

Chester, Nebraska
May 13, 2026

The Board of Trustees, of the Village of Chester, Thayer County, Nebraska, met at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall on May 13, 2026, for their regular monthly meeting. Board members present were: Chairman Crouse and Trustees: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, and A. Wit.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting, on April 29, 2026, the designated method of giving notice in at least three places. Notice of the meeting was given to the Chairman and all members of the Board of Trustees and a copy of their acknowledgment and agenda are filed. All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Chairman publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held.

Chairman Crouse called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Miller moved and Pachta seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was then given. B. Wit moved and Pachta seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2026-2, a resolution of the Chairperson and Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester, Nebraska, authorizing inter-fund cash transfers and declaring excess funds, was read. The resolution provided for cash transfers from the General Fund totaling \$79,400.00 as follows: \$27,000.00 to the Fire Fund, \$40,000.00 to the Auditorium Fund, \$2,400.00 to the Special Revenue Fund, and \$10,000.00 to the Debt Service Fund. The resolution further declared excess funds within the Electric Fund and authorized the transfer of \$16,400.00 from the Electric Fund to the General Fund. All transfers authorized therein were made effective retroactive to September 30, 2026. The resolution also authorized and directed the Village Clerk to complete all necessary accounting entries and documentation to carry out the resolution. A. Wit moved and B. Wit seconded the motion to approve resolution 2026-2. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There were no delinquent utility accounts to discuss.

Miller moved and Pachta seconded a motion to recommend approval of a Special Designated Liquor License for the Chester Community Club for a beer garden at Chesterfest in Chester, Nebraska, to be held at 921 Croop Street on June 26 and 27, 2026. Serving hours shall be from 4:00 p.m. on June 26, 2026, until 2:00 a.m. on June 27, 2026, and from 10:00 a.m. on June 27, 2026, until 2:00 a.m. on June 28, 2026. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on the auditorium electronic sign was next on the agenda. The Clerk reported that he had not received any new information from Apple One Media. Discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

The EMT application of Dakota Cherney was then discussed. Chester Rescue has recommended approval. Cherney has completed all required prerequisites and is currently awaiting issuance of license from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A. Wit made a motion to approve the application, pending issuance of state license. B. Wit seconded the motion. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The application for fire department membership of Zachary Gilliam was then discussed. The Clerk reported that the Chester Fire Department has recommended approval. Pachta made a motion to approve the application. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion on the auditorium rental agreement and liquor liability was held. Chairman Crouse and Trustee A. Wit reported that a public Facebook post had been made regarding a graduation party scheduled for May 16, 2026, at the facility. The invitation referenced BYOB and alcohol consumption and indicated the event would include an overnight sleepover. Chairman Crouse instructed the Clerk on May 12, 2026, to contact Bart Brinkman of Fortify, the Village's insurance agent, to determine what liability coverage, if any, would apply. Bart Brinkman and Kevin Bonin, both of Fortify, were present at the meeting and provided information from an insurance standpoint, including details shared by John Hobbs of LARM via email. It was noted that a special event liability policy through GatherGaurd, which includes host liquor coverage, is available and that the Auditorium is already registered as a venue. However, due to the event being publicly advertised on social media, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission requires that a Special Designated License (SDL) be obtained. It was further noted that GatherGaurd may exclude coverage for claims arising from events where an SDL is required but not obtained, as this would constitute a legal violation. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Chairman Crouse would contact the Village Attorney for further guidance on how to proceed. It was noted that the Board does not intend to prevent the renters from using the facility, particularly since it has been reserved for over a year, but must also ensure the Village is not exposed to liability. Chairman Crouse will provide an update to the Clerk following legal consultation.

Chairman Crouse shared a proposal from Diode Communications for upgrading the Village's current security system. The proposal included upgrading some or all of the existing cameras, as well as the possibility of connecting the well house system to the main security system. The Board was not prepared to make a decision at this time and asked the Clerk to obtain additional quotes from other companies.

Donation of fireworks for the Chesterfest fireworks show was then discussed. It was noted that the Village has not previously made such a donation. It was further mentioned that the Fire Department donates \$500.00 toward the show. After discussion, the Board voted not to make a donation.

Nuisance properties were discussed. Some of the property owners who received letters in April have made significant improvements to their properties. Two additional properties were identified. The Clerk was instructed to send nuisance letters to the respective property owners.

The Utility Superintendent shared that the Village of Chester worked with Riggs Construction and Doug Fuller to install a new water main for the C&M Supply facility, located at 1301 Meridian Road.

The Clerk shared that Jennifer Busboom from Blobaum and Busboom P.C. has been assisting with the gWorks mitigation related to the Village's finance software. The Village is expected to be transitioned to the new system later this month.

A. Wit moved and B. Wit seconded a motion to approve the May 2026 claims. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The following is a list of the May 2026 claims:

25698	Nebraska Public Power District	electricity	7,106.42
25699	Scott Finke	water sample delivery	40.00
25700	Omaha Flag Company	supplies	1,585.00
25701	Utilities Section – League of Nebraska	backflow workshop	75.00
25702	Hebron Ag Repair	supplies	101.09
25703	Bel-Con Refuse, LLC	garbage disposal	1,695.00
25704	Murray Law PC LLO	professional services	240.00
25705	Presto-X	pest control maintenance	122.09
25706	Hebron Central Market	supplies	53.20
25707	Howard & Sons Asphalt Maintenance	maintenance	1,900.00
25708	Belleville Hometown Lumber	supplies	15.64
25709	The Hebron Journal-Register	legal notices	78.87
25710	UScellular	phone	76.11
25711	Boettcher Supply, Inc	supplies	301.32
25712	Nutrien Ag Solutions	supplies	301.17
25713	Dutton-Lainson Company	supplies	1,044.11
25714	Nebraska Department of Transportation	electricity refund	442.26
25715	Norris Public Power District	electricity	1,128.33
25716	Chester Garage, LLC	maintenance	1,122.44
25717	Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha	supplies	101.40
25718	C&M Supply, Inc.	fuel	74.56
25719	Black Hills Energy	natural gas	340.14
25720	Western National Bank	water bond interest	2,300.00
25721	Village of Chester	electricity	1,301.44
25722		salaries	7,273.91
25725	Aurora Cooperative	meter deposit refund	2.40
	Great Plains Communications	phone/internet	267.72
	Hometown Leasing	printer lease	97.79
	NE Public Health Lab	water testing	262.00
	EFTPS	withholding	1,986.90
	NE Department of Revenue	sales tax	1,231.27
	CGI 61	insurance	37.83

There being no further business to come before the Board, A. Wit moved and B. Wit seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Roger Crouse
Chairman of the Board

SEAL

ATTEST

Dakota G. Cherney
Village Clerk

I, the undersigned, Village Clerk, for the Village of Chester, Nebraska, hereby certify that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body.

Dakota G. Cherney
Village Clerk