

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2026

Opening prayer by Sophia Custer.

A meeting of the Chairperson and Village Board of the Village of Ceresco, Nebraska, was held at the Ceresco Community Room in said Village on the 20th day of January, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Advance notice of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, along with supporting documents were given to the Chairperson and all members of the Board. Notice of the Public Hearing was also posted in the Wahoo Newspaper. Peterson pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act posted on the wall of the Community Room. Answering roll call: Peterson, Burklund, Custer, Ruble, and Johnson. Also present: Toby Miller, Kim Elley, Andrew Rezac, Nancy Witters, Cheryl Pester, Jean Skelnar, Ericka Landis, Jodi Sousek, Jody Anderson, Brian Roland, and Joan Lindgren.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Peterson moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:01 PM. Burklund seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Burklund, Custer, Ruble, and Johnson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Peterson asked for public comments on the Wireless Communication Tower request and Text Amendments. Toby Miller questioned what the three towers do and who do they belong to. Anderson noted the one south of town is AT & T and Verizon, and the one east is T-Mobile and US Cellular. Roland noted wifi is on the water tower. Miller asked who approved the towers being put in. Lindgren noted someone would have needed to get a permit. Miller asked if the towers are 5g, 6g, or 4g. Kim Elley asked what they are changing. Peterson noted: Remove mount and install new mount. Remove 6 antennas and install 9 new antennas. Swap 9 RRHs and add 3 RRHs, Remove 3TMAs. There will be no structure height increase and no ground disturbance. Nancy Witters asked which towers are being worked on. Anderson noted it is just the one south on the highway. Lindgren noted the new tower north of town is 911. Burklund noted it is out of our jurisdiction. Witters questioned wireless communication. Ruble noted it is strictly emergency communications for the 911 systems. Discussion held.

Peterson moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:08 PM. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Johnson, Custer, and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the attorney and the Planning Commission recommendations. Anderson noted a letter from the tower company regarding the Background on Federal Law: "a State and local government may not deny, and shall approve, any eligible facilities request for a modification of an existing wireless tower.

Peterson moved to approve the wireless tower permit changes. Custer seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Custer, Ruble, Burklund, and Johnson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Discussion held on the Text Amendment to remove for 5.05.03.15 and Section 7.16 regarding Auto Wrecking, Junk, Salvage, and Scrap Processing Yards: Anderson noted the attorney recommended leaving it as a conditional use and put stricter stipulations on it. Nothing that happens will affect the one we have currently. He will be able to sell it, as is, as long as it continues to operate and doesn't stop for 12 consecutive months. The salvage license is renewed every year through the state. The Village will have a say in new yards, but not Swanson's since his business was here before codebooks. The current code only allows it in Transitional Ag. Johnson noted they should not be cutting businesses from town. Storing vehicles behind a fence was discussed.

The Planning Commission recommendation was to remove 5.05.03.15 auto wrecking yards, junk yards, salvage yards and scrap processing yards from Permitted Conditional Uses in TA Zoning District, and to combine text amendments, #2) 4.13.03 footprint and #3) 5.07.05 R-2 and 5.08.05 R-3 midpoint under the accessory building regulations into one motion and recommended that the Village Board approve both as written. Discussion held.

Ruble moved to approve the Planning Commission's recommendations. Johnson seconded. Voting Yeas: Ruble, Johnson, Custer, Burklund, and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

An Ordinance will be prepared for the February meeting.

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Peterson moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:21 PM. Ruble seconded. An Ordinance will be prepared for the February meeting. **Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Johnson, Custer, and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.**

Ruble moved to accept the minutes as presented. Peterson seconded. Voting Yeas: Ruble, Peterson, Burklund, Johnson, and Custer. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Roland reviewed bids for the wwtp and liftstation valves from Vrba, ME Collins, and Electric Pump were reviewed. Discussion held.

Burklund moved to take the Electric Pump's bid of \$16,325.00 on the liftstation part of the bid. Peterson seconded. Voting Yeas: Burklund, Peterson, Custer, Ruble, and Johnson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Discussion.

