

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 11, 2025

Opening prayer by Custer.

**Peterson called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Ceresco Community Room. Board Members had been given the agenda and supporting documents. Notices were posted at the Village Office, Ceresco Post Office and CerescoBank. Peterson pointed out the Open Meeting Law Act posted on the wall of the Community Room. Answering roll call: Peterson, Burklund, and Custer. Absent: Ruble and Johnson. Also present: Lynn Maxson and Joan Lindgren.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Police budget was discussed. Burklund said they were \$25,000 over budget this year and questioned at what point they should be shut off. Lindgren noted the budget they had for 2024/2025 is \$98,850 and the estimate use is \$97,181. Burklund stated their hours have gone nuts. He questioned if we were paying the differential pay for both Friday and Saturday. Custer noted that they would be over on wages. Burklund noted education has went from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Peterson noted that everything has went up and we have officers that don't work for other departments. Burklund noted in three years their budget has doubled. Peterson noted the money they have spent is high because we haven't received payment from the insurance company yet. Lindgren noted payment for contents won't be received until the case is closed. Peterson suggested they come up with a work schedule. Lindgren noted if they could find frivolous spending they could cut it. Peterson stated the only thing they could cut is hours. Lindgren reminded them when the accountant comes she looks at the bottom number, not each line item. Peterson asked Lindgren what the total number of hours the police work a week. Lindgren checked and the last week they worked 31 hours. Burklund would like to cut the police wages down to \$50,000. Burklund questioned the repairs and maintenance of \$3200 for a garage. Burklund questioned what happened to the budget that wasn't spent. Lindgren stated it goes back into their budget. Burklund noted if it is just a door, the maintenance guys should put it in, and if they needed help he could help them. Wages will be changed to \$50,000 and \$4,000 for taxes.

The Street budget was reviewed. Burklund questioned who is paid under streets. Lindgren noted Gushard, Lindgren and whoever works for snow removal. Lindgren noted Gushard's wages are split 50/50 between streets and parks, and he receives 5 hours of compost a week. Gushard has also been working water and sewer. Burklund questioned how much of Lindgren's wages come out of street. Lindgren said one month because of the One & Six Year Street Plan. Burklund questioned if they are going to continue to lease the Bobcat. Lindgren noted they couldn't afford to buy one. Burklund questioned the amount of the lease. Lindgren answered it was \$5,400 total, with \$2,700 charged to streets and the other half was split between water and sewer at \$1,350 each. Burklund noted after talking to Gushard today they really need is to replace the backhoe. Burklund questioned capital outlay, and the \$373,000 spend down. The accountant will review at the next budget meeting.

Lindgren included in the capital outlay \$530,000, which is \$373,000 spend down, \$60,000 for Hunter Subdivision, and \$97,000 for Elm Street, 1st to 2nd. Lindgren noted she had talked to the accountant about using the Street Assessment CD of \$111,000. Custer questioned where the money from the other assessments go. Lindgren noted in Debt Service. Peterson noted we just need to know if the spend down needs to be there or not and that is a question we can ask the accountant. Burklund questioned the \$373,000 spend down, again. Custer noted concerns of not balancing and amending a budget again that costs the Village money. Lindgren noted the idea is that we don't go over budget. Burklund noted we have been on budget forever then all of a sudden last year you are \$489,000 short.

Peterson noted we are leasing the bobcat, but we own the ventrac. Discussion held on attachments.

Burklund noted what he is getting at is we are going along fairly even making money and then all of a sudden we are down \$500,000 in a budget and if we put \$373,000 in there again we are going to have the same problem and do the same thing next year. Peterson noted that is a question we need to leave and ask the accountant.

