

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA  
HELD MAY 9, 2025**

**PURPOSE TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON ACTION TO DISCUSS WATER USAGE AND  
MATTERS RESULTING AND THEREFROM AND OF PROPOSED CITY ORDINANCE ON  
VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO DROUGHT EMERGENCY PLAN.**

**THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (BPW) OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA**, met in special session on May 9, 2025, at 1600 O Street at 1:00 p.m. This meeting was held in open session as required by Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes.

Chairman Knipe called the meeting to order. Roll call: Members present – Shaw, Grant, Knipe, and Wilson. Member Zaruba was available by phone to submit comment.

Chairman Knipe announced that this was an open meeting, and a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the northeast wall of the Board room.

Chairman Knipe opened the floor to recognition of guests that wished to provide public comment to the Board regarding items relating to the current water usage guidelines and restrictions. The following guests addressed the Board with concerns and information: Jenika Mullins, Ashley Oldfield, Melissa Wadell, Rick Avard - Peru State College Director of Facilities, Katy Novak – Mayor of Peru, Mark Unruh – NPPD, Stephanie Holmes, Leslie Clark, Theresa Westfall – Peru City Council, Jane Andrew, Pete Parker, Sandy Korby, and City of Auburn Councilman – Tom Clark. Chairman Knipe, General Manager Ray Luhning and Water/Wastewater Manager Alan Slater responded to questions that were fielded and noted that suggestions will be reviewed and implemented if feasible. Chairman Knipe provided information on the short-term solution that is pending approval from regulatory agencies. If approved, it may provide enough water to end the Stage 3 protocol until long-term solutions are implemented.

Accounting and Finance Manager Westhart presented minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. Member Shaw made a motion to accept the motion as presented. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Shaw. Motion carried.

General Manager Luhning provided information on a short-term water resource project that would entail installing a temporary pretreatment water station that would pull water from Longs Creek. Chairman Knipe requested a motion to enter closed session due to potential negotiations. Member Grant made a motion to enter closed session at 2:05 p.m. Member Shaw seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Knipe, Wilson, Shaw, and Grant. Motion carried.

Member Grant made a motion to exit executive session at 2:25 p.m. Member Shaw seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Shaw, Grant, Knipe, and Wilson. Motion carried.

Member Grant made a motion to advertise for bids for a portable pretreatment water system to be placed at Board of Public Works property north of Auburn. Member Shaw seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Shaw, Grant, Knipe, and Wilson. Motion carried.

GM Luhning presented a proposed City Ordinance for water usage violations. Member Grant made a motion to recommend approval of the Ordinance to the City, contingent upon removing BPW as the enforcement agent. Member Wilson seconded the motion. Member Zaruba was present by telephone and voiced support of the Ordinance. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Shaw. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, by unanimous approval the Board, adjourned to the next regular Board meeting to be held Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at the hour of 11:30 a.m. at the Board of Public Works Board Room. Chairman Knipe declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

### **CERTIFICATE**

I, Tamara L. Westhart, Notary Public for the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify the attached and foregoing minutes is a true, correct and conformed copy of proceedings had and done by the Board of Public Works at their May 9, 2025 Special meeting; all of the subjects acted upon in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the Office of the Board; such subjects were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; the said minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body, all in accordance with Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska Statutes.

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Tamara L. Westhart, Notary Public in and for the State of Nebraska.  
My Commission Expires October 4, 2027.