Burklund made a recommendation to take the bid from Vrba Construction for \$32,779.00. Peterson seconded. Voting Yeas: Burklund, Peterson, Custer, Ruble, and Johnson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Roland reviewed generator bids for the water tower and park liftstation from Schutt Electrical, Vandenberg Electric, and SECO Electrical. Discussion held.

Ruble moved to approve the SECO bid for \$1,136.00 for the pump station. Burklund seconded. Voting Yeas: Ruble, Burklund, Custer, Johnson, and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ruble moved to approve SECO's bid for the water tower for a sum of \$560.00. Burklund seconded. Voting Yeas: Ruble, Burklund, Custer, Johnson, and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Notice of the six-month warranty reminders for the well and water main projects were reviewed. Roland noted Jesse at the Coop said when Vrba connected the new water line and curb stop the excavator was driven on the sidewalk and busted it up. The Board agreed to turn it in under the warranty.

Roland reviewed a lead and copper test he was supposed to take with directions that he questioned. He contacted Caitlen at the State and was told to do something totally different than the directions. Ruble had concerns of the change not being in writing, and only verbal. Roland noted he was told they are working on the differences. Ruble asked to have them send an email so there is a paper trail. Roland's field representative advised not to take the test until he knows what is correct. The Board agreed to contact Laura Johnson with NDEE regarding the test and instructions.

Peterson reviewed a certificate of appreciation for Jason Babin with deep gratitude for 5 years of volunteering time and equipment to install holiday lights throughout the Village of Ceresco.

Peterson reviewed a certificate of appreciation for Super C being a great business partner and with acknowledgement for outstanding service and continued community support.

Roland noted his SR22 is gone.

Cheryl Pester of Erickson and Brooks was present for the 2024/2025 FY audit.

Pester requested Peterson to sign the management representative letter, then reviewed the letter to governance. **1) Four new audit standards adopted for this year, but two do not affect the financial reporting. 2) Estimates. 3) No difficulties encountered in audit. 4) Misstatements. 5) No disagreements with management. 6) Not aware of any other consultation with other accountants. 7) No audit findings or matters to discuss. 8) Segregation of duties. 9) No control issues. Nothing to bring to the Board's attention. 10) State requirements for Village's. 11) Restrictions of use. 12) Adjusting journal entries. 13) Transfer from Debt Service to General Checking for \$39,361.50. 14) Unmodified opinion-the best opinion you can have. 15) Modified cash basis of accounting. 16) Responsibilities of management. 17) Responsibilities of accountant as auditor. 18) Budgetary to actual statement requirements. 19) End of fiscal year the total net position is**

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\$4,936,244, which is up from last year, because the utility projects are capitalized and over 40 years, so it's not showing as expense. **20)** General fund up \$58,302. **21)** Street fund up \$99,401, which is basically Highway Allocation money being kept in reserves for future street projects. **22)** Debt Service Fund up \$16,268. **23)** Park & Rec up \$6,586, which has been a major fund the last 2 years. **24)** Other funds, including Library, Police, Fire, down \$66,725. **25)** Water up \$477,033, because the utility projects are capitalized. **26)** Sewer down \$53,695. **27)** Garbage up \$7,918. **28)** Ending utilities funds about \$3.5 million. **29)** Notes: New GASB standards No 101 and 102 effective this fiscal year, but doesn't change anything in reporting. **30)** Next 25/26 fiscal year GASB No 103 could change the budget to actual if there is a variance. No 104 has disclosure with capital assets and could affect disclosures. **31)** Capital improvements of the well and water mains. **32)** Parks & Rec capital improvement is an expense. **33)** Long-term debt has changed with the new bond. At the end of FY 24/25 bonds total \$2,860,000.

Bond payments were discussed. Pester noted if there are any major projects, 2030 would be the year to have a bond payment.

34) Budget comparisons to actual: Capital outlay for the splash pad. The water fund has been pretty deleted. **35)** Park & Rec exceeded appropriations by \$3,580. Debt Service by \$13.00. Garbage by \$4,306. The Village as a whole did not exceed total appropriations. **36)** Internal controls: segregation of duties, with limited staff. There is Board oversight.

The Board agreed to wait until the final audit document is received for approval. Pester will provide one paper copy and a pdf of the final audit documents, which will not change from the draft just reviewed.

