VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES June 15, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

700 Box Butte Ave., Hemingford, NE 69348 Zoom ID: 978 662 3827 | Passcode: 931989

1. OPENING ITEMS

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Opening Prayer was offered. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Rick Wacker.

Roll Call:

- Wacker – Present
- Frost – Present
- Smith – Present
- Hunter – Present
- Mahony – Present

Quorum present.

Public Meeting Information was announced.

Consent Calendar:

a. Minutes of the May 19, 2026 Regular meeting.
b. Claims against the Village of $91,753.57
c. Claims against the Utilities of $153,737.18
d. Claims against the HCCC of $ 694.54
e. May 2026 Village Financial Statements and May 2026 Bank Reconciliations.
f. May 2026 Library Report.
g. May 2026 Box Butte County Sheriff's Office Report.
h. May 2026 HVFD Report.

Motion to Approve as presented. **Motion:** Mahoney **Second:** Hunter **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Consent Calendar Approved.

2. Firework Ban Discussion – Robbie Buchheit

Fire Chief Buchheit advocated for a complete ban on the sale and use of fireworks due to extreme dryness and fire danger.

No action taken.

3. Ordinance #840 – Fireworks Discharge Dates/Times

The ordinance established that fireworks may be discharged from 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM on June 24th to July 2nd; and between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 midnight on July 3rd and July 4th unless further permitted or restricted by Resolution of the Board of Trustees. It also banned the discharge of fireworks on any Village owned parks or recreational facilities, except professional firework shows authorized by the Village Board.

Motion 1: Waive three readings of Ordinance #840 – Mahony **Second** Smith **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none.

Motion 2: Pass and publish Ordinance #840– Mahony **Second** Smith **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Ordinance Approved.

4. Resolution 2026-06 – Limiting Firework Discharge for 2026
The Resolution banned the discharge of fireworks within the Village of Hemingford for the 2026 calendar year. Trustee Hunter expressed concern fireworks may move to the country if banned within the Village. Sheriff Dannar noted enforcement challenges but stated the Sheriff's Office will respond as able. Fines may be up to $500 per day as set forth in the Village's Municipal Code.
Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-06 Banning Fireworks for the 2026 Calendar Year: Frost **Second:** Mahony **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Resolution Approved.

5. Resolution 2026-04 – Pool Sanitary/Safety Standards
No action taken.

6. Agreement with City of Alliance – Annual Pool Inspections
The Board reviewed the annual inspection agreement with the City of Alliance. The agreement provides certified pool inspectors to ensure the Hemingford pool meets all state sanitary and safety requirements. Trustees noted the importance of consistent inspections to maintain compliance and ensure public safety.
Motion to enter into Pool Inspection Agreement with City of Alliance: Mahony **Second:** Smith **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Agreement approved.

7. Ordinance #839 – SWANN Rate Increase
The Board discussed the proposed SWANN's rate increase, which reflects rising landfill operation costs and updated environmental compliance requirements. The Board decided to raise the Village's trash hauling and disposal rates to match what the Village will be charge by SWANN starting in July 2026.
Motion 1: Waive Three Readings of Ordinance #839– Hunter, second Mahony, **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none.
Motion 2: Pass and publish Ordinance #839– Hunter, second Smith**, Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Ordinance approved.

8. Resolution 2026-05 – County Fair Parade
The Board reviewed the annual request supporting the County Fair Parade. The resolution authorizes temporary street closures, coordination with law enforcement, and Village participation.
Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-05: Smith **Second:** Hunter **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Resolution approved.

9. Close Street Project Account #3880
The Board reviewed the final reconciliation of the Street Project Bank Account. All project expenses have been paid, and no outstanding obligations remain.
Motion to Close Street Project Bank Account #3880: Frost **Second:** Mahony **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Account closure approved.

10. Close HCCC Reserve Account #8291

The Board reviewed the status of the HCCC Reserve Account. The account has been dormant is no longer needed.
Motion Close HCCC Reserve Account #8291: Smith **Second:** Mahony **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Account closure approved.

11. Ordinance #838 – Electric Service Rates
The Board conducted the second reading of Ordinance #838, which proposes adjustments to electric service rates to reflect combing the "customer charge" and "meter fee" into one "base amount" charge. The rates will remain the same only nomenclature will change. Second reading held, moved to third reading next month. **No action taken.**

12. USDA Loan – Drinking Water Well Project
The Board reviewed the USDA loan package for the new drinking water well project, including engineering estimates, environmental requirements, and long-term financing terms. The project is estimated to cost $958,264.00. Trustees emphasized the importance of securing a reliable water source for future growth and authorized proceeding with USDA loan process.
Motion to Approve USDA Loan Package: Mahony **Second:** Hunter **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. USDA Loan application approved.

13. Payment Agreement – Box Butte County Roads Department
The Board reviewed the payment agreement outlining how frequently bulk water sold to the Box Butte County will be billed. It established that all bulk water sales should be billed at a minimum of once a year.
Motion to Approve the Box Butte County Roads Department Payment Agreement: Hunter **Second:** Smith **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Agreement approved.

14. Utilities Department Report – Seth Heitz
Utilities Superintendent Seth Heitz provided updates:
- Installed electrical boxes downtown for Fun Days and other community events
- Cleared trees at the golf course and fairgrounds
- Sprayed weeds throughout the village, focusing on alleys and public facilities
- Coordinating electrical and water service planning for the upcoming school addition

15. Code Enforcement Report
A written report was submitted summarizing current code enforcement activity, including property maintenance notices.

16. Public Comment
Resident Eric Pehoviack asked about the use of LPR (License Plate Reader) cameras. Sheriff Dannar explained how the system works, who has access, and how data is stored and used. No further public comments were offered.

17. Executive Session
None held.

18. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: Mahony **Second:** Hunter **Vote:** Yes: Wacker, Frost, Smith, Hunter, Mahony in Favor Nays: none. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Attest:

Richard K Wacker

Rick Wacker, Chairperson

Kyle Huss

Kyle Huss, Village Deputy Clerk