

**MINUTE RECORD
VILLAGE OF FIRTH
REGULAR MEETING**

February 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Chairman and Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Firth, Nebraska was convened in open and public session on the **7th day of January 2025** at the Firth Community Center. Normal notification procedures were observed. The meeting was called to order by the Board Chairman at 7:00pm. The following members were present: Todd Carlson, Samantha Henderson and Jason Cooper. Craig Middle and Tina Booton were absent. The Village Clerk recorded the minutes. The Clerk noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the room for review.

It was moved by Jason Cooper, seconded by Samantha Henderson to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve the January 7, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

The Treasurer presented the January financial report. It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve the January financial report. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

Current Claims were read. It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve current claims (including the regular monthly Norris Public Power and Farmer’s Cooperative bills, that will be received after the meeting.) Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

Current Month Claims

Salaries	10,234.25
Payroll Taxes	718.98
Simple IRA Employer Match	302.65
Health Ins and cell phone stipends	600.00
Black Hills Energy	164.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	553.12
Capital City Refuse – garbage service	4,407.75
Farmers’ Cooperative - fuel	672.02
Firespring – website host	100.00
First National Bank of Omaha – misc supplies	1,254.40
HBE Becker Meyer Love LLP – annual audit pymt	12,335.00
John Jennings – building inspections	200.00
Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office – contract hours	1,356.90
McNally Law Office – legal counsel	270.00
Microsoft Office 365 - software	8.70
Midwest Fireworks Wholesalers – annual show 6/28	3,750.00
NDEE – wastewater treatment operator permit	150.00
Nebraska Code Consulting, LLC – bldg inspector	100.00
Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab -testing	31.00
Norris Public Power - electricity	2,813.60
Olsson - engineering	4,841.65
One Call Concepts, Inc.	5.74
Principal Life Insurance Company – emp benefits	145.81
Sam’s Club	231.22
Southeast Area Clerks Association – annual dues	10.00
Van Kirk Bros Contracting – water main replacement final invoice	71,397.21
Windstream – com ctr and maintenance bldg	394.90
Total	117,048.90

PUBLIC COMMENT Period – Dan Svatos asked if the Board had considered live-streaming the Board meetings so anyone could watch them.

Dave Hansmeyer gave the monthly Maintenance Report. Dave stated that once it warms up, he would like to do some water testing on the water tower well to see if perhaps the selenium levels have gone down and if pulling less water per minute would draw from a different water pocket. There is an issue at the sewer main at 4th and Russell Street. It needs to be dug up to be repaired and to identify if it is on the Village Main or the resident tap. The Village sewer jetter is still in the shop for the replacement of the motor. Street crack sealing will be scheduled this spring for the next routine quadrant of the Village.

Chris and Dillan Durham were present to discuss their request that the Board amend the current fireworks regulations to allow for the sale and discharge of fireworks in the Village from December 28 – January 1 each year to match the State regulations. There was back and forth discussion. The Board will consider approval any amendment to the fireworks regulations by ordinance at the March regular Board meeting.

Todd Carlson asked Chris Durham and Susanah Friesen to introduce themselves and explain their interest in filling the vacancies on the Firth Planning Commission.

Todd Carlson nominated Chris Durham to fill the vacancy for the regular member of the Firth Planning Commission. And he nominated Susanah Friesen to fill the vacancy for the alternate member of the Firth Planning Commission.

It was moved by Jason Cooper, seconded by Samantha Henderson, to appoint Chris Durham to fill the vacancy for the Planning Commission and Susanah Friesen to fill the vacancy for the alternate member of the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

Sarah Lefferedink was present on behalf of FACET and discussed proposed FACET events planned for 2025. It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper to approve the proposed events which include: Easter Egg Hunt, Popsicles in the Park, Multi-town garage sales, Firth Fun Day, Tailgate Party, Movies in the Mortuary, Soup Supper fund raiser, Firth Old Fashioned Christmas. These events are subject to change with approval from the Board. No specific dates are public at this time other than April 19 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and June 28, 2025 for Firth Fun Day. The Board Chair reminded FACET that an activity list for each event needs to be submitted to the Board prior to the event so that proper insurance coverage can be confirmed, etc. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

It was moved by Jason Cooper, seconded by Samantha Henderson to approve up to \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a new laptop from Schrock Innovations for Village Maintenance use. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve the contract with Midwest Fireworks for the annual Firth Fireworks show in the amount of \$3,750.00. The show is scheduled for June 29, 2025, in conjunction with Firth Fun Day. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried. The check for \$3,750 is part of the current claims for February.

There was a discussion regarding upcoming water/sewer/SRF rate increases. Rates have not been increased since Aril 2022. The upcoming rate increase ordinance will include graduated water and sewer rate increases over the next 3 years. The treasurer explained the increase needed for the monthly SRF (State Revolving Funds) fee to cover the annual loan payments for the new SRF Loan (for the two new wells constructed in 2023 and part of the Allen Street Water Main Project that was just completed.) The current SRF \$9.96/mo fee was established to pay the annual loan payments for the 2010 water tower well. Enough funds have now been collected to pay the remaining loan amount. The \$9.96 monthly SRF fee will be rolled over the new SRF loan and raised by several dollars to cover the annual loan payments for the new SRF loan. All rate increases will be adopted by ordinance at the March 2025 regular Board meeting with rate increases taking effect April 1.

The board briefly reviewed the draft franchise agreement from ALLO for the upcoming internet service they will bring to Firth. The board agreed with the Village attorney's comments on the agreement. The suggested changes will be forwarded on to Allo for drafting the final franchise agreement which will be considered for approval at a later meeting.

There was discussion regarding a citizen's complaint about two dogs acting aggressively. A letter will be sent. There was also discussion regarding residents with unlicensed dogs in Firth. It was noted that the new license cycle begins April 1.

It was agreed to post the open summer mowing position through the end of the month.

It was agreed to schedule the Firth Spring Clean Up Day for Saturday May 10. The Goodwill truck will come at the end of the morning to pick up any donations.

At 8:12pm it was moved by Jason Cooper, seconded by Samantha Henderson, to go into executive session to discuss a potential real estate purchase. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

Before Dan Svatos exited the room he expressed his frustration that he believed the Board “made him leave the meeting” for the executive session at the January meeting. The Board explained he could come back once the executive session was over. The Clerk offered to notify him when the current executive session was finished but he declined and left the premises.

It was moved by Samantha Henderson, seconded by Jason Cooper, to come out of executive session. Roll call vote: 3 Yeas (T. Carlson, J. Cooper, S. Henderson.) No Nays. Absent two. Motion carried.

Committee Reports were given.

Parks: There was a short discussion regarding the possible need to find a consultant to help create an overall playground plan that includes all the phases needed for an update. This will be placed on the March agenda.

Streets: The May Street ditches need to be reshaped. There are other ditches that need reshaped as well. This will be scheduled for late summer to allow for seeding in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Todd Carlson – Board Chairman

Jill A. Hoefler, Village Clerk