

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo met at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center at 6:00PM on March 10, 2026. Trustees present: John Klempel, Doris Dagman, Brandon Schleuning, Jason Lindholm, Tex Lermeny. Employees present: Jaylene Stirling, Ryan Smith, Attorney Dusty Ginsbach. Guests present: Melissa Breeding, Deputy Nathan Williams.

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

Schleuning made a motion to approve the agenda, Dagman seconded. All in favor – motion carried.

Lermeny made a motion to approve the bills, Dagman seconded. All in favor – motion carried.

March 2026 Bills		
<u>WHERE/TO</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>\$ AMOUNT</u>
Amazon	Supplies	\$ 372.86
Badger	Services/Fees	\$ 262.35
BH Pioneer	Services/Fees	\$ 40.20
Elan Financial	Supplies	\$ 1,150.81
Grand Electric	Services/Fees	\$ 3,066.53
H&L	Supplies	\$ 25.21
Buffalo Hardware	Supplies	\$ 364.99
Immense Impact	Services/Fees	\$ 812.00
Jaylene Stirling	Travel/Conferences	\$ 209.30
Mandy Morris	Services/Fees	\$ 247.50
Nations Center News	Services/Fees	\$ 93.90
NWSD Landfill	Services/Fees	\$ 4,862.04
Olson Fuels	Supplies	\$ 107.22
Olson Propane	Services/Fees	\$ 2,083.96
PB&T	Supplies	\$ 98.43
PB&T	Supplies	\$ 51.88
Quickbooks	Services/Fees	\$ 243.20
Rollin in the Dough	Promotion	\$ 25.00
SDML	Services/Fees	\$ 50.00
SDML	Services/Fees	\$ 25.00
SDPAA	Services/Fees	\$ 19,934.45
SDRS	Services/Fees	\$ 71.37
SDRS	Services/Fees	\$ 73.38
Servall	Services/Fees	\$ 157.74
Town of Buffalo	Services/Fees	\$ 353.99
US Bank	Services/Fees	\$ 12,573.24
WRCTC	Services/Fees	\$ 281.18
SD DOR	Services/Fees	\$ 346.42

Lindholm made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2026, meeting, Schleuning seconded. All in favor – motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Deputy Williams was present and said there was not much to report other than he is getting busier.

BAR REPORT: No bar report was made available, Smith reported that he had visited with them this week and was informed that there is a leak above the men's bathroom that he will look at.

HC MEMORIAL REC REPORT: Pickleball signups are happening now; league will start April 1<sup>st</sup> if enough interest – may have to replace one of the nets as it was ripped at some point.

## **FOLLOW UP**

WINDOWS AT MUNICIPAL OFFICE: Baier Construction was the only estimate received, Stirling informed the board they had asked multiple companies. Schleuning made a motion to advertise for bids for 2 weeks in the newspaper to be open for 30 days, to see if anyone else brings one in, Lermeny seconded. All in favor – all approved.

TREES: Smith presented a list of trees that he has noticed will need taken down, he mentioned that there are probably quite a few more, he did not label priority on the list. The list of trees Smith had is clearly in the right of way. Attorney Ginsbach still thinks that the responsibility falls on the town. Discussion was held on how to handle all the trees that could cause issues in the future. Schleuning made a motion to advertise an open forum meeting to be held April 13, 2026, at 6PM at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center to discuss the trees and right of way, Lindholm seconded the motion. All approved - motion carried.

## **NEW AGENDA ITEMS**

PUBLIC CONCERNS/COMMENTS: No one was present.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Nancy Dingfelder had asked for this to be put on the agenda, no one was present.

DEVIN SMITH: Smith presented the board with an encounter with Devin Smith. Devin Smith had bypassed the meter after it was frozen, and he was asked to fix it. When Smith found out he did inform him that there are laws about tampering with a meter. Smith thinks we shouldn't move forward with any charges as he is now aware of the laws. A few hours after being informed of the laws and fixing the water meter Devin sent an e-mail complaining of slime within his water lines. Smith took President Klempel to investigate and test the water at his house and around town, all the test's came back normal. Smith explained that we must test our water frequently and that's why we add chlorine constantly because it will deteriorate over time, the slime is most likely the minerals in the water. We could have perfectly clear water, but we would have to add a million plus dollar treatment plant. Smith presented the way they work through complaints; he also had information and meters available for the board and guests to look at.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/COMPLAINTS: St Anthony's included a letter with their last payment asking to forgive their late fee's as they haven't been late before. The board came to an agreement that they must pay the late fee if the payment was received late. The other complaint was from Karen Odell; she had canceled her services on January 20 and was billed for January. The board agreed that was what had been discussed previously. Odell did pay her bill.