The Fire Department budget was reviewed. Heyen has asked to carry over \$16,000 from communications for radios, which will be moved to capital outlay. Communications of \$5,000 for radio maintenance, and \$1,500 for Verizon and Windstream. Burklund noted that in three years they have tripled their budget. Lindgren noted



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SCBA's were purchased and the loan paid off. Burklund questioned if the increase in outside services from \$2,000 - \$5,500 was to do lights. Lindgren said \$2000 for lights and there is annual maintenance of \$1,500 for the sirens. Lindgren noted there was a period of time when the sirens weren't being maintained. Burklund questioned what the other \$2,000 was for. Lindgren noted it was cushion. Burklund questioned if the \$4,000 for concrete was part of outside services. Lindgren noted it was and that it wasn't budgeted for. Burklund questioned again what was in the outside services. Lindgren noted that typically we have a little cushion somewhere so we don't end up like we did a few years ago. Custer noted we are actually going down a little from last year's budget. Lindgren noted overall they did not go over their budget. Burklund questioned what they were going to spend \$4,200 in the next three months on. Lindgren answered she was taking her best guess using the expenses she paid in July and what is potentially coming in August and September.

Burklund questioned the \$4,000 in repairs and maintenance. Lindgren answered she is hoping the expenses we had from the electrical issue would just be paid straight out from Progressive's insurance. Having cushion in the budget so the Village doesn't go over budget as it did in 2022-2023 was discussed. Burklund said that has nothing to do with fire budget. Custer noted it was the overall budget. We are looking at the bottom dollar. If we cut too much that is going to cause problems. So, if we have cushion in every department it will help. Custer stated she was okay with putting the \$4,000 in there for repairs. Lindgren noted if they were going over last year's budget she would be concerned with every little line item, but they aren't. The budget is actually lower. Burklund stated \$8,000 is cut, but we added \$40,000 the year before. Lindgren noted the SCBA loan was paid off, and the Village was fortunate that the Rural Board gave the loan. Custer noted she thinks we should just go with it the way it is. Burklund noted there is \$9,500 in a budget that only spent \$1,900 this year. Peterson noted he was fine with the \$4,000 in repairs and maintenance. He knows they haven't spent it, but something on the truck could break down. Lindgren said the Village doesn't pay the repairs on the trucks, but the Village is responsible for the building repairs.

Lindgren noted there are a lot of different categories and we could probably combine some, such as outside services with repairs and maintenance.

Burklund questioned if bunker gear was purchased. Lindgren noted two sets this current budget year, but those costs keep going up too. Burklund stated everything keeps going up, that is part of the deal. The nice thing is our valuations are going up as well so we will get some more money.

Peterson suggested \$2,000 on repairs and maintenance.

The Park budget was reviewed. Burklund questioned if Gushard's park salary is half. Lindgren noted it is, but he has compost. All the part time people were on park. Burklund questioned what transportation is for. Lindgren noted gas, and it's split between streets and parks. Burklund questioned what the balance of the CerescoBank loan is. Lindgren noted after the payment in April, there is \$76,000 left. The remaining reimbursement from the Lower Platte South NRD has been budgeted. Burklund questioned if we were paying the \$76,000 off. Lindgren noted the Village doesn't have \$76,000 to pay it off. The remaining reimbursement in the CD was budgeted to make the payment. Burklund questioned the length of the loan. Lindgren noted it is a five year loan at 4%. This is the first year. Burklund said, "I know we have a bunch of extra money in the bank. Why can't we just use that?" Lindgren said that is your cash. You can talk to the accountant.

Peterson questioned the \$10,000 for the trail that didn't get used. Custer noted we budgeted it under capital improvements, and now we have it for memorial. Custer noted we budgeted it last year. It didn't get used, so we are budgeting the same amount this year. Burklund questioned where it goes if it doesn't get used. Lindgren noted back into the fund. The proposed 2025-2026 budget shows \$10,000, not \$20,000. Peterson said we are just carrying it over. We are not putting a whole other line item to put it on top of it. It's just still \$10,000.

Custer stated it's like we budgeted \$200,000 for the splash pad. We got income for all that, we budgeted that because we were going to get that income in.

Burklund stated what you're telling me is if there is anything left it will go into next year's budget. Lindgren noted it would go under end of year cash.



