

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 29, 2025

Peterson noted it was set up that way the last time, but somehow it changed. Lindgren noted the attorney and engineer had updated the subdivision agreement, which includes the escrow agreement. Peterson said he talked to Julie and she thought it was written that he could approve it. Ruble questioned the attorney's opinion from a legal standpoint. Lindgren noted the attorney said they could make a motion to have Peterson approve, instead of bringing it to the entire board. Ruble questioned how it changed. Lindgren said the first subdivision she had the authority to approve it. Burklund noted it's escrow, so he's getting back his money.

Custer moved to authorize the Chair Scott Peterson to sign off to release escrow when requests come in. The percentage of completion does need to be certified by REGA. Ruble seconded. Discussion held. Ruble questioned instead of saying Scott Peterson shouldn't you just say the chair. Burklund noted if it changes we can worry about it. **Voting Yeas: Burklund. Nays: Custer, Ruble, and Peterson. Motion failed.**

Custer made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign off to release escrow when requests come in, and the percentage of completion does need to be certified by REGA. Ruble seconded. Burklund questioned if it needed to go through our engineer too. Peterson answered it needed to go through both. Peterson noted he would go to Julie before he made any decision. Lindgren stated it would just be their process; they didn't need to change the vote. **Voting Yeas: Custer, Ruble, Burklund and Peterson. Nays: none. Motion carried.**

The General budget was reviewed. Custer questioned the decrease in wages. Lindgren noted with the three projects over she doesn't expect to work so much extra time. Custer noted the health insurance increased, but the budget went down. Lindgren noted her daughter would be getting off. Ruble noted children can stay on health insurance until the age of 26.

Burklund questioned the miscellaneous expenses. Lindgren noted it was election expenses, the honor flag for Bartlett memorial, and the farmers' market banners. Burklund questioned the overage in office supplies. Lindgren noted since the computers were purchased individually, she didn't charge them under capital outlay.

Burklund questioned what was in operating supplies. Lindgren noted Carbonite, the backup for the server, and TeamViewer that allows her and Anderson to work from home. Outside services included the ramp. Peterson noted the crack in the ramp and there was a bigger crack and they weren't responding.

Lindgren noted she is getting calls from people asking about sidewalk cost share again. Custer noted we went over budget last year. Ruble said probably not right now.

Burklund questioned what was in professional services that we cut in half. Lindgren answered JEO, the attorney, and Erickson and Brooks. Lindgren noted a lot of it was the Hunter Subdivision that we shouldn't have anymore. Lindgren noted she didn't think we would have as much with JEO. Peterson agreed that it should be reduced but he didn't think it should be half. Burklund questioned if the JEO charges were in the water, sewer, and street budget? Lindgren noted not the initial plans, final plats, and etc., which is general. Peterson suggested \$18,000, Ruble said \$20,000.

Capital Outlay was discussed. Lindgren noted redoing the community building floor has been discussed. Ruble asked to test the floor.

Burklund noted we haven't cut anything out of the budget.

A budget workshop was scheduled for August 11th at 6 pm. Burklund asked to have the finished budget items delivered before the meeting.

Burklund moved to adjourn at 9:21 pm. Peterson seconded. Voting Yeas: Burklund, Peterson, Ruble and Custer. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Scott Peterson, Chair
Joan Lindgren, Clerk

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 29, 2025

Burklund questioned the miscellaneous expenses/special event. Lindgren noted it was Ceresco Days. It has to be budgeted for since it is under the Village.

Custer questioned \$38,000 in grants and donations. Lindgren noted it was for the splash pad.

Burklund suggested paying the \$10,000 budgeted in capital outlay (24/25) towards the bank loan.

Lindgren noted Gushard requested money be placed in a CD for a new mower. Discussion held.

The first responder memorial was discussed.

Burklund questioned what the reserves are used for.

The Street budget, including the 1 & 6 Year Street Plan, was reviewed. Bids and specs were discussed. Burklund suggested the engineer only prepare the documents. Lindgren noted the accountant doesn't care about each budgeted line item, but the overall budget. Lindgren noted the 1 & 6 Year Street Plan will be approved in August.

