

Village of Cortland
July 9, 2025 Minutes

The meeting of the Village of Cortland, Nebraska was held on the 9th day of July 2025 at 100 S. Sherman Ave at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Kohout, German, Goforth, Burkey, Meints, Clerk Moormeier, Utility Superintendent Briggs, Attorney Jena Mahin, and members of the public.

Chairperson Kohout called the meeting to order stating the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available in the meeting room as required by Nebraska State Law.

No Board members were absent.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Burkey to receive and place on file all notices and material having any bearing on the meeting. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Motion by Burkey and seconded by Meints to approve the minutes of the June 11th, 2025, meeting. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Motion by Meints and seconded by German to approve the Treasurer's report. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

The following bills were presented for approval: Barco Municipal Products, Inc.-\$52.99, Black Hills Energy-\$237.68, Bob Moats-\$400.00, Conner King-\$24.94, Cortland Lancaster Rural Fire Dept-\$5,000.00, Donald R. Prentice-\$129.00, Five Rule, LLC-\$3,000.00, Lincoln Winwater Works-\$2,110.38, Midwest Labs-\$143.00, Nebraska Department of Revenue-\$466.70, Nebraska Landscape Solutions-\$67.25, Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab-\$737.00, Norris Public Power-\$2,571.23, One Call Concepts, Inc.-\$10.97, Salaries-\$6,660.74, Schoneweis & Sons-\$982.80, Sign Pro of Lincoln-\$2,612.50, Solheim Law Firm-\$1,114.40 U.S. Bank-\$389.64, Verla Busboom-\$40.00, Voice News -\$231.56, Waste Connections-\$4,597.49.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Meints to pay the bills. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Building permit –

7a. 355 Washington Street, 18'x18' sunroom/covered deck for Geoff & Christy King. There is a discrepancy in the Gage County Works Assessors maps of the lot line and where the survey markers are located. The Village board is concerned that these are not accurate and suggested that owners get a survey to affirm where the property is so that the proper setbacks can take place. 7b. 355 Washington Street, 1 stall 16'x30' garage/shed for Geoff & Christy King the board has the same concerns regarding this building. Additional concerns are that this may be where the street is supposed to continue. Ordinances from 2006 will need to be reviewed by the Village attorney to verify. The board encouraged the King's to contact the County Surveyor to verify the property lines. Once this property lines have been corrected and platted correctly the permits can be brought back to the Village for approval. King's plan to pursue the verification of the property lines and will bring the building permits back to the board at the August meeting.

7c. Ron Preston was not in attendance for PK Management asking for water and sewer for the property on the East side of Hwy 77. This property is not in Village limits and the extension of water and sewer would need to be paid for by the owner. A lift station would need to be installed for the sewer and Miller Engineering would need to be involved.

Barb Tegley, P&Z Committee chairperson, stated that the P&Z Committee and Bobbi Pettit were happy with the 3 weeks prior to the Village Board meeting for the deadline for Building permits to be submitted. This would allow the P&Z Committee a week prior to their meeting an opportunity to review the building permit for any Zoning or setback problems. Attorney Mahin is working on a Resolution for this change to be brought to the August meeting for a decision.

Gage County Foundation/Big Give Gage Executive Director Dee Enevoldsen was present to inform the Board about the non-profit. Big Give Gage is in its 7th year and are supporting the non-profits in all the communities in Gage County. The kickoff for Big Give is August 14th at which point the participants will start advertising their project for the year. Last year \$484,000 was raised for the organizations. This year the theme

is Half A Million Reasons to Give – with a goal of \$500,000 on September 11th. A business can be a sponsor for the Big Give Gage. Sponsors receive significant media coverage across southeastern Nebraska. The Clerk commented that Cortland Museum has participated in Big Give Gage for the last two years and will be participating again in 2025. These monies help with projects that these non-profits would not be able to do otherwise.

The Clatonia Rescue Service made a request for an agreement for five years that the Village of Cortland pay \$8,000 for ambulance service. Marily DeVries, Medical Captain of the Cortland Volunteer Fire Department reviewed the Nebraska Statue that each Fire & Rescue are to contract with another governmental agency for necessary ambulance service. The Cortland Fire & Rescue respond to calls in the Cortland, Hallam, and Clatonia areas and do not charge for any services. Motion by Goforth and seconded by Meints to sign the agreement to pay Clatonia for their ambulance service for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. Roll Call: Yes: Goforth, Kohout, Meints No: None Abstain: German, Burkey.

Bobbi Pettit from Five Rule was present to give her quarterly report. Bobbi attends P&Z Committee meetings either via Zoom or in person. She is involved with the updating of all the Zoning Regulations and answers questions regarding building permits, setbacks, proposed building etc. Questions regarding the public right away and who takes care of undeveloped streets. Attorney was asked to review and put together a plan to address this issue.