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Peterson asked Lynn Maxson about trees. Maxson noted one was lost in the storm and needs to be replaced. There were three taken out by the playground and at least two need to be replaced. Maxson said someone needs to look at trees, because some are too high for the maintenance crew. By the concession stand and in that row there is damage. A tree costs between \$250-\$400, depending on caliper size. Discussion held.

Maxson said a background is needed for the scoreboard. Its not visible at certain times of the day because of sun. He suggested replacing the two trees that were taken out. Peterson said he is good with that. Maxson noted four trees may be needed.

Burklund said he talked to the co-op today because when they put the concrete across the road they took out trees, they were supposed to put trees back in and they have never done it. Peterson asked if we really wanted them there though. Burklund asked why not, don't you want trees coming up the main road coming in. Lindgren noted she would look through minutes. Peterson shared concerns of trees in the way of watching fireworks from the Legion, and tree roots. Peterson asked if they could donate two trees and we could put them somewhere else. Maxson noted they stage in that parking lot and you are putting another obstacle they have to look around. Burklund will contact the co-op.

Custer reviewed purchasing basketball hoops. Burklund questioned if the backboard is weatherproof. Lindgren texted Gushard, and there is no warranty, but there is for the goal setter contender, which costs \$2,000. Maxson questioned if the hoops were for adults or kids, and if they were adjustable. Custer stated she thinks they were adjustable because that was what Dustin wanted. Maxson suggested that he thinks they should do one at one end for the littler kids and another at the other end for older kids. Maxson noted the problem with the adjustable one is who is adjusting it. Peterson noted his concern was the older kids dunking on it.

The Water budget was reviewed.

Water rates were discussed. Rates will go up October 1<sup>st</sup>. Water has been running in the red. There will be a new rate study next year. Custer noted there should have been smaller increases before. Custer noted water and sewer should be self-sustaining. Lindgren noted they should be run like a business. Burklund stated again that it depends on what we budget. Transferring funds from Compost to Water was discussed and will be reviewed with the accountant.

Burklund questioned the \$11,200 for equipment rental. Lindgren noted it includes lead and copper expenses for the federal government mandates. Matt Bower helped last year. Discussion held. Roland will be asked to review at meeting next week.

Burklund questioned the \$100,000 in capital outlay. Lindgren noted \$59,000 budgeted for upgrading the size of the water main for the Hunter Subdivision. The bond money has been received, but the work hasn't been done yet and she doesn't expect it before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion held.

The concrete poured on Main Street for the Hunter Subdivision was discussed.

Burklund questioned the \$49,000 capital outlay. Lindgren noted it includes \$17,695 for valves, and \$10,000 for Co-op and Windstream water connections that were missed during the water main project. Vrba can't come until October. These expenses were included in the bond. The remaining amount is cushion. There could be a water main break. Burklund said he thought that is why we have reserve money, to take care of that kind of thing. Lindgren said we are running in the red in water. The budgeted water loan was discussed. It hasn't been taken yet, and the accountant will review if it still needs to be. Burklund said he didn't understand why we have all this cash in the bank in reserve and can't use it. Burklund questioned why sewer is paying debt. Lindgren noted 25% is paid from sewer for an old bond that was refinanced. It has been done that way for years and will continue until the bond is paid off. Discussion held.

Custer questioned the transportation costs for Roland. Lindgren noted that cost should be over in January, but there will still be gas expenses. Burklund questioned the mileage rate. Lindgren noted \$0.70.



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Peterson questioned if chemical and lab fees could be combined with operation supplies. Lindgren will contact the accountant.

The Sewer budget was reviewed. Burklund questioned capital outlay. Lindgren noted Roland has requested valves for the wwtp for \$52,000. A second bid was requested. Roland will be asked to review at next weeks meeting.

Burklund questioned the sewer rates, and how we are taking in less money than last year with the increase in rates. Burklund questioned the \$90,000 reserves. Lindgren noted it will be reviewed with the accountant.

