

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
HELD MAY 21, 2025**

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (BPW) OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, met in regular session on May 21, 2025, at 1600 O Street at 11:30 a.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 –Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Absent - Shaw

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 acknowledged the following guests: Kenty Crotty – property owner, Kurt Kreifels, property owner, Paul Hamilton – Hamilton and Associates.

Chairman Knipe stated changes in the agenda that Item #4 would be moved behind Item #6 and Item #9 is removed per vendor request.

Chairman Knipe opened the floor for discussion on a request for sewer connection reimbursement on property at 612 10th Street. GM Luhring provided documentation that the property owner denied connection from BPW on April 2, 2010, per HDR Inc. records. After discussion, the Board determined not to move forward with the request. No action taken.

Chairman Knipe introduced Kent Crotty, property owner of 1717 U Steet. Kurt Kriefels addressed the Board regarding a new water line connection and installation to homes at 1719 U and 1717 U Street. Kreifels requested the Board provide water service from a new high volume water line to replace the low volume water line the properties are currently connected to. After Board discussion, the Board offered to waive the \$850.00 tap fee for connection to the new line. The offer was denied by both property owners. No action taken.

Chairman Knipe introduced Paul Hamilton from Hamilton Associates to present the 2024 audit. Hamilton presented the financials and reported that the audit had no findings. Member Zaruba made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring provided information on the Drought Contingency Stage 3 Water Emergency. Luhring noted that BPW has set up eight 250-gallon non-potable water tanks at the Sport Recreation Complex campground for watering gardens and potted plants. In addition, O'Neill Excavating from Topeka, Kansas has provided 1800 gallons of water stored at the City Storage building. No action taken.

GM Luhring reviewed a proposed agreement submitted by JEO for an interconnection preliminary engineering report to connect to Nebraska City Utilities' water sources. The quote for \$87,500.00 was reviewed by the Water Subcommittee who recommended not pursuing the option at this time. BPW met with State agencies to discuss a temporary treatment plant that will pull water from Long's Creek. BPW will move forward with requirements needed to proceed forward with the project. No action taken.

GM Luhring provided updates on the Westgate addition. He informed the Board that electrical sleeves have been installed, and paving is ready to begin. The City has negotiated a change order for the contractor to bring water needed for the project in from outside sources. No action taken.

GM Luhring requested approval of Principal insurance policies for vision and dental benefits. Member Zaruba made a motion to accept the policies as presented. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Wilson, Zaruba, Grant, and Knipe. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested approval of the Blue Cross Blue Shield employee benefit plan through the LIGHT program with an 18% increase. The current deductibles and out-of-pocket costs will remain the same. Member Zaruba made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Zaruba, Grant, Knipe, and Wilson. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested approval to provide required LIGHT auxiliary benefit plans with Guardian insurance. They are currently provided by Mutual of Omaha. A \$20,000.00 policy for each employee is required; all other policies through Guardian are voluntary benefits. Member Grant made a motion to accept the policy change as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested authorization to transfer funds and wire payment for the Water Treatment Plant bond payment in the amount of \$85,000.00 for principal and \$36,602.50 for interest. Total payment of \$121,602.50 is due June 15th, 2025. Member Grant made a motion to move forward with transfer and payment as requested. Member Wilson seconded the motion. Members voting aye - Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested authorization to request bids for CD's maturing May 26, 2025, and subsequently award to the highest bidder. Current values are \$304,496.22 and \$581,746.19. Member Zaruba made a motion to move forward with renewing CDs to the highest bidder. Member Wilson seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Knipe, Wilson, Zaruba, and Grant. Motion carried.

GM Luhring presented pledge policy updates and requested approval of Resolution 2025-1 Pledge Policy. Member Grant made a motion to accept the Resolution as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Wilson, Zaruba, and Knipe. Member Grant abstained. Motion carried.

