

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
HELD NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (BPW) OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEMAHA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, met in regular session on November 20, 2024, at 1600 O Street at the hour of 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. Member 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 amended items #4 and #5 to include 2027 in the years to be approved.

Chairman Knipe acknowledged the following guests: Steve Woerth – Village of Brownville Board Member. Matt Gulizia – Shell Speedee Mart owner.

Chairman Knipe opened the floor to public comment. Village of Brownville Board member Steve Woerth addressed the Board and requested consideration to start negotiations for BPW to provide water/wastewater operator services for the village. Paul Fish, a Village of Brownville Board member submitted a letter which was read to the Board requesting consideration of water/wastewater services with BPW.

Chairman Knipe called the public hearing to order at 11:39 a.m. for the purpose of discussing 2025, 2026 and 2027 utility rate changes. Members present - Grant, Knipe, Wilson and Zaruba. Member absent – Shaw. Chairman Knipe asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition or favor. There were no public comments. Chairman Knipe declared the public hearing closed at 11:40 a.m.

GM Luhring requested approval of the 2025, 2026 and 2027 electric, water, and wastewater rate schedules. Member Zaruba made a motion to accept as presented. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Knipe, Wilson, Zaruba and Grant. Motion carried.

Chairman Knipe introduced Matt Gulizia for the purpose of addressing the Board regarding Stage 3 water drought protocols restricting businesses with car washes from providing service. After discussion, Member Zaruba made a motion to suspend the Stage 3 drought restrictions on businesses with car washes. Member Grant seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Zaruba, Grant, and Knipe. Member Wilson abstained. Motion carried.

GM Luhring informed the Board a CD that matured on October 31, 2024, was renewed with Auburn State Bank who provided the high bid. First National Bank of Johnson and Union Bank and Trust also provided bids. No action taken.

GM Luhring updated the Board regarding mutual aid provided to Falls City Utilities during a recent storm that resulted in substantial electrical damage. No action taken.

Water/Wastewater Manager Slater provided updates on the drought contingency plan, noting that the reservoir is remaining full at 22'. Wells are slowly recharging with recent rain. Conservation efforts are still needed until levels return to normal. No action taken.

GM Luhring requested approval to consult with Miller & Associates to discuss potential long term water supply options. Member Grant made a motion to move forward with consultation. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Knipe, Wilson, Zaruba, and Grant. Motion carried.

GM Luhring provided July 7, 2025, as the date requested by employees for a floating holiday. Member Grant made a motion to accept the floating holiday as presented. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Wilson, Zaruba, Grant, and Knipe. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested approval to host the annual employee appreciation dinner to be held at El Portal. Member Grant made a motion to host the dinner as requested. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Wilson, Zaruba, Grant, and Knipe. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested approval to transfer funds and wire payment for the water bond due December 15, 2024, in the amount of \$80,000.00 principle and \$37,302.50 interest for a combined payment of \$117,302.50. Member Zaruba made a motion to move forward as requested. Member Grant seconded. Members voting aye – Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring provided notification of the termination of the current custodial contract effective December 31, 2024. Permission is requested to submit for RFPs for a new contract. Member Wilson made a motion to approve the request. Member Zaruba seconded the motion. Members voting aye - Grant, Knipe, Wilson, and Zaruba. Motion carried.

GM Luhring requested approval to renew the crime insurance policy in the amount of \$1,613.00. Member Zaruba made a motion to approve as presented. Member Wilson seconded the motion. Members voting aye – Knipe, Wilson, Zaruba, and Grant. Motion carried.

Electric Operations Manager Kuhlmann provided information regarding Generator 1 issues, noting repairs are projected to be \$108,000.00 - \$158,000.00. After discussion, the project will be addressed in 2025. No action taken.

GM Luhring informed the Board he will be attending the NPPD capacity purchase customer meeting January 13, 2025. No action taken.

GM Luhring noted that BPW will be represented in the Auburn Chamber's light parade to be held November 23, 2024. No action taken.

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

AFM Westhart asked for any objections or exceptions to the General Consent Items listed under Agenda Item #20.

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 checking for expenses plus the routine interdepartmental transfers in the amount of \$747,000.00.
- d) Approve Free Services Report.

Checks written during the month of October.

American Recycling	20,359.20
Auburn Christian	132.03
B 103	190.00
BCom Solutions, LLC	384.99
Blackburn Manufacturing	982.31
Board Of Public Works	16,535.96
Border States Industries Inc	6,751.91
Bulldog Auto Supply	800.33
Capital Business Systems, Inc	388.20
Capital One Spark Business	5,688.90
Caselle Inc	2,018.00
City of Auburn	7,102.06
Clinton, Terry	68.47
Concrete Industries Inc	238.56
Core & Main	373.33
Coulter, Mike	30.00
County Publications	1,351.40
Credit Information Services	40.35
D.P. Sawyer, Inc.	13,500.00
DHHS State of Nebraska	1,526.00
Eggers Brothers Inc	56.91
Environmental Systems	5,710.00
Farm & City Supply	280.00
Farmers Cooperative	800.19
Filter Care of Nebraska	82.85
Glenn's Corner Market	80.11
Grainger Inc	15.28
Great Plains Lawn Care	370.00
Green Care Lawn Service	380.00
Hach Chemical Company	105.20
Hawkins Inc	2,275.52
HDR Engineering Inc	3,633.07
Helms Automotive	352.44
HTM Sales Inc	1,335.00
Husker Electric	87.22
Jackson Services Inc.	2,603.61
JK Energy Consulting, LLC	1,800.00
Johnny's Tire & Battery	50.00

Johnson, Michael	300.00
Kerns Excavating Company	46,442.00
Kidwell Inc	67.50
Koeneke, Tim	65.50
Krebs, Sean	271.53
LifeGuard MD, Inc.	741.24
Lincoln Winwater	2,428.20
Lynch's Hardware & Gifts	145.33
MEAN	400.00
Mellage Truck & Tractor Inc	250.00
Mellen & Associates Inc.	902.60
Merz Ink	85.20
Mike's Window Service	46.32
Morrissey, Teresa	600.00
Municipal Supply of NE	1,013.52
NDEE	125.00
Nemaha Co Ministerial	132.02
Nemaha County Clerk	20.00
Oestmann, Darren	394.00
One Call Concepts Inc	229.83
Parsons, Kiley	149.11
Petty Cash	16.62
Pinpoint Auburn, Inc	433.93
PIP Marketing Signs & Print	3,240.15
Pollman LLC	6,386.25
RESCO	1,678.24
Sack Lumber Company	5.73
SECUR-SERV	485.75
Sherman, Bailey	45.06
Stephens, Sherri	262.68
T & R Electric Incorporated	161.00
US Cellular	780.83
Village of Brownville	7,457.04
Village of Nemaha	4,725.54
WAPA	25,170.87
Water Engineering Inc	432.11
Zoro Tools Inc	157.34

Following discussion Member Wilson made a motion to approve the General Consent Items as presented. Member Wilson made a motion to accept as presented. Member Grant 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, by unanimous approval the Board adjourned to the next regular Board meeting to be held Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 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 November 20, 2024 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.