The water budget was reviewed. Lindgren noted a request from Roland for a generator at the water tower, a step up from a house generator. The level indicator runs the wells and he would like a 110 volt generator. Ruble noted he needs to find out what power requirements are. The old generator at the community building was discussed. Lindgren will look into where it originally came from. Capital outlay was discussed, including the water loan. Lindgren noted she didn't take the loan yet, and the accountant would review if it's still needed. Lindgren noted water and sewer are to run like a business. Bond proceeds were discussed. Bond proceeds for the new well were received in the 2023/2024 budget and paid in the 2024/2025 budget.

The budgeting reports through QuickBooks was discussed. Lindgren noted it might cost \$40,000 for a program to improve reports and shorten time she spends preparing budget. Ruble noted being more professional and saving time is a big plus.

The sewer budget was reviewed. Burklund said Roland is getting work done on the clarifier, which wasn't done when they did the project on the sewer. He will wait until they are in the area to save costs. Roland needs a generator plug. Budgeting for manhole rehab was mentioned and will continue until all are done. Lindgren noted the accountant doesn't use each line item, but the overall budget.

Peterson questioned why the wwtp blowers weren't under capital outlay. Lindgren noted because they were less than \$5000, but she could move it if they wanted it. Custer noted it will make this line item look better, but it won't make a difference in the overall budget.

Burklund noted next time we do a budget he didn't want all that other stuff on the agenda.

Custer questioned the Health Insurance starting in July.

Peterson moved to pay the claim for A&H Concrete in the amount of \$2,200. Custer seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Custer, Ruble and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Peterson moved to pay the claim for Circle H Tire in the amount of \$940. Ruble seconded. Voting Yeas: Peterson, Ruble, Custer and Burklund. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Leasing the bobcat was discussed.

The Hunter 1st Addition Subdivision/Escrow Agreement was reviewed. Peterson noted they are asking if the Board would be okay with making him able to authorize the payout of the escrow when it's time instead of waiting for the entire Board to vote on it. Burklund questioned how many dollars at a time. The engineer has to issue the authorization of the payment, and certify the build is 25% complete or 50% complete.

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 29, 2025

Burklund questioned the Fire Department operating supplies that were over budget. Lindgren said there was \$8,000 of MacQueen. Heyen noted that was for testing SCBA bottles, which they do every 5 years. Burklund questioned what the amount was with MacQueen. Lindgren answered \$8,423 for helmets and 2 bunker gear, \$5,044 for SCBA flow testing, \$2,791 for lights and \$111 for PPE.

Capital outlay for radios was discussed. Ruble said it should be left because they have a lot of radios to buy yet, roughly \$210,000 for radios. Heyen noted Lancaster is switching their system and Saunders is switching their system. Val and Ceresco are stuck in the middle because they run both.

Burklund asked how many members they have. Heyen said 29 and there are at least 3 new members coming on that he knows of right now. They have one good radio and six that are outdated but still working.

Lindgren asked if these are the numbers to give to the accountant. Burklund said we would come back to it.

Hernandez was present to discuss the Police budget. He is asking for an increase in payroll and training. Some of the spending was used on the cruiser and will be reimbursed after sentencing.

Custer questioned the operating supplies. Ruble asked if the AED would be reimbursed by insurance. Burklund asked for a list of what they had to claim from insurance and would be getting back.

Burklund questioned the number of weekend hours. Hernandez said they were working 8 on Friday and 8 on Saturday. Burklund stated he would like to roll the number of hours back. Hernandez noted all the law enforcement agencies are short and they are trying to help the other agencies so they can catch all the dirty stuff coming through. Other agencies around here are paying \$37 - \$42 an hour. Burklund stated we have never paid what other towns are paying. Hernandez noted he does administrative work and calls for service during the day. Vests are needed for the officers.

Jodi Sousek, Jennifer Davison and Petty Kettelhut were present to review the library budget. There are two proposals. One for a full time library director as future needs of the town grow in order to sustain the programs. The other for a part time library director.

