

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Special Meeting  
January 11, 2022-6:00pm  
700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting information**  
**Meeting ID 831 5740 8215 Passcode 176410**

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer by -Jake Frost

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen.

Zoom: Novotny\* Note: Novotny appeared virtually by Zoom out of matter of personal convenience, not pursuant to an emergency declaration as anticipated by Neb.Rev.Stat.81-1411(7)(a), and therefore, Novotny abstained from voting throughout the meeting.

Public Open Meeting Act poster location was pointed out on the north wall of Council Chambers located at the Village office.

**Discussion and possible action:** The Hemingford Police Department ("HPD") operated with two full-time officers until October 1, 2020. After one of its officers resigned, the HPD was manned exclusively by one full-time officer until one non-certified officer and an officer from out-of-state were hired. Both of these officers resigned from the HPD prior to obtaining their Nebraska law enforcement certification. At this point, the sole remaining HPD officer, Chief Bryner, contacted Box Butte County Sheriff's Department and two Sheriff's deputies were hired on a part-time basis. The City has continued to look for qualified applicants, but officer hiring has been made more difficult by the current climate and new requirements of LB 51, which became effective August 28, 2021. This bill limits the use of non-certified officers and reciprocity officers by the HPD and imposes additional restrictions on potential applicants. To date, the HPD has been unsuccessful in attracting new applicants any full-time positions.

The Village Board is concerned for the well-being of the current Police Chief Dusty Bryner. For approximately 15 months, he has been left without much-needed time off, as he responds to virtually all calls within the Village, regardless of whether he is on duty, creating an undue hardship on this officer. Additionally, the Board questions the impact this may have on the Village residents. In a search for possible solutions to the situation contracting and interlocal agreements with the Box Butte County Sheriff for coverage within the Village has been discussed.

Village Board Chairman directed the Administrator to schedule a Town Hall Meeting at the Body Shop on Wednesday January 26, 2022 6:00 pm to gather community input.

The board also discussed moving forward with drafting an interlocal agreement with Box Butte County Sheriff's Department, for law enforcement coverage for the Village of Hemingford.

**Motion by** Frost, Second by Wacker to move forward with drafting an interlocal agreement with the Box Butte County Sheriff's Department and authorizing Village Attorney Libby Stobel to present the same to the Box Butte County Attorney at this time.

**Voting Aye:** Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

**Abstaining:** Novotny

**Motion** to adjourn at 6:34 by Wacker, second by Hunter

**Voting Aye:** Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

**Abstaining:** Novotny

ATTEST:

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John Annen, Chairman

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Barb Straub, Village Clerk