Lindgren left a note regarding \$8,000 for the wwtp front door, but doesn't expect it to be done. There is \$20,000 for manhole rehab. Sewer jetting is done twice a year. UV lights for the plant were mentioned.

The Library budget was reviewed. Custer questioned the \$10,000 grants. Lindgren noted Domonique plans to write grants. She plans to stay on as a part-time administrator, so there is a certified librarian. Changes to the budget were made, including adding \$10,000 in capital outlay for expected grant expenses, plus an additional \$1,500, repairs and maintenance \$1,300, dues and subscriptions to \$650, communications \$1,300, office supplies \$1,200, utilities \$2,000, and removing outside services. Total budget of \$55,350. Combining outside services and repairs and maintenance was discussed.

Burklund questioned the thermostat settings.

The Trash budget was reviewed. Burklund questioned the compost charges and the transfer.

Bonds and Debt Service were reviewed. Burklund shared concerns of the bond levy. Discussion held. The accountant will be asked to review the tax levy history.

The Keno budget was reviewed.

The General budget was reviewed.

Maxson questioned if when they ask Dustin and Brian for a budget if they were given a form to fill out. Peterson answered no, we ask them for a wish list of what they want and then to put it in order of what's most important.

Maxson questioned the budget process, Peterson stated it goes to the accountant, she puts the final touches on it. Then she'll bring it back and go over it with us, we'll just go back through it together with her.

Burklund asked Lindgren what we are cutting out next year in payroll to go down from what we had this year. Lindgren answered that three projects are done now so hopefully I'm not killing myself, but nobody seems to think there is extra work when there are projects. Burklund asked the same way with Brian? Lindgren answered oh yeah Brian's been huge, but he will have the Hunter Subdivision, once houses start he will have locates to do and those locates take a long time.

Custer stated she didn't think we could actually cut that budget for payroll.

Custer noted she was worried about the health insurance. She doesn't think that's high enough. Even though we didn't spend it this year, health insurance did go up. Lindgren noted her daughter should be going off, that is why it is less.

Lindgren noted that AFLAC was included in the health insurance even though it is a liability that the employees only pay but it has to be expensed out somewhere.

Custer asked if the property insurance was going down for some reason, we have the same amount that we had last year and we went over. Lindgren noted that one should probably be raised 14,000.

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Custer noted we didn't spend as much in licensing and fees. She asked what else goes into licensing and fees. Lindgren noted dues and subscriptions probably fell under licensing and fees. Custer noted we could maybe go down to \$2000.

Custer stated office supplies were going up. Custer questioned if we still needed to buy computers. Lindgren stated we still have the server to buy plus we have QuickBooks and backup for storage and the cloud and our security was under that. Peterson noted she just threw the number in here so we just need to adjust that. Burklund stated 6000.

Peterson asked if they thought 6 was enough there. Burklund asked what the outside services were. Lindgren stated she would have to look. Burklund stated it was 25 last year and she has it as 12 this year and we spent nineteen three. Custer noted she should have asked what professional services were.

Burklund noted refunds, repairs and maintenance are close, and transportation and Trustees Pay don't amount to much.

Burklund asked how much Cheryl charges, Lindgren answered it wasn't below 8000. Burklund stated because you had 25 last time and you have 12 this time. Lindgren noted she was assuming that JEO was in there with Hunter's. Burklund asked, why isn't that going into water or sewer or something else? Lindgren answered that the basic planning was general, all the planning commission stuff. Lindgren noted most of it was JEO to get us to this phase. Peterson asked if 12 is going to be enough. Lindgren answered that typically at this point it will be broke out into water, sewer or streets but it is hard to say with the problems we are having, but we could throw it under general.

