Board of Public Works
Regular Meeting
September 8, 2026

EDITED FOR PUBLICATION

A regular meeting of the Board of Public Works was convened in open and public session at 5:00 pm on September 08, 2026, at the City Council Chambers, 223 S Chestnut St. Board members Jim Cederburg, Deb Evertson, Jack Shaw, Nicholas Barp and Tim Carlson were in attendance. Also attending were Water Department Supervisor Craig Aragon, Electric Department Supervisor Bill Hinton, City Administrator Annette Brower, City Treasurer Jean Klassen, and City Clerk Paula Tarango. 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.

The regular meeting of the City of Kimball Board of Public Works was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on roll call the following members were present: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, Evertson, and Shaw.

Cederburg acknowledged the posted Open Meetings Act.

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

Board Member Cederburg opened a discussion on Resolution #2026-06 – Consider Rate Changes for Equipment and Service Fees.

The City Administrator explained that this is an updated and corrected version of the resolution presented to the Board at the previous meeting. The proposed changes are

intended to bring the City's service rates up to par with the rates needed as a municipality.

Brower provided an example of when the fees may be utilized, explaining that in the event of a water hammer emergency requiring the City to submit pricing to an insurance company, these established rates would be used. Brower reviewed the pricing included in the resolution.

The largest change and addition to the resolution is the pipe inspection rate. After consulting with Craig Aragon, Brower stated that a rate of $200.00 per hour was determined to be an appropriate charge. Brower noted that there were no changes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) or labor rates.

An original copy of the Rate Changes for Equipment and Service Fee Resolution #2026-06 is available for public inspection at the Clerk's Office, located at 223 South Chestnut Street, Kimball, NE 69145.

Motion by Barp, seconded by Evertson to approve the updated/corrected Resolution #2026-06 Consider Rate Changes for Equipment and Service Fees. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Barp, Shaw, and Evertson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Board member Cederburg opened a discussion on the updates on the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction progress.

Doug Louden of Olsson Engineering was present via Zoom and provided an update on the project. The equipment portion of the project was completed last month, and the project is now down to electrical work.

Louden stated that one of the major items still needed before startup is the startup of the blowers. The project is also awaiting review by the Fire Marshal, who had been out of the office for a few weeks.

The goal is to complete a final walkthrough by this time next month. Louden stated that he will be on site for the final walkthrough.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Shaw to approve the change order #5 for WWTP, the following votes were recorded: Aye: Cederburg, Shawn, Barp, Evertson, and Carlson. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Cederburg opened a discussion regarding the WWTP cost breakdown. City Administrator Annette Brower reported that she recently spoke with Scott Keene, who was in town and stopped by unexpectedly.

Treasurer Jean Klassen prepared a very detailed breakdown of all costs incurred throughout the duration of the WWTP project. The figures presented represent the anticipated annual debt service if the city proceeds with the bonding as planned.

It was also clarified that the USDA loan is a 40-year loan at an interest rate of 2.5%. There have been questions regarding the length of the USDA loan. It was explained that having a 40-year loan is beneficial to the city because it provides flexibility should future needs arise; however, the city is not obligated to keep the loan for the full 40 years and may pay it off early.

City Administrator Annette Brower stated that there is some misinformation circulating regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

For board members who have not been with the City for an extended period of time, Administrator Brower explained that discussions regarding the repair and upgrading of the WWTP began toward the end of 2022. She also provided board members with a copy of the original engineering report. These documents are public records, and copies are available to anyone who would like to review them.

The engineering report is very specific about why the work is necessary. The WWTP began operations in 1981, and after more than 40 years of service, portions of the facility and its equipment have become outdated and are beginning to fail. Concrete deteriorates over time, equipment begins to rust, and infrastructure naturally requires significant maintenance and rehabilitation as it ages.

Administrator Brower emphasized that the city is not expanding the WWTP in anticipation of extreme growth. The city is repairing and upgrading the existing system as recommended by the engineers and as necessary to maintain a safe, reliable, and fully operational facility.

The daily usage figures and capacity considerations being used for the project are based on the information and recommendations contained in the engineering reports, including the plant's operation, durability, and capacity.

Administrator Brower also addressed claims that the city is spending money on improvements that are not necessary. She stated that this is incorrect. The city is investing in infrastructure where the need is significant and well documented.

A properly functioning and fully operational WWTP is indispensable to the City's everyday wastewater operations. We are repairing, upgrading, and maintaining our WWTP to ensure it remains safe, reliable, fully operational, and compliant for many years to come.

Reports –

WWTP – Supervisor Blake Wagner

Other than what was previously discussed, the recent rainstorms have resulted in a roof leak at the pump station. The 9' x 15' building has a leak in the northwest corner of the roof. I have reached out to three contractors regarding the repair. One contractor has responded, and I have received an estimate. The building has a flat roof that is in rough condition. The clarifiers were signed off last Wednesday. Other than the roof repair, I have no additional items to report currently.

Water Department — Supervisor Craig Aragon

Supervisor Craig Aragon provided an update on the water tank. Project. The inside work is expected to be completed by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. The tank will not be able to be refilled immediately after the work is completed, as time will be needed to allow everything to properly dry and set.

The exterior design for the water tank has been decided. The original longhorn logo that was presented to the Board was selected.

