

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 December 29, 2025. Trustee’s present: John Klempel, Doris Dagman, Brandon Schleuning, Jason Lindholm, Tex Lermeny. Employee’s present: Jaylene Stirling, Ryan Smith, Dusty Ginsbach. Guest’s present: Scott Sears, Becky Sears, Deb Mazuranich, Melissa Breeding, Deputy Williams, Richard Smith, Diana Smith, Sue Klempel, Rikki Klempel.

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

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

Dagman made a motion to approve all bills, Linholm seconded, no discussion. All approved – motion carried.

DECEMBER ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Reference	Check Amount	Description
SDRS	\$ 1,440.08	Retirement
SDRS	\$ 74.51	Fee
SDML	\$ 617.00	Membership
SDML	\$ 5,064.00	Work Comp Policy
Olson Propane	\$ 1,842.56	Fire Hall - Gym Heater
Hett Plumbing	\$ 1,492.31	Motel Meter
Elan Financial	\$ 416.75	Supplies, Fees, Phone
Dicks HVAC LLC	\$ 164.29	Rec Kitchen Pressure Switch
Badger Meter	\$ 262.35	Fees
Amazon Capital	\$ 179.00	Membership

No public concerns or comments on anything that was not on the agenda.

TRAILER TRASH HAULERS – GARBAGE BUSINESS: Much discussion was held on the subject. Stirling presented what was available in the packets which included: a list of new Restricted Use Site Trash Hauler requirements that herself, Smith, Schleuning, and Attorney Ginsbach had thought of, the letter that was sent to Sears after the November board meeting, all the dates that he had been to the Restricted Use Site throughout 2025. She also mentioned that the board needed to decide on billing for the last couple of weeks after he received the letter stating that he would need to sign up for a commercial account or pay per trip. Becky Sears stated her opinions with a raised voice and left the Rec Center with Scott following. The board and Attorney Ginsbach let the rest of the group know that they are not out to stop the trash hauling business, but need better communication and accurate lists of customers along with an agreement to stop in the office weekly to get a list of accounts that cannot have their garbage hauled to the dump due to non-payment. Scott Sears returned to the meeting and stated that there is personal vendetta against him, and he always gives lists of customers when asked and has given many to Stirling. She stated that she has only received 2 handwritten lists since she started in March of 2024, and they don’t match up and in the last two weeks has received calls and complaints from people that were not on his lists that he picks up garbage for. Sears stated that he had someone ride with him and check that he goes to each place on the list. He then started talking about no one paying him, personal vendettas, the town stealing from him and that things have only gotten like this in the last year and he used to be paid out of petty cash before Stirling started. Stirling stated that since she has started a lot has changed due to laws and

requirements and the results of their audits, she is trying to track the town's money better and thinks that is beneficial to taxpayers, as well as how things should be done, which is why he was asked for a W-9 or W-4 before giving him his paycheck, the board had asked her to go ahead and pay him in August and then not ask him to fill in at the dump any longer. She also stated that he has been asked to come to multiple meetings and has been on multiple agendas. Attorney Ginsbach mentioned that it might be a problem if he was paid in petty cash and the Town would be looking into that. Sears then went on to say that people treat him like the mayor by calling and asking him questions and wanting him to have answers and then he told the Board of Trustees that he knows way more than he should ever know and people are in the positions they are in due to corruption among other things. The board asked what he was talking about and got no clarification. Sears mentioned again about not being paid, Lermeney stated that he was asked to come to the office to get his check and he refused to. Mazuranich asked for clarification on things and then stated that there was too much information and it was not necessary; she then stated that if she had gotten this clarification she would not have come to the meeting. Attorney Ginsbach asked Sears if they were at an impasse or if there can be a resolution. Sears stated he has already informed his customers that he is no longer going to be hauling trash and that his customers in Camp Crook have all bought incinerators and he would not have any customers there anymore, to which Mazuranich stated that he was misunderstanding people. Schleuning and Sears stepped out. Breeding mentioned that Sears had told her that the Town was required him to have a CDL, multiple board members stated that that was not ever even discussed and that is not accurate. Diana Smith then wanted the board to know that she had tried to stop in the office multiple times, and no one was around. Stirling asked her when she had tried as their office hours are Monday – Thursday, 8AM – 4PM, she did also state that there are times the office is closed during those hours due to training calls, meetings, or errands needing ran, she also stated that Williams does not work every day each week. Mazuranich stated that she thought the office would be open Monday – Friday with two people in it. Stirling restated the office hours. Lindholm stated to everyone that they are a new board and trying to do things correctly and understand each situation. Schleuning returned and said he had asked Scott to reconsider and take some time to think on things. Mazuranich stated that it may be Stirling's personality that is the conflict possibly. Lermeney stated that Stirling has the job that no one wants and she gets all the complaints and brings them to the board, as no one usually shows up to the meetings. He stated he was glad to see a crowd. Throughout the discussion Attorney Ginsbach, Lindholm, Lermeney, and Schleuning continued to state that the board would like an accurate list of customers weekly and that no one wants to run him out of business, as this is a needed service for the community. Throughout the meeting Scott Sears stated that he would be done with the services and business.

