



**Village of Staplehurst**

155 South 3<sup>rd</sup> PO Box 174

Staplehurst, NE 68439

Hours: Saturdays 8AM-12PM

Phone: 402-535-2758

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## **VILLAGE OF STAPLEHURST**

### **MEETING MINUTES, Sept. 29th, 2026**

The Village Board of Trustees met in regular session on Sept. 29th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Staplehurst Village Hall. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting in three designated places.

Chair Wilken called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the meeting room for public review.

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: Chair Wilken, Trustees Stava, Benedict, Novotny

#### **Approval of Village Claims**

The Clerk presented claims for the period of August 26, 2026 through September 30, 2026. Claims totaling \$122,952.57 were presented as follows: Sage Software Inc \$75.63 (tax due on annual system renewal); Miller & Associates \$4,475.00 (DWEE water tower drawing, reimbursable); RK Bookkeeping LLC \$575.00 (Sage system consulting, June/July reconciled); Chris Eckles \$400.00 (August health insurance reimbursement); Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department \$101,838.65 (Reimbursement from County/State Funding); Midwest Laboratories, Inc. \$61.00 (August water sample supplies); Farmers Cooperative \$99.19 (fuel); Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab \$17.00 (coliform sample collected 8/24); Waste Connections of Nebraska \$280.22 (dumpsters, 3rd St. and ball field); Pac N Save \$35.65 (hose, bleach, sewage plant); Northeast Neb Tele Co \$60.79 (monthly phone bill); Seward County Independent \$22.84 (July minutes); Farmers Cooperative \$91.15 (no lead gas); Constellation NewEnergy-Gas \$12.14 (155 S 3rd gas); Black Hills Energy \$120.70 (155 S 3rd, 759 A St); Chris Eckles \$400.00 (September health insurance reimbursement); Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab \$48.00 (coliform and nitrate testing); City of Seward \$376.26 (mosquito sprayer, 3 hours); Black Hills Energy \$50.28 (200 A Street); Svehla Law Offices, P.C. \$1,700.00 (rooster ordinance, Wulf matter, public records, correspondence, 5 hours); Pabian Partners, Inc. \$740.00 (Sage upgrade to 2026 version, 4 hours); Farmers Cooperative \$156.52 (diesel, tractor); Norris Public Power District \$1,309.45 (city well 100 N 2nd, village hall/FD, town shop, 220 A St shop, 8th St city well, ball field lights, ball diamond well, N 1st sewer, sewer plant, ball park restrooms, street lights); Post Office \$86.10 (postage for September invoices); One Call Concepts Inc \$5.89 (July and August Diggers Hotline fees); Bobbi McVey-Blath \$1,199.78 (August 1 through August 27 payroll); Chris Eckles \$2,326.39 (August 11 through August 26 payroll); Wayne Regnier \$585.30 (August payroll); Chris Eckles \$2,260.49 (August 27 through September 10 payroll); Chris Eckles \$2,222.28 (September 11 through September 25 payroll); Wayne Regnier \$585.30 (September payroll); Bobbi McVey-Blath \$735.57 (August 29 through September 26 payroll). Motion to approve Stava, Seconded by Benedict-all in favor

### **Sheriff's Department Report**

The board reviewed the report from August, no action needed.

### **Fire Department Claims**

Fire Department claims were presented for July, 2026 for \$36.62 for Fast Mart (Fuel). Claims for August for Fast Mart (Fuel) for \$120.02. Claims totaling \$156.64.

Motion to approve Stava, Seconded by Novotny-all in favor

### **Fire Department Report**

3 Rescue calls and 1 Fire call. 2 more firefighters have been added to the team.

### **Seward County Chamber**

Megan and Jordan stopped in to introduce themselves. Letting the board know who to contact if the village needs anything.

### **GBR Engagement Letter to Prepare Final Budget for 2026-2027**

The Village board agrees to use GBE, PCA, PC to prepare the Village Budget in accordance with NE Auditor of Public Accounts for years ending September 30, 2026-2026

Motion to approve Novotny, Seconded by Benedict-all in favor

### **GBE Budget Proposal for 2026-2027 Resolution 2026-09**

The proposed budget is for the 2026-2027 year is \$69,696.97, which is up from the 2025-2026 budget of \$63,630. Publication of the proposed budget was listed in the local newspaper on 9/23/2026.

Motion to approve the Resolution 2026-09 Stava, Seconded by Benedict-all in favor

### **Maintenance Report**

Culverts continue to be worked on. Results of the elevation survey requested for North 7th Street were reviewed. The survey, covering North 7th between B and C Streets, showed a two-foot drop in elevation from B Street to the area near 255 N. 7th Street.

The past Coliform test didn't pass, Chris flushed in July but with the weather changes and harvest it impacted the test. Chris re-flushed the system and completed the proper paperwork for the state. We are in good standing.

### **Clerk Report:**

Current ordinance states that there must 5 board members. With the challenges in filling the seat, the clerk recommended an ordinance change to align with state statute where it reads 3 or 5 board members. The board will work on recruiting this month and decide at the Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The fiscal year ends for the village; all new paperwork/bank statements will begin on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Residents Comments:**

None

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Stava, seconded by Benedict. All in favor: Wilken, Benedict, Novotny  
Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

**Next Meeting, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Village Clerk, Bobbi McVey-Blath**