Lindgren noted 9000 was Merritt Concrete so we won't have that again and the railing of 2500, so there is 11500 we won't have, the generator pad of 22 we won't have Schutt replacing the pole over at the Legion we won't have, that was \$1900 about. Custer noted we can just leave that 12000 that is going to be plenty high. Peterson asked about professional services. Lindgren stated that was the attorney and the accountant and the engineer, so the audit and the budget are broken out into other departments too. Peterson asked if the 12 was enough for professional services. Lindgren noted Cheryl's price went down for this year. It went up that one year because we went over budget and had to do all that extra work.

Custer asked if we should go 15. Peterson agreed it should be 15.

Burklund asked what the 50 in capital outlay was for. Lindgren answered she had the floor. Lindgren stated you can remove it and see what Cheryl says. Peterson stated he thinks we should just leave it for now.

Lindgren clarified, all we are doing is insurance to 14000, licenses and fees to 2000, office supplies to 6000, professional services to 15000. Burklund noted and asking about the 50k.

Burklund stated so we're asking about the 50k in general, the 90k in water, and the 373 k in streets. Burklund stated if we don't duplicate them back down again that gives \$513,000 that is a big number.

Peterson asked if there was anything else. Lindgren asked Dave if he found what he needed in her office. Burklund answered I was looking for these papers because I didn't get them. Lindgren stated you should have called me because I came in on Sunday, I could have got them for you.

Peterson asked what the Mainstay's Technology papers were for. Lindgren answered that it is security camera stuff in case you wanted to budget for it. Burklund asked for a second bid.



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Lindgren pointed out what had been submitted to Progressive that is all we have until they look at the truck. She told Mike that they were backlogged so we had to wait and see. Burklund questioned if we had problems with Progressive again because Brian was saying he needed to have something bid but he didn't want to do it with Mike again. Lindgren stated she thinks he just doesn't want to work with Mike anymore after what happened.

Custer moved to adjourn the meeting. Burklund seconded. Yeas Custer, Burklund and Peterson. Nays none.

Scott Peterson, Chair  
Joan Lindgren, Clerk

Final and noted repairs and maintenance are closed and transportation and travel fees have been approved.

And asked how much they charged. The right answer was \$1000. Burklund stated because you had 25 last time and you have 12 this time. Lindgren noted the way estimating that it was in there with the bid. Burklund asked why they had to pay into water or sewer or something else. Lindgren answered that the bid planning was general, all the planning committee staff. Lindgren noted that if it was \$1000 to go to this phase. Peterson asked if it is going to be enough. Lindgren answered that if it is a point it will be broke out into a new sewer or sewer but it is hard to say with the problems we are having, the we could think of under general.

I informed you \$1000 was \$1000 in concrete so we won't have that again and the rating of \$2500 so there is \$1000 we are a little. The general bid of \$1000 was \$1000 replacing the bid over in the village we won't have that was \$1000 about Custer note I we can not leave that \$1000 if we are going to be high. Peterson asked about professional services. Lindgren stated that was the attorney and the accountant and the engineer so the bid and the budget we broke out into other departments too. Peterson asked if the \$1000 was enough for professional services. Lindgren noted Cheryl's phone went down for 10 years. It was up that long car because we were over budget and had to do all the work.

And asked if it should go to Peterson agreed it should be \$5.

Burklund asked what the \$5 in capital only was for. Lindgren answered she had the floor. Lindgren stated you can remove it and see what Cheryl says. She can state he thinks we should not leave it for now.

Lindgren stated all we are doing is insurance to \$4000, license and fee to \$2000, office supplies to \$500. Professional services to \$1000. Burklund noted and asking about the \$5.

Burklund stated so we're asking about the \$5 in general, the \$5 in water and the \$5 in sewer. Burklund stated I was not a director when back a few years ago that \$5 \$10,000 that is a big number.

Peterson asked if there was anything else Lindgren asked Dave if he found what he needed in his office. Burklund I asked I was looking for these papers because I didn't get them. Lindgren stated you should have called me because I came in on Sunday. I could have got them for you.

Peterson asked what the Village Technology papers were for. Lindgren answered that it is security camera and in case you wanted to budget for it. Burklund asked for a second bid.