

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo met at the Harding County Community Recreation Center at 6:00PM on May 12, 2025. Trustee's present: Sarah Sabo, Elizabeth Henderson, John Klempel, Kelcee Vroman, Brandon Schleuning. Employee's present: Jaylene Stirling, Ryan Smith, Barb Williams. Guests present: Jeremy Humbracht, Jacie Teller, Kathy Glines, Troy Stugelmeyer, Dillon Glines.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Henderson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Harding County Memorial Recreation Committee Report, Vroman second. No further discussion, all approved – motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Klempel made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 8, 2025, Schleuning second. No further discussion, all approved – motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Stirling reported that Deputy Williams is still at training. Stirling visited with the HCSO about speeding on Third Street East as there were multiple complaints this month.

BAR REPORT/LIQUOR LICENSES: None was made available. Smith did have a complaint that the air conditioner is not working. Glines Electric is going to look at it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Building is purchased and is sitting on a trailer in Whitewood, they will continue to keep the Town updated on progress.

EASTER EGG HUNT REIMBURSEMENT: Vroman made a motion to approve paying \$80.40 for advertising and \$175.11 for supplies for the Easter egg hunt, Henderson second. No further discussion, all approved – motion carried.

PUBLIC CONCERNS/COMMENTS: Kathy Glines was present to visit with the board about the Highway 85 expansion to a 4 lane. Discussion was held about needing to be proactive and get in on the conversations early and get a meeting set up with the Town, County, and Chamber. Stirling had contacted a few different people and was waiting for responses. Glines will get a meeting set up and let Stirling know.

ELECTION: Stirling informed the board that after more research and talking with SDML that each term for the incoming board members will be 3 years. She sent letters to each of the new board members who will take office in July.

STREET STATUS: Klempel brought pictures of two intersections of concern along Highway 85, Hodge and Three Toes. Visibility is not great, but progress is being made. The state has started their process of fixing the potholes, Smith informed the board that last he knew the state was waiting for the machine.

DRINKING WATER REPORT: Stirling brought the drinking water report to the board for review. It was posted in the paper and is available at the office for anyone that would like to review it.

GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE: President Sabo received a letter from Grand Electric asking that Friday, June 6, 2025, be designated as Grand Electric Cooperative Day in the Town of Buffalo. The following proclamation was signed after a motion was made by Klempel, seconded by Vroman, all approved and carried.

Town of Buffalo
State of South Dakota

WHEREAS, electricity has been a vital force in the development and progress of our communities, powering homes, businesses, and industries while improving the quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Grand Electric Cooperative has served the citizens of the **Town of Buffalo** with dedication and excellence for **75 years**, ensuring reliable and affordable electricity to rural areas, fostering economic growth, and enhancing everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Grand Electric Cooperative has been a pillar of the community, supporting local businesses, advancing energy innovation, and promoting safety and education in the field of electrical service; and

WHEREAS, recognizing **Friday, June 6, 2025**, as **Grand Electric Cooperative Day** honors the Cooperative's unwavering commitment to service, innovation, and the well-being of the citizens of the **Town of Buffalo**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Town of Buffalo**, in the State of **South Dakota**, does hereby proclaim **June 6** as **Grand Electric Cooperative Day**, in recognition of the **75 years of dedicated service** by Grand Electric Cooperative, and encourages all residents to join in celebrating this milestone by acknowledging the invaluable contributions of Grand electric Cooperative in our community.

SIGNED AND PROCLAIMED, this 12 of May, 2025, by;

Sarah Sabo, President
Town of Buffalo Board of Trustees

CPA: Vroman made a motion to not sign a contract with a CPA, but to see what an hourly rate might be if needed, Henderson second. All approved- motion carried.

SUMMER HELP: Stirling brought to the board's attention the Nepotism clause in the policy manual with having Cohen Smith working under Ryan Smith. Henderson made a motion to waive the policy on nepotism for the summer of 2025, Vroman second. All approved, motion carried. Smith asked about having a second summer help position to which the board decided that it was only budgeted for one for 2025.

ANIMAL CLINIC: President Sabo will call and get this set up.

SDPAA RENEWAL: Stirling brought the renewal packet for the board to review. It was discussed that we had already adjusted things, but this was the final.

HARDING COUNTY MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE REPORT: Williams reported that pickleball has been a huge success, there were suggestions to get a dumpster with a lock on it for people to dispose of garbage at the rec center, a wi-fi thermostat to control the temperature so it can be adjusted when no one is using the building. They are planning another Swap N Shop for fall, and they are working on other events.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Smith asked if the board would like lines painted on the street again, the board would like lines painted on Main St. and First St. Smith said he will probably do that on a Sunday.

FINANCE OFFICER REPORT: Stirling reminded the board of HR/FO school June 10-13, and budget training on June 18th in Rapid City. Klempel will attend budget training with her. June 19th the office will be closed due to the holiday.

Stirling had a list of complaints this month that she informed the board of and the responses she had for citizens: Who is paying sales tax? That is a question for SDDOR; What are Ryan's hours? They vary depending on the day and what needs done, his timesheet is public information for anyone that would like to view it, Intersection concerns at Ramsland, WM, and the stop by Buffalo Hardware. She informed the citizen they will be

looked at; Rec Center rates need raised. She informed them that they will be raised for 2026. Sidewalks around town need fixed. It was on her list for discussion. Speeding and kids out for summer. Stirling will post a reminder to slow down in town and asked HCSO to patrol.

Stirling informed the board that gWorks should be live by the end of May as they are doing a mock billing run this week.

Stirling had visited with D. Ginsbach about clearing out his office to make it more useable space for the Municipal Office, he stated he does not use it and would be fine with that.

Stirling informed the board that as of June 1, 2025 Beacon Schneider will no longer display data for Harding County, she has been in contact with the county about getting a subscription for the town for the new program. Stirling asked for the board's approval to delete a charge for 407 4th Street that she forgot to delete when it was sold. It was granted.

Stirling let the board know that SDPAA was okay with the screen door that Williams had ordered for the office and President Sabo stated that Smith will get put in at his earliest convenience.

Stirling asked for charges for chips and special opening of dump. Loader charges for chips will stay at \$100 unless Smith has the loader out already. The special fee for opening the dump outside of normal operating hours will be \$20.

Stirling brought the Community Access Program grant to the attention of the board. This grant can help cover the cost of replacing sidewalks. It will be on the agenda in June to apply for this grant to redo the sidewalks on Main Street from Highway 85 to 2nd Street West, and 1st Street West from Highway 20 to Main Street.

Stirling brought a waiver that was suggested by SDPAA to be used for town hosted events, the board would like that to be put into effect.

Stirling brought copies of the updated personnel policy packet and asked that board members review and make changes by June 1 and get back to her so a final approval can be done at the June meeting.

Stirling also expressed that they had been locking all filing cabinets at the office and would like people to only look at files when the FO or Deputy FO is in the office and can grab them. Most towns have this in effect to help keep order.

Stirling brought a letter from the Post Prom Committee thanking the board for their sponsorship.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: SDCL 1-25-2(1) Henderson declared the board into executive session at 7:13PM, Klempel second. Declared out of executive session at 7:23PM.

Vroman made a motion for Williams to get a \$.50 raise with annual review as close to 1 year anniversary of hire date as possible, Schleuning second. All approved, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

President Sabo declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

The next regular board meeting will be held Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Harding County Community Recreation Center.

Signed: _____

Sarah Sabo, President

Attest: _____

Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

Seal