The Library Board would like to increase the budget by \$3700. They are looking for cheaper phone lines and have free internet. The wage increase was for Harris whether she is full time or stays at her 19 hours a week.

Davison said Domonique Harris has been offered a full time job at Lincoln City Libraries and pointed out all the new positive programs she has brought to the community. The library doesn't have enough room at the library and needs to look at a new building 10 or so years down the road. The Library Board is hoping they can keep Domonique as Library Director and have others take up the programs and work.

Burklund noted trash was pretty much in and out. Lindgren noted there are funds transferred out of compost. Six to eight new houses are expected in the new Hunter Subdivision. A lot has also been sold in the Johnson Subdivision.

Peterson questioned the critical skill wage. It was for Tucker Maxson helping when the tree pile was burned. Peterson said we do not pay skilled labor for that, and it should be discussed before that wage is paid.

Burklund and Peterson agreed adding rock to the compost drive was a good idea.

Park and Rec was discussed. There is a remaining principal bank loan of \$76,000 for the stream stabilization project. The LPSNRD reimbursement was used for the 2024/2025 payment of \$24,000. There is \$32,375.92 remaining from the reimbursement being budgeted for the 2025/2026 payment.

Ruble recommended dissolving the walking trail.

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 29, 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. Ruble entered at 6:18 PM. Absent: Johnson. Also present: Shawn Manion, Tony Hernandez, Jodi Sousek, Jennifer Davison, Patty Kettelhut, James Wilson, Tyler Heyen, and Joan Lindgren.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Tyler Heyen was present to discuss the Fire Department budget. **1)** They haven't spent the money set aside for radios. He is waiting for a price. **2)** The radios they got six years ago are out of date and Motorola won't repair them. **3)** The radios cost \$6,500 each and he doesn't want to make the mistake of buying the wrong radios and have them be out of date in a couple years. **4)** Waiting to hear from Saunders County, and has talked with Lancaster County, and Lincoln Fire & Rescue regarding radios. **5)** Plans to have the budget money spent before the next meeting because they are in dire need of radios. If they don't get the radios before the end of the budget, he would like to carry that money over.

Peterson asked if Heyen was okay with keeping the budget the same and just carrying over the communications budget. Heyen noted the radios are budgeted under capital outlay. The communications budget is lower and includes maintenance of radios. This is about \$2,500 a year, which is a new fee not charged before. The radios will technically be county property and they want maintenance logs on all of them.

Lindgren noted increases in insurance, education and training. Heyen reviewed there are more EMTs, there is monthly continuing education classes now. Dues and subscriptions will go up because they have more members and there is a \$25-\$30 state fee now.

Burklund stated the main problem he has with the Fire Department budget is that in 2 years they have tripled their budget.

Heyen noted so has everything we have to purchase. They used to be able to buy bunker gear for \$2500 and now it's about \$5,000 per set. He can't send people out without appropriate equipment. If someone gets injured and it's not up to FPA standards, it comes back on the department and ultimately the Village.

Burklund pointed out that education has increased from \$2000 to \$7500. Heyen said there are eight EMTs now, and the goal is to not have Val respond to rescue calls. He will finally have a daytime EMT. Their services are getting better due to having EMS personnel. Burklund noted we can't just keep increasing our budget. We increased 40% last year, plus borrowed \$200,000 from the bank. We have to find someplace that we can cut some budget. Lindgren noted part of that was because they went down the prior year instead of leaving taxes the same, they decreased them which they shouldn't have.

Custer pointed out there are things we weren't expecting to do and projects cost more. The longer you wait the more the cost goes up, just like land valuations we need to figure something out. Just because we purchase it doesn't mean we have to build. There are certain things a town needs to operate and she doesn't feel like the Fire Department should be cut.

Heyen noted normally this time of year they have around 60 calls and this year they're at 90.

Burklund questioned the \$60,000 capital outlay. Lindgren said it is for radios and she estimated high. She noted they could leave it as is for the accountant to look at. Nothing needs to be finalized tonight.

Burklund pointed out it's our job to figure the budget. The accountant will work with the numbers we give them.