Dagman made a motion to table discussion to the January 12, 2026, meeting.

2026 RATES RESOLUTION: Stirling presented Resolution 02-2026, asking about a small change to add a 2-hour rec center rental for \$25, discussion was held. Schleuning made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2026 as is, Lermeney seconded the motion. All approved motion carried.

RESOLUTION 02-2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Buffalo states municipal rates each year.

WHEREAS, the rates will be as follows per month:

WATER

Base Rate (1-1,000 Gallons): \$17.85

1001 gallons and up: \$3.04 per thousand gallons

Residential Monthly Surcharge: \$19

Commercial Monthly Surcharge: \$57

Hydrant: \$21

GARBAGE(SOLID WASTE) + tax

Residential: \$23.92

Senior Citizen Residential: \$18.72

Commercial: \$52

Outside City Limits Residential: \$36.4

Outside City Limits Senior Citizen Residential: \$24.96

Outside City Limits Commercial: \$62.40

SEWER

Residential: \$20.62

Commercial: \$22.65

Motels/Apartments: \$26.02

WHEREAS, additional rates at the restricted use site will be as follows: + tax

1 Time Fee (pickup load): \$60

1 Time Fee (larger than pickup load): \$100

White Goods with Freon: \$50

White Goods without Freon: \$10

Auto/Bicycle/ATV Tire: \$15

Pickup Tire: \$20

Truck Tire: \$35

Tractor or Larger Tire: \$50

Tire WITH Rim: \$100

Small Animal Carcass: \$10

Deer/Antelope Carcass: \$20

Large Animal Carcass: \$75

Pit Use (1 free for monthly customers): \$30 each trip

Push Mower: \$10

Riding Mower/Golf Cart/ATV: \$25 (if gas emptied, no batteries and tires off)

Riding Mower/Golf Cart/ATV: \$50

Vehicle: \$200

Under 500 sq ft camper/trailer house (MUST BE CLEANED OUT): \$500

Over 500 sq ft camper/trailer house (MUST BE CLEANED OUT): \$1,000

Recovery Fee per item disposed in the wrong area: \$50

WHEREAS, additional rates for the Town of Buffalo will be as follows:

Animal Tags: \$5/fixed \$10/non-fixed

Bulk Water: \$10/1,000 gallons

Septic Dump: \$100 per residence

Rock Sales: \$40/ton + tax

Dirt Sales: \$12+ tax

Skid steer delivery fee: \$100

Loader deliver fee: \$50

Special dump open fee (outside open hours): \$40

Sewer Hook Up to Main: \$75 + cost of construction

Water Turn Off/On: \$50

Special Liquor License (beer): \$20

Special Liquor License (liquor): \$50

Rec Center Rental:

1/2 day per side: \$50

Full day per side: \$100

Full day both sides: \$150

Sports Teams: Contract

Zoning Permit: \$25

Variance: \$50

Ordinance Amendment: \$40

Easement Vacation: \$150

Dormant Surcharge Fee - \$19/month back to last time it was paid or when loan originated in July 2016. (not to exceed \$6,000)

Water Hook Up to Property Line – Construction Cost plus Access Fee

Access Fee Per Connection Size

3/4 inch (standard residential)	\$1,250
1 inch	\$1,500
1 1/2 inch	\$1,750
2 inch	\$2,000
3 inch	\$3,500
4 inch	\$5,000
5 inch	\$6,000

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Town of Buffalo hereby adopts, supports, and will enforce the 2026 Municipal Rates.

Adopted by the Town of Buffalo this ____ day of _____, _____.

APPROVED: _____

John Klempel ,Board President

ATTEST _____

Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

Seal

President Klempel adjourned the meeting at 7:10PM.

The next Town of Buffalo Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6PM at the Harding County Memorial Recreation Center.

Signed: _____

John Klempel, President

Attest: _____

Jaylene Stirling, Finance Officer

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