

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting & Public Hearing 13-JAN-2026

PROCEEDINGS – VILLAGE OF MEAD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 13, 2026

A Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Mead, NE was held January 13, 2026 at the Mead Community Building. Chairman Thorson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Notice of the meeting was provided in advance thereof by posting notice at the Bank of Mead, U.S. Post Office, and the Village Office as shown by the certificate of posting notice attached to these minutes. Advance notice was also provided to all members of the Board of Trustees. All proceedings were held while the convened meeting was open to the public. Answering roll call were Board Chairman William Thorson and Trustees Jason Felty, Daniel Simon, Richard Wielage, and Jason Lee. Also present was Clerk Cooper. Guests were Bill Butler, Don Gunster, Andy Jackson, Lisa Flesner, and Jim Halbmaier.

The posting of the Open Meetings Law was noted.

Motion by Simon, second by Lee, to adopt the agenda. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

The minutes of the Dec 9 Special Meeting, Regular Meeting, and Public Hearing were accepted.

SCHEDULED GUEST

Village Accountant, Lisa Flesner, presented the October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 Audit Report. Noted were cash gains on the Financial Output Graph, Fund Balances, and Operating Expense accuracy. Overall, she felt it was a very successful year.

Motion by Wielage, second by Felty, to approve the Treasurer's Report showing \$1,491,762.89 total checking/savings balance ending Dec.31. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Simon, second by Wielage, to approve the claims of \$19,089.31 for payment. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0. Claims being:

12122501	Matrix Trust Company	TPA 000362	\$369.54
12122502	Spectrum	Phone & Internet- VO	\$35.00
12122503	Spectrum	Phone & Internet - VO	\$35.00
12122504	Spectrum	Phone & Internet	\$70.00
12292501	Matrix Trust Company	TPA 000362	\$312.20
12292502	Internal Revenue Service	47-6006274	\$2,518.66
134662	Constellation	Natural Gas	\$171.87
5637	Constellation	Natural Gas	\$33.86
4621	Constellation	Natural Gas	\$33.86
1062601	Chase Ink	Website,fuel,christmas light, Library:books,water,prime subscription	\$530.22
1062602	Chase Ink	Battery Backup, Water Class, Fuel	\$339.34
1062603	Chase Ink	Battery Backup, Publication, Fuel	\$252.68
5638	Wahoo Auto Parts	Light Bulbs-Water Plant	\$54.42
134663	Edward W. Schroeder	Audit 10/1/24-9/30/25	\$1,064.00
5639	Edward W. Schroeder	Audit 10/1/24-9/30/25	\$418.00
4622	Edward W. Schroeder	Audit 10/1/24-9/30/25	\$418.00
1062604	Black Hills Energy	Gas Service	\$135.12
1062605	Black Hills Energy	Gas Service	\$301.55
1062606	Black Hills Energy	Gas Service	\$23.52

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134664	Nationwide	Bond Treasurer	\$33.33
5640	Nationwide	Bond Treasurer	\$33.34
4623	Nationwide	Bond Treasurer	\$33.33
5641	Hawkins Inc	Water Product	\$1,220.58
5642	Olsson	GIS Map Services	\$882.00
5643	City of Wahoo	Water Labor	\$187.06
134665	City of Yutan	Contracted Services Police Dec 2025	\$2,500.00
134666	Ross's Tree Service NE Public Health Environmental Lab	Park Tree Removal & Cleanup	\$1,250.00
5644	JJM Enterprises	Water Tests	\$256.00
134667	JJM Enterprises	Annual Appreciation Dinner- Meals	\$1,149.05
134668	JEO Consulting Group Inc	Street Superintendent	\$1,000.00
5645	One Call Concepts	Locate Fees	\$17.61
134669	Petty Cash - Library	Library Postage	\$21.30
1092601	Omaha Public Power District	Electricity	\$1,145.69
1092602	Omaha Public Power District	Electricity	\$250.78
1092603	Omaha Public Power District	Electricity	\$1,680.20
1092604	Matrix Trust Company	TPA 000362	\$312.20

Motion by Lee, second by Felty, to adjourn to the Public Hearing. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:20 pm. Answering roll call were Chairman William Thorson; Trustees Jason Felty, Daniel Simon, Jason Lee and Richard Wielage.

The posting of the Open Meetings Law was noted.

Motion by Simon, second by Wielage, to adopt the agenda. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Simon, second by Lee, to introduce Ordinance No. 849 – The Keeping of Backyard Chickens. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

Thorson called for public input. Jim Halbmeier voiced his opposition.

