Board of Public Works
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works was convened in open and public session at 5:00 pm on February 10, 2026, at the City Council Chambers, 223 S Chestnut St. Board members Jim Cederburg, Jack Shaw, Nicholas Barp and Tim Carlson were in attendance. Also attending were WWTP Supervisor Blake Wagner, Electric Department Supervisor William Hinton, Water Department Supervisor Craig Aragon, Landfill Supervisor Jim Schulte, City Clerk Paula Tarango, and City Treasurer Jean Klassen. The public was represented.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication in the Western Nebraska Observer. Notice of the meeting was given to the members and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is on record at the city office of the City Clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice and in the notice to the members. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Cederburg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. On the roll call the following members were present: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw.

Cederburg acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Barp to excuse the absence of board member Deb Evertson who was absent due to prior commitments. Evertson notified the board as well as office staff by sending an email notification. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Barp to approve the consent agenda items as presented which included minutes, claims, and financials. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Cederburg opened discussion regarding approval of the invoice from Downey Drilling, Inc. for the purchase and installation of PVC piping at the wells. Water Department Supervisor Craig Aragon explained that the installation will allow for more accurate readings. The department is currently utilizing air compressors, which experience

significant wear and tear and require frequent repairs or replacement, resulting in ongoing expenses. Aragon noted that the new PVC installation is expected to pay for itself over time, as the cost is comparable to what the city has been spending to continually repair and replace compressors.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Barp to approve the invoice from Downey Drilling Inc for the purchase of PVC piping and installation at the wells. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Barp, to approve the WSP 2025 Emission Inventory for the Kimball Landfill. Landfill Supervisor Schulte explained that this inventory is a required submission. The State reviews operational data such as production figures and utilizes specialized equipment and formulas to input the data and calculate emissions accordingly. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Motion by Barp, seconded by Shaw to approve the purchase of a container box for storage at the landfill as budgeted for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Cederburg opened discussion regarding the purchase of 96-gallon landfill carts from EJS Supply. Landfill Supervisor Jim Schulte reported that the current carts are in poor condition and have been falling off the trucks. The minimum order quantity is 52 carts. Although the landfill currently utilizes 25 carts, the additional carts would be kept in reserve as replacements when needed. Schulte also noted that this purchase has been budgeted under the "Steel Dumpsters" category.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Barp to approve the purchase of new 96-gallon landfill carts from EJS Supply, including the logo stamps in yellow. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Robbie Dunkin of DNR Services attended the meeting to discuss tree disposal pricing and burn pile requirements. Mr. Dunkin stated that he operates a tree service in Kimball and expressed concern that landfill disposal fees significantly impact his business. He noted that adding approximately $500 per customer due to landfill pricing makes it difficult to remain competitive and stated he was not previously aware that the rates were that high.

Board Member Cederburg responded that the current rates have been in place for several years and that the Board does not have flexibility to adjust them at this time.

Board Member Carlson suggested that it may be worth reviewing and potentially updating the size requirements for tree cut-offs to find a reasonable compromise. Mr. Dunkin stated that neighboring (sister) landfills allow a 20-inch cut-off size, whereas Kimball's current requirement is 6 inches. Board Member Tim Carlson recommended considering an increase in the allowable cut-off size to 16 inches.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Shaw to approve the increase in the separation cut-off size from 6-inches to 16-inches, this includes amending the existing resolution to reflect the change. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Motion by Barp, seconded by Shaw to approve the refinancing of the 2018 Series bond into a 10-year bond. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Board Member Cederburg opened discussion regarding approval of a contract with Barr Engineering for electrical engineering services. Electric Department Supervisor William Hinton stated that the City had previously partnered with Barr Engineering for approximately 25 to 35 years. He explained that changes in circumstances led the City to pursue a different direction at that time; however, the department would like to reestablish the partnership, noting that Barr Engineering has a strong understanding of the City's electrical system. Board Member Cederburg expressed enthusiasm about the possibility of working with the firm again. He commented that Barr Engineering has historically been proactive, cost-effective, and responsive, often appearing in person when issues arise. City Administrator Annette Brower added that the firm was instrumental in the design of the current generation plant. The proposed agreement would be structured on an as-needed basis.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Barp to approve the contract with Barr Engineering for electrical engineering services including the rate sheet provided (located in the packet of the meeting) The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, and Shaw. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

Water Department Supervisor Craig Aragon provided an update regarding the City's partnership with the VISION metering system. The City has been working with VISION for approximately four years. While the system was intended to improve efficiency and accuracy, the experience has been extremely challenging.

Aragon reported ongoing issues including defective parts, unfulfilled commitments, and a general lack of responsive support. Both the utility billing clerks and the water department staff feel that their concerns have not been adequately addressed.

Despite assurances from VISION regarding advanced technology and high-quality equipment, the system continues to malfunction. Offline meter readings have reached unusually high levels without clear explanation, resulting in significant additional labor hours spent troubleshooting and correcting issues.

The department has had to manually read meters and, at times, estimate usage due to system failures, which undermines the reliability and purpose of the automated system. Additional gateways were installed at VISION's recommendation; however, this did not resolve the ongoing problems. Overall, the suggested solutions to date have not corrected the deficiencies. Discussion only, no action taken.

Reports –

Electric Department Supervisor – William Hinton – NMC is here this week finishing up. We have installed 8 meters at the Lighthouse subdivision and continue to work there each week. We have some streetlights that need replaced, we will get to those as soon as we are able to.

Water Department Supervisor - Craig Aragon – Recently met with Snell Services regarding the sewer work at the Lighthouse Subdivision and discussed the status of the project. The lift station at the Stahla mobile home park is up and running, we have been working on meters and business as usual.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor – Blake Wagner - The public notification regarding the bypass at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been issued. Construction is scheduled to resume on March 16, with a projected completion date of July 31. Substantial completion at that time will allow the plant to be fully operational; however, some landscaping and minor finishing work may continue beyond that date.

Landfill Supervisor – Jim Schulte - Landfill monitor wells test result came back, no concerns. The 2016 trash truck is in the shop for air compressors, oil cooler leak, oil pan leak and front engine seal repairs. Replaced the oil cooler on the John Deere loader. The C&D permit Has been approved by DWEE. The Landfill is fully staffed.

City Administrator – Annette Brower – Not much to add, I have been out of the office for the past 10 days. Still waiting on some numbers and documents from Gering to determine how we can proceed, other than that, business as usual.

Public Comment – No public comments.

Next regular meeting will be March 10, 2026, at 5:00 pm. There being no further business, Shaw motioned and seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 pm. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Shaw, and Barp. Nay: None. Absent: Evertson. Motion carried.

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Jim Cederburg, Chairperson City Clerk