Anderson reviewed the Zoning Administrator report. There have been questions regarding retail business to the east of First Northeast Bank. It is currently zoned Light Industrial, which retail is not allowed in. With the zoning map update, Anderson asked if the Board would like to change the zoning of this area. The Board agreed to leave it until a request is made.

Peterson questioned a business that put up a new sign. Anderson noted it was allowed with just a building permit. The other business has submitted a conditional use permit for the signs.

Jodi Sousek, president of the Library Board was present to discuss the resignation of the new Library Director. The Library Board held a meeting and would like to extend the Library hours to 30 a week, reallocate the current budget for wages, and offer the position to the previous Director, Domonique Harris at \$19.45, with no benefits. Next year's budget will need to be increased. Burklund asked about the Friend's of the Library helping with the budget increase. Discussion held. Peterson asked to see the reallocation of the budget. Sousek reviewed the motion the Library Board made that if the town approved, they would move forward with hiring Domonique Harris.

Peterson moved to go with the Library Board's recommendation to hire Domonique Harris. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Custer, Johnson, and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Burklund moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports. Custer seconded. Voting Yeas: Burklund, Custer, Ruble, Johnson, and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Claims were reviewed. Burklund questioned mileage reimbursement. **Peterson moved to pay the claims as presented, with the additional claims. Custer seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Custer, Ruble, Burklund, and Johnson. Motion carried.**

The approved claims are as follows: Advantage Computer \$750.00/wat, sew; AFLAC \$533.52/ins; Amazon Capital Services \$207.24/gen, wat, pol, lib, fire, prk; Ameritas Life \$26.21/ins; Blue Cross and Blue Shield \$3,031.68/ins; Brian Roland \$408.28/wat, sew; Card Services \$158.77/gen, wat, sew, prk; Connie Suiter \$75.00/gen; Cummins Sales \$1,016.71/sew; CQ of Lincoln Havelock \$227.66/sew; Column Software PBC \$383.47/gen; Dash \$157.00/sew; Delta Dental \$129.03/ins; Erickson & Brooks \$17,500.00/gen, pol; FNBO \$1,171.41/pol, gen, lib, st; Frontier Coop \$535.96/fuel; Guardian \$27.20/ins; Harris Decals \$47.00/gen; Hergert Oil \$181.81/pol, sew; HOA \$777.51/wat; INGRAM \$182.72/lib; Interstate All Battery \$291.95/pol; Jackson Services \$236.07/gen, sew, wat, fire; JEO \$1,252.50/st; Kylie Renschler \$75/wat; Lovell Excavating \$3,000.00/fire; Macqueen \$2,538.06/fire; Menards \$458.26/gen, fire, st; Michael Todd \$1,265.73/st; NE Clerk's Institute \$273.00/gen; Midwest Labs \$349.14/sew; Municipal Supply of Omaha \$2,531.63/wat; NE Dept of Revenue \$3,191.46/sew; NE Library Commission \$50.00/lib; NE Public Health Environmental Lab \$445.90/wat; OPPD \$6,524.26/electric; Otte Oil \$1,955.60/fire, gen, st; Platte Valley Equip \$32.01/prk; Ron Tegtmeier

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\$75.00/wat; Sam's \$318.19/gen, lib, prk; Sandy Tvrdy \$325.00/gen; Schutt Electrical \$1,830.00/fire; Sr Citizen 60+ \$136.00/gen; Small Engine Specialist \$46.03/st; SE Area Clerks \$10.00/gen; Steve Tvrdy \$75.00/gen; Valerie Jackson \$75.00/gen; Verizon \$169.86/phones; Wahoo-Waverly-Ashland Newspapers \$84.22/gen; Wahoo Auto Parts \$25.43/prk, st; Waste Connections of NE \$7,980.03/trash; Windstream \$462.33/phones; Payroll Liabilities: American Funds Investment \$1,054.96; NE Child Support \$74.78; NE Dept of Revenue \$718.90; Payroll \$20,582.49; United States Treasury \$5,242.86

Lindgren noted the Library has minutes and Stats for the last fiscal year.

