

UNNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF BUFFALO BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo met at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center at 6:00PM on January 12, 2026. Trustee's present: John Klempel, Doris Dagman, Brandon Schleuning, Jason Lindholm, Tex Lermen. Employees present: Ryan Smith, Jaylene Stirling, Dusty Ginsbach. Guest's present: Deputy Williams, Melissa Breeding, Linda Matthews, Rikki Klempel, Dacia Hilkemeier.

President Klempel called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Dagman made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Schleuning seconded the motion. All approved – motion carried.

Lindholm made a motion to approve the bills as there was no discussion, Dagman seconded. All approved – motion carried.

<u>WHERE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>\$ AMOUNT</u>
Olson Propane	Energy	687.23
Ranch Supply	Supplies	45.98
Whites Canyon Motors	Repairs/Maintenance	74.12
Olson Fuels	Supplies	192.36
WRCTC	Phone/Internet	279.18
Grand Electric	Energy	2637.57
Amazon	Supplies	299.99
Badger	Services	262.35
SDARWS	Fees	410
Hett Plumbing	Services/Repairs	1112.5
NCN	Services	48.06
Servall	Services	157.46
H&L	Supplies	25.99
Town of Buffalo	Utilities	327.81
Buffalo Hardware	Supplies	369.77
SD DOR	Taxes	302.9
NWSD Landfill	Fees	4937.04
SDRS	Retirement	1430.1
EFTPS	Payroll	2778.56

Lindholm made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting and the December 29, 2025, special meeting. Dagman seconded – all approved – motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Deputy Williams was present and had a report present. He wanted to report that it is illegal to light off fireworks at the end of the year. Deputy Williams suggested a Facebook post or to post something in the newspaper reminding citizens about this, unless the town wants to make an ordinance that reflects the SD Codified Law. Discussion was held on when and what the codified law states.

President Klempel thanked everyone for coming.

BAR REPORT/LIQUOR LICENSES: There was a bar report present. No discussion. There was no liquor licenses applied for.

HC MEMORIAL REC REPORT: Stirling presented the rec report for Williams. We are holding a Puzzles and Pizzas event on January 25th, she is still looking for more teams. Poker has been postponed to later this year due to timing.

TRAILER TRASH HAULERS/TRASH PICKUP: Discussion was held, it is everyone's assumption that Trailer Trash Haulers will not be continuing to haul garbage. Lermeney asked for the Trash Hauler Requirements to include boxes being broken down on number 7. Dagman made a motion to include the change and approve the requirements for future trash haulers. Lermeney seconded – all approve – motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS/COMMENTS: Linda Matthews was present and wanted to thank the board for serving and thank them for leaving the senior rate garbage charge for 2026. She asked if there ever thought of doing 500 gallons charges instead of 1,000 and she feels she is not the only one wondering. She also wanted to know where to dispose of lithium batteries. Smith informed her that batteries plus in Rapid is the only place he knows that will take them. Jason asked for the gallons billed to be added to the February agenda. Stirling did inform the board and public that it is standard across the nation to bill per 1,000 gallons, with examples from different towns in South Dakota. Ginsbach and Stirling advised that the ordinance would have to be changed if they wanted to proceed with this.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Discussion was held on electing new officers. Schleuning made a motion to nominate Klempel as President again, Lermeney seconded. No other nominations. All in favor for Klempel to remain President. Lindholm made a motion to nominate Schluening as Vice President, Lermeney seconded. Dagman made a motion to nominate Lindholm, motion failed for lack of second. Lindholm made a motion to nominate Dagman, Schleuning seconded. Two nominations. Roll call vote for Vice President was held nominating Dagman: Dagman – aye, Schleuning – aye, Lermeney – aye, Lindholm – aye. Motion carried. No vote was held for second nomination as unanimous votes for Dagman.

SDSU EXTENSION COMMUNITY VITALITY TEAM: Dacia Hilkemeier was present from SDSU Lemmon Extension Office – her goal is to reach out to all the communities on this side of the state. They are available for anything we could need help with. She works with communities in 3 areas – energizing leaders, strengthening businesses, creating vibrant places. Strengthening City Boards is her passion. SDSU Extension Offices also hold the Energize Conference yearly. This year is in Wall on May 6th and 7th, 2026. She finished by letting the board know she would send information to Stirling and would be happy to discuss any needs they may have and set something up.