Core & Main was in town again this week to continue work on the meter-reading system. The "drive-by" system works by using radio signals, allowing meters to be read from a significant distance. The gateway has come back online; however, approximately 130 meters are still offline. Due to increased water usage on Mondays, Wednesdays,

and Fridays, there has been a noticeable drop in water pressure. To help maintain pressure, a staff member was working from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday nights to monitor the system and turn on the water well when necessary.

The department continues to receive calls regarding the water release on the east side of town. The Sheriff's Department has been notified that the release is intentional and is being conducted purposefully.

There was also a water leak near the courthouse. The leak was caused by an old, rusty pipe that eventually failed.

Electric Department Supervisor – William Hinton

Hinton reported that one of the department's employees, Eli Clifford, will be attending a two-day training beginning October 29. The department is also at the point where some cleanup work can be completed at the shop. Over the past couple of weeks, the department has installed innerduct in the ground at the Lighthouse Subdivision, along with underground elbows. Additional updates were also provided regarding ongoing department activities.

Annette Brower – City Administrator

Brower addressed questions regarding water billing and clarified that the City cannot bill for water unless the water passes through a meter. If a leak occurs, it is the responsibility of the City and is not billed to the customer, as it is considered a separate issue. Brower explained that the City uses a third-party billing system with established utility rates. She also noted that, during the City's annual audit each November, state-mandated auditors review utility records for every City employee to ensure there are no irregularities or conflicts of interest.

Brower expressed her appreciation to the Water Department for working night shifts to monitor water pressure during the tank rehabilitation project. She reported that the rehabilitation project has been progressing very well.

Finally, Brower thanked all City staff for their efforts in keeping operations running smoothly and maintaining City services during her absence.

Craig Aragon opened a discussion regarding the swimming pool. He stated that he does not have Facebook but had been informed that a negative post had been made over the weekend regarding the pool and its condition.

Craig expressed that the comments were offensive to him, as the Board and those involved with the pool care deeply about the community and its appearance. He emphasized that they pour their "heart and soul" into the pool each year. While the pool is old and maintaining it is not easy, they do everything they can to ensure that local children have a safe and enjoyable place to spend their summer.

Craig encouraged anyone with questions or concerns regarding the pool to reach out directly rather than relying on social media comments.

Board Member Evertson thanked the Water Department for being willing to keep the pool filled with water in case of an emergency.

Public Comment –

Spud Rowley – Kimball Citizen – Added a comment to this topic..

Next regular meeting will be October 13, 2026, at 5:00 pm. There being no further business, motion by Barp, and seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm. The following votes were recorded: Aye: Carlson, Cederburg, Shaw, Evertson, and Barp. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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Jim Cederburg, Chairperson City Clerk

Utilities-Board of Public Works-Claims September 8, 2026-Accent Wire-Tie-Supplies-1,297.78; Black Hills Energy, LLC-Gas Service-166.42; Charter Communications-Internet-220.01; Chevrolet of Kimball LLC-Repairs-75.42; Connecting Point-Copy Usage-437.10; Ellison, Kovarik & Turman Law Firm-Professional Services-2,322.00; Hydro Optimization & Automation Solution-Services-724.50; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-103.07; Kimball County Hospital-Drug Screens-92.62; MASA-Medical Air Services Association-Services-222.67; Powerplan-Supplies-73.90; Robinson Electric-Repairs-910.92; Union Bank & Trust Company-Series-103,425.38; Visa-Firstier Bank-Charges-623.49; 5 Star Industries, LLC-Colorado-Equipment-9,450.00; B & B Valley Scale-Equipment-3,415.00; B & B Water Well Service Incorporated-Repairs-194.25; Big Sky Energy Equipment, Incorporation-Equipment-636.00; Centurylink Communications, Incorporated-Long Distance-87.21; Chevrolet of Kimball LLC-Repairs-150.12; City of Kimball-Transfer-3,727.00; Combined Utilities-Utilities-225.41; Connecting Point-Copy Usage-490.09; Dustrol Incorporated-Refund-85.12; Grainger-Supplies-440.46; GreatAmerica Financial Services

Corporation-Lease-307.53; GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation-Lease-307.53; Hackel Construction, Incorporated-Services-601,196.71; William Hinton-Expense Report-604.72; Ideal Linen Supply, Incorporated-Services-103.77; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-780.88; Intralinks, Incorporated-Services-463.75; JK Energy Consulting, LLC-Services-595.00; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-183.55; Kimball Ace Hardware LLC-Supplies-253.15; Kimball Auto Parts-Supplies-307.99; Kimball Recycling-Monthly Support-5,596.50; Legacy Cooperative-Fuel-18,175.60; Legacy Cooperative-Supplies-25.61; MEAN-Mean Billing-179,961.61; Mellen & Associates, Incorporated-Services-550.04; Midwest Laboratories, Incorporated-Supplies-27.95; Tracy Mister-Refund-272.04; Napa Auto Parts-Parts-691.51; Norberg Auto & Diesel Incorporated-Repairs-571.61; Olsson, Incorporated-Services-27,093.48; One Call Concepts-Locates-48.06; Payroll Fund-Payroll-77,759.48; Payroll Fund-Payroll-77,232.68; Perfection Door Company-Repairs-182.00; Quadient Leasing USA, Incorporated-Lease-647.46; WPCI-Drug Screens-32.00; Wesco Distribution Receivables Corporation-Equipment-11,502.00; Western Nebraska Observer-Meeting Notices-304.18; Ellison, Kovarik & Turman Law Firm-Professional Services-3,488.40.