13,650.00; NNTC, util, 200.95; Western Oil, fuel, 78.82; Capital One, sch, 762.32; Neb. Dept. of Revenue, tx, 3,413.58; EMC Insurance, ins, 4,767.98; Payroll, pay, 6,919.39.

Water/Sewer Checking: ASAP Express, srv, 40.00; Bud's Sanitary Service, util, 3,401.00; ERPPD, util, 730.68; La Quinta Inn & Suites, sch, 235.90; Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha, sub, 1,213.76; Neb. Public Health Enviro Lab, srv, 32.00; One Call Concepts, Inc., srv, 1.64; Two Rivers Irrigation, rpr, 167.85; US Post Office, sup, 234.00; Neb. Dept. of Revenue, tx, 580.40; Water/Sewer Savings, tnfr, 3,000.00.

Economic Dev. Checking: ColdType Publishing, rent, 60.00; Lauren Sheridan, reimb, 8.23; Capital One, sup, 39.98.

Fire Checking: Island Supply Welding Co., sup, 52.65; One Billing Solutions, srv, 37.50.

Library Checking: ColdType Publishing, sup, 42.00; Clearwater Market, sup, 84.36; Capital One, sub, 75.00; Credit Management Services, pay, 5.00; Payroll, pay, 909.44.

Credit Card: Cleanbrowsing, sub, 75.00; PMC – Paid Parking, sch, 26.00; La Vista Embassy Suites, sch, 736.32; Amazon, sup, 39.98.

Attorney report presented. Petersen will do more research regarding storage containers on residential properties and report to board at May meeting.

Motion by Kerkman, seconded by Kester, to adjourn and close meeting. Voting aye: Kerkman, Kester, Hart, King, Schlecht. Voting nay: none. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Chairperson Kelly Kerkman

Clerk Angie Hupp