

UNNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

The Town of Buffalo Board of Trustees met on April 13, 2026, at 6PM at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center for an Open Forum/Public Input Session. Trustees present: John Klempel, Doris Dagman, Brandon Schleuning, Jason Lindholm. Employees present: Jaylene Stirling, Ryan Smith, Dusty Ginsbach. Guests present: Linda Matthews, Lynetta Henderson, Sarah Sabo, Melissa Breeding, Jeremy Humbracht, Gary Johnson, Morgan Buck, John Sever, Bret Clanton, Nancy Dingfelder, Ron Dingfelder.

President Klempel called the Open Forum/Public Input Session to order at 6:00PM.

Schleuning made a motion to approve the agenda, Lindholm seconded. All approved – motion carried.

The board began the session by sharing that they do not want to cut down trees as they know they are hard to grow here, but there are some that need attention and may need to go as the Town could be held liable if the trees in the right-of-way fall and cause damage. The town would like input on responsibility, and when action should be taken.

Discussion was held on how the town will determine priority trees and it was brought up to hire an arborist to determine priorities. It was also suggested that if the town cuts one down they had better cut all the trees down.

Discussion was held on rights-of-way, informing citizens of what that entails. It was mentioned that adjoining property owners should handle trees in the right-of-way, though surveying all property lines would be costly. Since many trees mark boundaries, a survey may be needed if the town takes responsibility. The town considered notifying landowners about problematic trees, requiring removal within 30 days or billing them for removal. There is currently no ordinance regarding trees in the right-of-way, but the nuisance ordinance might apply. The possibility of creating a new ordinance and addressing alleyways was also discussed.

It was recommended that the town has a tree company come in and have everyone get on the list and get them taken care of at property owners' expense. There was mention that not all citizens can afford that.

Discussion was held on starting a tree board – no one was interested in that, but some would like to see a program to plant new trees.

Klempel adjourned the meeting at 6:44PM.

The next meeting will be April 14, 2026, at 6PM at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center.

Signed: _____

John Klempel

Attest: _____

Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

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