WATER TOWER CLEANING: Smith had two different quotes for water tower cleaning present; he explained that the tank is due for cleaning again. He reached out to 4 companies and got 2 responses, the one we have used in the past went out of business. Smith recommends Midco. Dagman asked if they would take a video, Smith said yes, they send a diver down with a camera. He also stated there shouldn't be much to see as we just painted it recently and there usually isn't much sediment. Schleuning made a motion to accept the Midco bid, Lindholm seconded the motion. All approved – motion carried.

CLINIC FUNDING: Dagman questioned why we pay for their water/sewer/garbage. Ginsbach stated to his knowledge that there was a time when they were trying to raise money for the clinic to keep it in Buffalo. Schleuning asked to have it on the agenda and ask someone from the Hospital association come to the meeting.

DANR NOTICE: Stirling presented the notice to the board. Ginsbach explained the reason for the letter and explained Continentals reasoning. He asked if the town wants to have him make a public statement on the Town's behalf. Discussion was held.

2026 NEWSPAPER: Lermeney made the motion to nominate Nations Center News as the official newspaper for the Town of Buffalo for 2026, Lindholm seconded. All approved – motion carried.

2026 ELECTION DATE AND COMBINED ELECTION AGREEMENT: Lindholm made a motion to keep the election date on June 2nd, 2026, and approve the Combined Election Agreement, Lermeney seconded. All approved – motion carried.

2026 SALARIES: Schluening made a motion to approve the following salaries: Public Works - \$72,765, Finance Officer - \$54,025.50, Deputy Finance Officer - \$18.25/hour, Attorney - \$5,500, Restricted Use Site Attendant - \$18/hour, HC Memorial Recreation Cleaner - \$17.50/hour, Trustees - \$150/meeting, \$75 for each additional monthly meeting. Lermeney seconds – all approved – motion carried.

PAST SURCHARGE: Stirling brought it to the board that there is a property that there is a hydrant, but no record of any surcharge being paid. Smith is sure it was paid up until the owner passed away and things were transferred to someone else. They assume the past surcharges would total at least \$874. Stirling told the board that someone is opening a business there and will be getting charged the commercial surcharge plus the hydrant fee moving forward. Discussion was held and Dagman made a motion to forgive the past surcharges, Lermeney seconded. All approved – motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Smith said there was not much to report, he's keeping busy with the nice weather, and will start working on trees and drainage. He will bring list of trees that need attention to meeting next month. Dacia asked to interject since she is on Lemmon town board – she will send Stirling a copy of the letter they send to their residents. The board thanked her. Lemmon also got a grant of \$3,000 to help with trimming costs. Dagman asked Smith if we had a sander, Smith said we did but we got rid of it since it was junk. Discussion was held about getting one for the pickup, but they haven't, they just use the loader and throw down chips. She asked how much a sander is, Smith said about \$1,000, he also said salt and sand is very expensive. Smith said he will try to spread the rock better.

FINANCE OFFICE REPORT: Stirling informed the board that she and Williams finally have the financials caught up for the first time since she started. She let them know she asked Mandy to do the 1099's and W-2's for the year 2025 as they were split between different systems. She is also rolling the CDs into one CD since there was no record of why there were multiple ones. The office will be closed on January 19, 2026, for the holiday. Stirling also asked the board if they wanted her to continue sending copies of bills to tenants instead of only to property owners. They asked her to continue and would revisit it later.

MISC: Stirling presented a letter written to TOB Board from a resident. It was pertaining to a water shut off that had been discussed previously. Lindholm asked Stirling if she sent him another bill and to continue sending the bill as the board had already made that decision. Discussion was held on possibilities of next steps. Ginsbach suggested that the Municipal Office should have a lock on the door that could be locked and only buzz people in since the desks are facing the windows or a lock that the office can lock at certain times from their desks. Smith was asked to look for a magnetic lock that could be locked by a push button and bring it to the next meeting.

Executive session was not held.

President Klempel adjourned the meeting at 7:33PM

The next board meeting will be held on February 10, 2026, at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center.

Signed: _____
John Klempel, President

Attest: _____
Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

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