

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
PHILLIPS VILLAGE BOARD
April 7, 2026**

The meeting of the Phillips Village Board was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by Chairperson Benton on Tuesday, April 7, 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.

Motion by Trustee Briseno, seconded by Trustee Watson, to approve the Minutes of the March 3, 2026 regular Board Meeting. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Briseno, seconded by Trustee Dana, to approve the Minutes of the March 30, 2026 special Board Meeting. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Discussion held by Fire Chief Brandt on the Easter Egg Hunt turnout and the upcoming Taco Feast on May 5, 2026 at the Memorial Hall. Concerns shared of motorized scooters in the Village and the Hamilton County EMS privatization. Continued discussion on fire hall construction Bids. A bill for the Fire School was submitted to the Clerk for May claims.

Maintenance Superintendent provides day-to-day completed activities. Discussion on cross-connection surveys received. Discussion held on a permanent fence for the back ball field area; approval for a chain link fence.

Maintenance Supervisor provides the Board of Trustees a detailed list of necessary summer projects. Discussion held. Motion by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Dana to approve the re-hire of last summer's employees on a part-time basis at the same rate of pay, beginning April 20, 2026 to September 2026. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Area resident Francis McDonald enquires about the north ditch on Hamilton Street and the County Road. Maintenance Superintendent will be working with the Hamilton County Highway Department; the clean-out of the north ditch will need completed by the Highway Department not the Village.

Brief discussion held regarding the Village holding a fundraiser for a new electric marquee. Chairperson Benton states the Village is allowed to raise funds towards purchases or projects needed within the Village.

Clerk/Treasurer reports were presented to Trustees to include month end and review of the final invoice from Wiegert Construction. Updates given on: seasonal revenue, status of remaining bank accounts at Pinnacle, 2026 Lane Mileage Report due date, Spur sign repair invoice, SPPD grant pending status.

Additional updates on the 2026 Election deadline dates for incumbent and non-incumbent candidates. Ms. Benton has registered with the County Election Clerk as an incumbent for the Village.

Clerk/Treasurer advises the Board of awarded grant of \$1,000 from Hamilton Telecommunications for the submitted application towards the electronic Village marquee. 2019 Memorial funds received from Lynn Arends is detailed by the Clerk/Treasurer to include items purchased in her memory.

Trustee Crawford provides property cleanup updates. Brief discussion held on the status of the foreclosure property at 130 Hall Street; a Complaint will be filed by the Village attorney to include the previous and current owner. Trustee Crawford advises there is

one property where vermin movement on the property was detected and something will need to be done potentially through the Village Board of Health. An updated list of violations is given to the Clerk/Treasurer to issue new nuisance letters.

Discussion is held on potential Summer and Fall dates for the annual tree and trash clean up.

Trustee Crawford provides an update on the water project. A public hearing will need to take place in June to establish a placeholder for potential State Revolving funds. Miller & Associates is still looking into the filtration system as an option.

Chairperson Benton discusses the Village Code of Ordinances email sent out for the Trustees to review.

Chairperson Benton advises the FY 2025 Audit Waiver Request has been approved/audit waived.

Chairperson Benton moves to Open Public Hearing at 8:04 p.m. for discussion on Plat Subdivision Application on NE ¼ of Section 27, T11N, R8W, Village of Phillips (426 Hall Street).

Hillary Betka, Planning & Zoning addresses the Board of Trustees in reference to the Plat Subdivision application. No additional public discussion.

Chairperson Benton moves to close the Public Hearing at 8:07 p.m.

Trustee Watson motions, seconded by Trustee Dana, to approve the Plat Subdivision Application on NE ¼ of Section 27, T11N, R8W, Village of Phillips (426 Hall Street). Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Public Open Discussion held. Continued discussion on the water project. Local resident, Kyle Neeman speaks with the Village about the Well lease agreement on his property. Mr. Neeman has concerns about the Well lease agreement and what is going on with it after 15 years; further, seeks clarification on maintenance of the property and if the Well is ever decommissioned.

Hillary Betka with Planning & Zoning addresses the Board for approval of a fence permit at 504 East Street and approval of a storage building permit at 501 3rd Street. No further discussion held.

Motion by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Briseno, to approve the fence permit application at 504 East Street. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Briseno, seconded by Trustee Watson, to approve the storage building permit at 501 3rd Street. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Benton. Voting nay: none. Trustee Dana abstains. Motion carried.

Trustee Crawford moved, Trustee Briseno seconded, to introduce Ordinance No. 2026-3 – Confirming Sale of Real Estate and to waive the three-reading rule. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Trustee Dana moved for final passage, seconded by Trustee Crawford, to approve Ordinance No. 2026-3 Confirming Sale of Real Estate. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Crawford, to approve the hen permit at 749 Hamilton Street. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Samuel Reinke with Southern Public Power District appears to update the Board of Trustees on the Annual report.

Area resident, Mr. Gordon provides the Trustees with a photo of the flower garden park project previously discussed. Motion by Trustee Briseno, seconded by Trustee Dana to approve the flower garden park project as presented. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Continued discussion held on current condition of the lagoons and the equipment rental quote from Miller and Associates for a Laser Flowmeter. Motion by Trustee Dana, seconded by Trustee Watson to approve Miller and Associates to proceed or start up to \$3,000 for a 3-week rental or rental quote will need to be brought back as an agenda item. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Brief discussion held on the cost of bringing the Village online and hardcopy Ordinances up to date. Clerk/Treasurer instructed to obtain clarification on the pricing from American Legal and add to the May agenda.

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 Watson moved, Trustee Crawford seconded, to Adjourn. Voting aye: Crawford, Watson, Briseno, Dana, Benton Voting nay: none. Motion carried and meeting adjourns at 8:44 p.m.

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 at the end.

Doris M. Arnett
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Phillips