Motion by Thorson, second by Wielage, to table Ordinance No. 849 on the third reading to consider the opposition voiced. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Wielage, second by Simon, to adjourn to the Regular Meeting at 6:25 pm. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Felty-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes; motion carried 5-0.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

Bill Butler and Don Gunster, representing FRG, delivered a presentation of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the AltEn site.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Thorson introduced Resolution 26-01 – supporting approval of the Lagoon Solids RAP for AltEn Site, should DWEE determine that the Lagoon Solids RAP should be approved. Motion by Thorson, second by Simon, to approve Resolution 26-1. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-no, Felty-absent; motion carried 3-1.

RESOLUTION 26 - 01

WHEREAS, AltEn, LLC (AltEn), operated an ethanol manufacturing plant located at 1332 County Rd 10 68041 in Mead, Saunders County, Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, AltEn used discarded treated seed corn as a feedstock in the ethanol production process. The use of treated seed corn resulted in processed wastewater and distiller's grain, or wetcake, which contained elevated concentrations of pesticides, and

WHEREAS, AltEn caused land and water pollution by accumulating large quantities of the polluted wetcake on site and storing the process wastewater in three onsite lagoons, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees passed and adopted Ordinance No. 772, which revoked the conditional use permit granted to AltEn for the operation of an ethanol plant and anaerobic digester, except as required to:

[U]tilize the facility, its equipment, filtration systems and machinery for remediation, removal and disposal of contamination, waste, and toxins from the facility, lagoons, soil and water as permitted and directed by local, state and/or federal government departments, until said clean-up is completed.

and

WHEREAS, six companies that supplied the discarded treated seed corn to AltEn formed the AltEn Facility Response Group (FRG). Those companies are AgReliant Genetics, LLC, Bayer U.S., LLC, Beck's Superior Hybrids, Inc., Corteva Agriscience, LLC, Syngenta Seeds, LLC, and WinField Solutions, LLC, and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) pursuant to its authority under the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-15,181 et seq., entered into an amended Memorandum of Agreement with FRG for the submittal and, if approved by DWEE, the implementation of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) which describe the remedial actions to be taken to address the land and water pollution at the AltEn site, and

WHEREAS, FRG treated and land applied over 100 million gallons of process wastewater through an approved Water RAP, and FRG stabilized and removed more than 160,000 tons of wetcake for disposal at a permitted off-site landfill through an approved Wetcake RAP, and

WHEREAS, FRG submitted to DWEE a revised Lagoon Solids RAP on October 15, 2025, and a subsequent addendum to the revised Lagoon Solids RAP on November 18, 2025 (collectively, the "Lagoon Solids RAP"). The Lagoon Solids RAP proposes to solidify and consolidate the lagoon solids in the Northeast and Southeast Lagoons. The Lagoon Solids RAP includes the installation of a synthetic cap to prevent the infiltration of water, passive gas venting, long-term maintenance and monitoring, financial assurance, and the implementation of institutional controls through an environmental covenant, and

WHEREAS, cleanup of the land and water pollution at the AltEn site continues and has not been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees for the Village of Mead, as follows:

The Board of Trustees, having reviewed the Lagoon Solids RAP and the subsequent addendum, and in consideration of all information made available, supports approval of the Lagoon Solids RAP, should DWEE determine that the Lagoon Solids RAP, should be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be made effective immediately and that the Clerk forward a copy of the same to the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.

Discussion held regarding Updated Ordinance for storm shelter minimum occupancy for elementary-pending Planning Commission Pub Hearing scheduled 1/26/26, Bishop Business Proposal for digitizing documents- pending meeting for quote, and status of progress on the sale of the police car.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Simon, second by Wielage, to approve Special Designated Liquor License for Mead Days Association to serve alcohol during town celebration from 6/19/26-6/21/26. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Wielage, second by Simon, to approve Special Designated Liquor License for Ithaca Fire Dept. to serve alcohol during a benefit at the Mead Firehall on 2/21/26. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Simon, second by Lee, to approve subscription for GoDaddy to create a new Village Website. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

Discussion held regarding services offered by TextMyGov.

UTILITIES/MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Shannon Luetkenhaus

Discussed completed and upcoming tasks.

LIBRARY REPORT

The minutes of the January 6 Library Board meeting were accepted.

Motion by Lee, second by Simon, to approve Ashley Mixer as the Library Director. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Thorson, second by Simon, to approve dismissal of Roberta Kisling as Assistant Librarian. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Lee, second by Wielage, to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Vote: Thorson-yes, Wielage-yes, Simon-yes, Lee-yes, Felty-absent; motion carried 4-0.

William Thorson, Chairman

Tawney Cooper, Clerk