

Chester, Nebraska
July 8, 2026

The Board of Trustees, of the Village of Chester, Thayer County, Nebraska, met at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall on July 8, 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 June 25, 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 B. Wit seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Roll call votes: Ayes: B. Wit, Pachta, Miller, A. Wit and Crouse. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was then given. A. Wit moved and Miller 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.

Delinquent utility accounts were then discussed.

Bart Brinkman and Kevin Bonin of Fortify presented the Village's LARM insurance renewal proposal to the Board.

Brinkman and Bonin also reviewed the insurance renewal packets for the Kansas Rural Fire District, Chester Rural Fire District, and the Village of Chester Fire Department. During the discussion, they recommended conducting an inventory of the fire department and ambulance equipment to ensure all assets are properly insured and adequately covered under the policy.

Discussion was held regarding upgrading the Village's security camera system. The Clerk reported that a revised quote is being obtained from NextGenIT, as equipment prices have changed since the original estimate was prepared. Chairman Crouse directed the Clerk to inquire about the possibility of expanding the system to include surveillance cameras in the park area.

The proposed lease of the Village's electrical distribution system to Norris Public Power District was the next item of business. Extensive discussion was held regarding the Village's current revenues and expenses associated with operating the electrical system. The Clerk presented a financial analysis showing the Village's average net benefit from the electrical system over the previous three fiscal years. Based on a proposed 12% lease payment, the analysis estimated the Village would experience an average annual revenue shortfall of approximately \$11,000. The Board also discussed the possibility of adjusting other utility service rates to offset the projected loss in revenue. It was specifically noted that the current flat-rate water charge of \$25.00 per month may no longer be adequate. No action was taken on the proposed lease agreement or the increase of other village utility service rates. The Board agreed to further consider the matter and anticipated making a decision at the August regular meeting.

Chairman Crouse reported that the dumping of prohibited items at the Village tree dump has become an increasing concern. The Utility Supervisor noted that many of the discarded items could be disposed of in regular residential garbage dumpsters, resulting in additional Village expenses for roll-off dumpsters. The Board discussed several possible solutions, including installing security cameras, adopting an ordinance with penalties for illegal dumping, and restricting access to the site. No action was taken, and the Board agreed to continue exploring options. The Clerk was directed to include an informational insert with the next utility bills explaining acceptable disposal practices and advising that garbage rates may need to increase if the issue continues. The Utility Supervisor was also directed to install an additional sign at the tree dump.

The Board discussed nuisance properties within the Village. Following discussion, the Clerk was directed to send nuisance notice letters to two property owners.

The Clerk reported that the gWorks Finance software continues to experience issues, including reports not calculating correctly. He also informed the Board that he plans to attend the Kansas 106th Annual Water and Wastewater Operator School later this month to obtain his Kansas wastewater operator certification.

A. Wit moved and B. Wit seconded a motion to approve the July 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 July 2026 claims:

Black Hills Energy	natural gas	\$156.64
Werner Aggregates Inc.	supplies	\$893.48
Village of Chester	village used electricity	\$1,701.80
UScellular	phone	\$71.10
United States Postal Service	postage	\$780.00
The Hebron Journal-Register	legal notices	\$117.64
Scott Finke	water sample delivery	\$40.00
Raymond Wit	salary	\$2,273.37
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One Call Concepts Inc.	locate fees	\$118.00
Nutrien Ag Solutions	supplies	\$375.44
Norris Public Power District	electricity	\$1,128.33
Nebraska Public Power District	electricity	\$13,531.89
Nebraska Power Review Board	power review assessment	\$37.68
Linton Small Engine 2022	supplies	\$512.99
Hebron Central Market	supplies	\$46.52
Eakes Office Solutions	supplies	\$402.89
Dutton-Lainson Company	supplies	\$969.27
	salaries	\$7,027.27
Bel-Con Refuse LLC	garbage disposal	\$1,695.00
Bel-Con Refuse LLC	garbage disposal (roll-off)	\$1,218.10
Angela Stromquist	janitorial services	\$75.00
Aday Away Inspections, LLC	asbestos inspection	\$1,100.00
A Street Auto Parts Southwest	supplies	\$14.97
Internal Revenue Service	federal withholding	\$1,944.16

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Internal Revenue Service	additional fed. withholding	\$45.90
NE Public Health Lab	water testing	\$15.00
Great Plains Communications	phone/internet	\$290.00
Hometown Leasing	printer lease	\$97.79
CGI 61	insurance	\$37.83
Nebraska Department of Revenue	sales tax	\$1,226.19
Nebraska Department of Revenue	state employee withholding	\$839.13

There being no further business to come before the Board, A. Wit moved and Miller 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