DUMP: Smith brought options to look at for an employee to drive around as needed at the dump and a shipping container to use for storage as that would be the best idea as it is moveable if needed. These are things to be thinking about for when we do the budget planning for 2027. Pictures of the paint that was left at the dump were presented; Smith and Ruona did take care of the 5 open cans by putting paint hardener in them. They still have 37 unopened that Smith would like the board decision on. Lermeny made a motion to give the customer the option to cover the cost of paint hardener and labor to dispose of paint or come get it, Dagman seconded the motion. All approved – motion carried. Smith asked if there were any questions about why the dump is closed when it's windy as there were quite a few complaints on Saturday, no one was concerned. Dagman recommended that we need to start enforcing covered trash as there is trash all over the roads.

ALLEYS/ROADS: Smith received a complaint about an alley because the person cannot drive their lawnmower across it without almost getting stuck on the ruts. Schleuning reminded the board that the town is not repairing any alleys unless they are not accessible by the fire department. Smith presented steps to finishing the unfinished roads in town along with a map, he informed the board that it is a long expensive process. In the past we have done special assessments to the abutting property owners. Table to next month.

SD DOT: Stirling presented a packet for SD DOT Small Community Transportation Planning Program Application and let the board know that it is available. It was decided to wait as it is due the end of the month and not enough time.

SUMMER HELP: Stirling put an ad in the paper to run for two weeks; the board will interview applicants before the regular board meeting in April.

HC MEMORIAL RECREATION FLOOR: Discussion was held and the board decided to table for a year.

BIDS FOR TRAILER: None were received; Stirling will run the ad again in June.

RUSSEL FOX: Stirling presented a letter in the matter of the estate of Fox, she informed the board that the account was billed only for garbage, and that service has not been used since September. Lermeny made a motion to forgive the current amount due of \$327.38, Dagman seconded. All in favor – motion carried. Stirling will send an email showing it has been forgiven.

ANNUAL REPORT: Stirling informed the board that she is struggling with the annual report and has reached out to Legislative Audit, and they recommended reaching out to their audit company. Stirling said she had also visited Mandy Morris about helping and she was willing to help as well. Schluening made a motion to hire Casey Petereson to help with the Annual Report – Lindholm seconded the motion. All in favor. All approved.

ORDINANCE 01-2026: The first reading was held. Schleuning made a motion to approve – Dagman second. All approved.

#### ORDINANCE # 01-2026

#### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #05-2021, DESIGNATING THE TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF BUFFALO, SOUTH DAKOTA, THAT ORDINANCE #05-2021 BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month of the year at the Harding County Memorial REC, 204 Hodge Street, Buffalo, South Dakota.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Finance Officer

(S E A L)

Placed upon its 1st reading:

Placed upon its 2nd reading:

Approved:

Published:

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Smith will be gone Thursday, Friday, and Saturday unless the weather changes and we are supposed to get a bunch of snow. He will also start working on drainages.

FINANCE OFFICE REPORT: Stirling presented the Energize Conference and District 10 meeting to the board. Klempel asked to attend the District 10 meeting. Stirling also presented information on the Pipeline Safety and Awareness Meeting, Klempel, Dagman, Schleuning, Lindholm all asked to be signed up to attend. Stirling informed the board that the office will be closed April 6<sup>th</sup> for Easter Monday, she also informed the board that she will be the only one in the office for the next week, so there may be times when the office is closed when she must run to a quick meeting, the bank, etc. Stirling also informed there are 2 petitions out for the open trustee position.

MISC: Klempel asked with the last time the emergency siren was tested, Stirling will ask the emergency manager for the county. He also asked about spring cleanup, Stirling informed him that it is on the agenda for April. Discussion was held regarding data centers.

President Klempel adjourned the meeting at 7:31.

The next meeting will be The Board of Equalization Meeting March 16, 2026, at 6PM at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

John Klempel, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

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