GM Luhring presented a single bid received in the amount of \$62,850.00 for the purchase of a new service truck budgeted for the Water/Wastewater department. Member Grant made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring presented information on the Power Plant fuel tank inspection performed by the Nebraska State Fire Marshall, noting compliance issues due to changes in regulations in 2021. Two electronic systems were discussed, and a request was made to approve a \$13,000.00 system to provide the required monitors for the underground fuel tanks. Member Grant made a motion to approve the cost as presented. Member Wilson seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

Water/Wastewater Manager Slater presented results of an inspection performed by the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services department noting that a generator stored at the Water plant is a potential contaminant. Two generators were removed from the plant to comply with

regulations. Water wicking from the reservoir was also found to be a potential source of contamination. After discussion, the Board authorized Slater permission to research options to submit a plan to the State of Nebraska that will bring the issue into compliance. No action taken.

AFM Westhart presented the standard financial reports to the Board. Member Grant made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye –Knipe, Wilson, Zaruba, and Grant.

AFM Westhart asked for any objections or exceptions to the General Consent Items listed under Agenda Item #21.

Approve the previous meeting minutes and dispense with the reading of the same.

- a) Approve monthly compensation of officers, management, and employees as previously fixed by the Board.
- b) Approve, ratify, and allow the following checks, recommended transfers and claims submitted for payment during the month.
- c) Transfer funds from E-W-WW Revenue funds into the checking fund for expenses plus the routine interdepartmental transfers in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- d) Approve the City Free Services Report.
- e) Approve NOD's and Satisfied NOD's as presented.

Checks written during the month of April.

Airstream Heating & Cooling	387.50
Altec Industries Inc	88.03
American Recycling	20,694.18
Anderson, Aracelly	600.00
B 103	171.00
Board Of Public Works	17,761.00
Border States Industries Inc	5,688.73
Bulldog Auto Supply	185.69
Capital Business Systems	560.49
Capital One Spark Business	5,257.55
Caselle Inc	2,018.00
Catholic Social Services	1,925.00
City of Auburn	10,805.35
Concrete Industries Inc	458.00
County Publications	739.21
Credit Information Services	67.25
DHHS State of Nebraska	252.00
Eggers Brothers Inc	198.44
FCX Performance - Omaha	995.14
First Wireless Inc	10,478.00
Fossenbarger, Jeff	29.80
Frontier Cooperative	245.00
Gilbert Services	1,179.27
Glenn's Corner Market	69.52
Grainger Inc	422.05
Great Plains Lawn Care	1,740.00
Green Care Lawn Service	1,120.00
Hamilton Associates PC	7,450.00
Hawkins Inc	4,342.21

Husker Electric	4,033.69
Itron Inc	2,419.79
Jackson Services Inc.	2,534.36
Johnny's Tire & Battery	20.00
Leak Specialists Inc	1,080.00
Ligouri Law Office	377.00
Lincoln Winwater	765.74
Lynch's Hardware & Gifts	18.57
Metron-Farnier LLC	20.00
Mid America Testing	619.65
Midwest Electric	3,727.50
Moody, Allan	30.00
Municipal Pipe Tool	75,325.63
Northern Safety Co Inc	11.80
Northern Tool	39.99
One Call Concepts Inc	257.74
Paul Mueller Company	311.66
Pinpoint Auburn, Inc	434.13
PIP Marketing Signs & Print	3,285.64
Quill LLC	85.18
RESCO	8,642.48
Sack Lumber Company	69.98
SECUR-SERV	619.72
Stenner Pump Company	224.52
ULINE	177.35
US Cellular	1,519.21
Vermeer Equipment	95.58
Village of Brownville	7,692.32
Village of Nemaha	4,228.76

Water Engineering Inc	432.11
Wenzl, Russ	600.00
WAPA	26,998.50
Zoro Tools Inc	312.20
Abbott, Nancy	295.00
Allensworth, John	79.79
Banks-Smith, Berdie	61.61
Benitez Rodriguez, Antonio	157.55
Carr, Holly	22.39
Crofford, Rachelle	139.94

Fisher, Toby	15.76
Manzer, Timothy	292.91
Marburger, Andrea	30.53
Project Response	252.20
Pruett, Taylor	180.27
State of NE	688.81
State of NE	86.66
Thienel, Jessica	115.56
Unruh, Tristan	24.06

Following discussion, Member Grant made a motion to approve the General Consent Items as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

Reports: Electric, Power Plant, Water/Wastewater, Office.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and 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:

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 April 16, 2025 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.

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