

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PHILLIPS VILLAGE BOARD
February 3, 2026**

The meeting of the Phillips Village Board was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by Chairperson Benton on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 in the Town Hall in Phillips, Nebraska.

The following Trustees answered at roll call:

Dorothy Benton, Chairperson
Jim Crawford
Jordan Watson
John Briseno
Les Dana

Chairperson Benton states, the Open Meeting Laws are posted on the south wall of the meeting room in the Town Hall if anyone wants to review them.

Chairperson Benton introduces Resolution 2026-1 – Rules and regulations regarding the conduct of attendees during public meetings. Chairperson Benton briefly explains the rules and regulations. No public comment made.

Motion by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Briseno, to approve Resolution 2026-1. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chairperson Benton addresses and reviews the Village Trustees Standard of Conduct/Responsibilities. Attendees are encouraged to address any concerns they may have with actions taken or not taken by the Village Board. The Board of Trustees have a standard of conduct and responsibilities and want to know of concerns. No public comment made.

Motion by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Dana, to approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2026 Board Meeting. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Brandt was present to discuss the fundraising event scheduled for February 14, 2026 at the Phillips Memorial Hall, located at 501 3rd Street, Phillips. Tickets prices are \$40.00 for single and \$75.00 for couples.

Maintenance Superintendent, Bergmark provides an update on day-to-day maintenance repairs, fire hydrants, winter activities, arrival of the new mower and no bids for sanitation services.

Revised ball field concession repair bids from Paschke Bros. and Wiegert Construction were provided to the Trustees for discussion. The revised bids removed replacement of the window and blocks, lowering the cost of the project.

Motion by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Briseno, to award the ball field concession stand repair bid to Wiegert Construction for \$28,675.00. Project is set to be completed before ball session. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer reports were presented to Trustees to include month end billing.

Trustee Crawford provides property cleanup updates. Brief discussion held on status of special assessment and lien property at 130 Hall Street, which will be addressed under new business. Properties at 208 7th Street received a final letter in January and to date they have not contacted the Clerk. Trustee Crawford will speak with Village Attorney on next action.

Brief discussion held on 442 Hamilton Street and contact with Planning and Zoning regarding one residence with double occupancy.

Trustee Crawford provides an update on the Water Project. EPA has projected all is acceptable and allowable. Village of Giltner is still on board and Trustee Crawford was advised by Miller and Associates, possibly a couple more months to receive funding. Trustee Crawford expresses concern that if this unresolved project continues much longer, the Village may have to consider other options on their own.

Chairperson Benton added an additional comment regarding a water study being completed when she spoke with Miller and Associates on a similar matter. The last Village water system improvements preliminary engineering report was completed in 2009. The Village's water infrastructure will need to be looked at again. However, that study will take 6-8 months to complete.

Several members from Hall County and Fonner Park – Keno were present to answer questions prior to the approval of an interlocal cooperation agreement. No further discussion.

Upon no further discussion, Trustee Crawford motioned, seconded by Trustee Watson, to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Hall County and the Village of Phillips. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Trustee Watson moved, Trustee Dana seconded, to introduce Ordinance 2026-1 Establish Lottery. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chairperson briefly discusses Pinnacle ICS bank accounts. Pinnacle is still in the same position.

Open Public Discussion held. Area resident Russ Peard appears to provide the Trustees information he learned from an Engineer in Kansas with reference to the water pipe line to Grand Island. This Engineer is experienced in commercial size, reverse osmosis, water facilities and is willing to provide an estimate of cost. Mr. Peard asks for a couple months to work on this. Water usage, etc. information may be needed. He will work with the Maintenance Superintendent.

Resident Brian Cameron appeared to ask about development in the community and specifically any blighted properties. If anything comes up, he asked to be notified. A developer is looking for blighted property to invest in. This redevelopment would include Bonnavilla modular homes.

No further public discussion.

Motion by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Watson, approving Resolution 2026-2 – Complaint for Foreclosure of Lien at 130 Hall Street. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Dawson and Darren Bartunek are present to discuss the plat application for a subdivision of 426 Hall Street for the purpose of tri-plex's. This project would include city utility services, as well as the original home being connected. Additionally, there is a small pie-shaped piece of land, totaling 3,200 sq. ft. adjacent to 426 Hall owned by the Village. Dawson Bartunek is seeking to acquire the piece of land from the Village at a reasonable price.

The Trustees discuss the property and its past and current use. Chairperson Benton speaks with Ms. Betka from Hamilton County Planning & Zoning. Chairperson Benton then addresses the public for comment. No comments made. After a thorough Board discussion, it was decided the property parcel would be sold to Dawson Bartunek.

Motion by Trustee Dana, seconded by Trustee Briseno, to approve the sale of the 3,200 sq. ft. property adjacent to 426 Hall Street for \$1,650.00. A legal description and parcel ID will need to be obtained. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Dawson Bartunek will re-submit a plat application to include the purchased property. Clerk instructed to add the subdivision of 426 Hall Street to the March agenda; and to include a Resolution pursuant to §17-503.

Ms. Betka with Hamilton County Planning & Zoning addresses a different matter and advises the permit at 354 4th street has been extended.

Chairperson Benton discusses other banking options-Nebraska Bankers Pool. Motion by Trustee Briseno, seconded by Trustee Dana, to appoint the Henderson State Bank as an approved depository for the Village's funds. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. Clerk instructed to research the Resolution requirements for changing banks. If required, said Resolution will be passed at the March meeting.

Motion by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Watson, to close the Phillips Festival bank account and transfer all funds to the General account. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Dana, seconded by Trustee Crawford, to approve the annual compensation package increases, effective January 1, 2026, as discussed on January 6, 2026 in closed session. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chairperson Benton discusses review and amendments to the Village Ordinances. Each Trustee elects to take a portion of the Village Ordinances to review. Clerk instructed to post proper notice for a special meeting on February 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to discuss the Village Ordinances and possible amendments to same.

Brief discussion held on water, sewer and sanitation rates. Motion by Trustee Dana, seconded by Trustee Watson, to increase water, sewer and sanitation rates. Clerk instructed to send out letters to the residents notifying them of the increase; and if a Resolution is needed to prepare for the March meeting.

Additionally, Trustee Dana specifically requested this issue be calendared in November to review for next year. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Dana, seconded by Trustee Briseno, to pay all Claims as presented. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Trustee Dana moved, Trustee Watson seconded, at 9:27 p.m. to Adjourn. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton Voting nay: none. Motion carried and meeting adjourns.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doris M. Arnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doris M. Arnett
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Phillips