Peterson moved to approve the Library Report as presented. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Custer, Johnson, and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Celebrate Ceresco report was reviewed. Ceresco Days is scheduled for July 9th – July 12th.

Peterson moved to approve the Celebrate Ceresco minutes as presented. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Johnson, Burklund, and Custer. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Ruble reviewed Give Blue Hope would like to set up an annual memorial for Ross Bartlett. The suggestion was to bring back water fights. Ruble suggested during Ceresco Days. He has talked to the Committee, and they agreed. It would be held on Saturday the 11th starting in the morning and be done by 3 or 4 PM. There would be cash prizes awarded to the top three teams, which will be fire departments only.

Christmas lighting was discussed. Lindgren reviewed that Mike Eden suggested Christmas decorations along the highway. Discussion held. One bid was reviewed for installing pole outlets. Another bid was requested.

Andrew Rezac was present to request the use of the community building for educational Medicare seminars. Discussion held.

Custer moved to let Andrew Rezac use the community building for free for his educational Medicare seminars. Johnson seconded. Voting Yeas: Custer and Johnson. Nays: Ruble, Burklund, and Peterson. Motion failed.

The Elm Street Mill & Overlay project was reviewed. Lindgren noted the advertisement for bid is going in the paper this week, which was voted on in November. Burklund requested to be involved if done again. Johnson noted it is 2 inches off and 3 inches on. The parking spot at the Coop that is all broken up will overlay 3 inches there. Discussion held. Burklund will be called for bid opening on February 13th. Johnson will plan to attend the bid opening. Peterson shared concerns of Johnson not including Burklund in the plans.

The 3rd Street right-of-way was discussed. The Board agreed to keep the right-of-way and remove it from the agenda.

Board communication was discussed. Lindgren noted if she emails the Board it will need to be part of the agenda. Board members cannot reply to all. Ruble questioned where the attorney was citing the three or more present or not present, because it is clearly stated in Roberts Rules of Order and it answers that question. Burklund said he knows there are people on other Boards that do the same thing and have no problem. Discussion held. The attorney will be contacted regarding the source she is using.

Southeast Area Clerks Association meetings were reviewed. The Board agreed Lindgren or Anderson can attend the meetings.

Ordinance 2025-8 now comes on for third reading. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WAGES AND SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, APPOINTEES, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF CERESCO, NEBRASKA.

Discussion held on wages for the Library Assistant more than 20 years of employment, which needs to be changed to \$15.00.

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WHEREUPON, Chairperson Peterson moved that said Ordinance 2025-8 be approved by its third reading and its title agreed to with the changes for the Library Director to be at \$19.45 an hour, and changing the Library Assistant more than 20 years of employment to \$15.00 an hour. Board Member Ruble seconded this motion.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll for the vote thereon. The Clerk called the roll, and the following was the vote on this motion. Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Custer, Johnson, and Burklund. Nays: none.

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared that a majority of the members of the Board having voted in the affirmative for the passage and approval of said Ordinance No. 2025-8, the Chair declared Ordinance No. 2025-8 to have been duly passed and adopted as an Ordinance of the Village of Ceresco, Saunders County, Nebraska, and the Chair subscribed his name thereto, and the Clerk attested said signature of the Chair by subscribing her name thereto and affixing thereon the seal of the Village of Ceresco, Nebraska. The Chair then instructed the Clerk to publish Ordinance No. 2025-8 in the manner required by law, within fifteen (15) days after passage.

Resolution 2025-5 was tabled.

Nancy Witters questioned the new bridge installed on Ashland Road. The Board noted that is the County's bridge.

LB 400 (AM 702) was mentioned.

Johnson revisited the request from Andrew Rezac for use of the community building for educational Medicare seminars. Burklund noted he would be best to come to the Sixty Plus dinner. Discussion held.

Burklund questioned Swanson Auto's vehicles in the right-of-way as per the attorney, and how bad it looks. Discussion held. The Board agreed to write a letter to Swanson, informing him all obstructions should be removed from the right-of-way with progress shown by April 1 and must be completed by May 1, 2026.

Burklund moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Burklund, Ruble, Custer, Johnson, and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Scott Peterson, Chair
Joan Lindgren, Clerk