Lindsey Oelling asked that she would be able to have the Once In a Blue Moon Fall Festival on 4th Street on Saturday, September 27, 2025. She indicated she will have a lot of vendors and asked about suggestions for parking for those coming to the festival. The Community Center is already used for parking along with the sides of most of the streets. It was suggested she ask St. James Church if their parking lot would be available. Other parking would be across Highway which would be dangerous for those that need to walk across highway 77. There was an issue last year with Wi-Fi going down because of all the vendors using credit cards. It was suggested that Lindsey contact Windstream about bringing in a portable tower for the day and offering them free advertising. The Village will allow for vendors to set up the evening before to help with the traffic on Saturday morning. The area around the Post Office needs to stay open for the truck at 10 am and 3 pm. It was suggested that more trash cans need to be brought in, the clerk will check with Waste Connections. Motion by Goforth and seconded by Burkey to approve Saturday, September 27, 2025, for the Fall Festival. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

A written complaint by Kim Topp about semi-trucks parking in front of their Cortland Storage business driveway and that customers with moving trucks are having trouble getting in and out. Briggs indicated there are three different trucks that park there regularly, and he showed them the Ordinance and asked them to move. Chris will order a no parking sign for the area.

Update on Nuisance property - Briggs has mowed the Barta property once since Resolution 2025-01 was approved in June and it needs to be mowed again. Mahin asked him to continue sending pictures of before and after and the date and time he mows. The Resolution requires property to be mowed and if in violation a tiered rate for the Village mowing is assessed to the property owner.

Papers were served on Carlson property to two different addresses, however they both have been returned. Mahin will continue to pursue this as there is tall grass and unlicensed vehicles on this property. It may be necessary to publish a notice in the paper.

As of June 30th, chickens continued to be located at the property at 310 S. Sheridan Avenue. A bench trail is set sometime in early August.

Chairperson, Kohout read Ordinance No. 2025-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF CORTLAND, GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND CORTLAND VILLAGE CODE SECTION 53.07: VILLAGE BURN SITE; TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion by Goforth and seconded by Burkey to suspend the three readings of Ordinance 2025-01. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried. Motion by German and seconded by Meints to approve Ordinance 2025-01 concerning Burn Site. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Meints, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Reports: Museum was open on July 12th instead of 5th because of the Holiday. Has registered for the Big Give Gage in September. CIA has one more Summer Wreck on July 16th in the evening, starting to talk about Spookfest in October. The Golden Ride will be coming through Cortland the same day,

September 27th, as the Once in a Blue Moon Festival. Goforth stated no updates on grants. Clerk was asked to check with Sign Pro to see when we can expect the sign for the Community Center to be done so Chris can schedule electrician. The Fire Department Sign deposit was approved at the meeting, will need to have an electrician for this project also. Burkey asked everyone get their sample pictures to him for the Cortland Welcome sign prior to the next meeting so he can continue research. There are lots of options regarding speed limit warning signs, clerk asked to put on August agenda quotes for these signs. Burkey will contact DOT. The Ball season has wrapped up with a good year.

Maintenance Report by Briggs: Ron Price provided the tractor and sickle bar mower to put our lagoon back in compliance with the State, a big THANK YOU. Briggs has been flushing fire hydrants, one he was unable to get shut off and it will need to be replaced. Town kid, Connor King, has been mowing and fixed the sprinkler system for the Fire Hall yard. Another 10 water meters need to be replaced. Brian Argo helped out while Briggs was on vacation and sprayed the bike path and the Community Center yard. Water leaks in the heater vents in the shop and the community center have been repaired. Brush pile has been burnt. Briggs displayed pictures of the entrance to the lagoon, the concrete pad is smashed and is not very wide. This needs to be replaced, Briggs will get some quotes on concrete/gravel and replace culvert. A large limb on a tree at the ball park blew down during strong winds, that has been removed, but without needing to replace a hydraulic line on the tractor. Briggs will reach out to contractors regarding the ADA doors and concrete that need to be installed at the Community Center.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Meints to approve the 25% highway allocation match of \$2245.00
Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Correspondence from NDEE& NDR regarding Merger Announcement and the Nitrate Trend Report for the Village.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Meints to go into closed Executive Session to review the Evaluations for Moormeier and Briggs at 9:13 p.m. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried. Motion by Goforth and seconded by Meints to come out of closed Executive Session at 9:42 p.m. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Evaluations were reviewed with Briggs and Moormeier. Motion by Burkey and seconded by Meints to increase Briggs pay by \$.75 per hour at beginning of fiscal year (October 2025) and \$.50 per hour when he completes his herbicide/pesticide licensing (approximately March 2026). Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried. Motion by Meints and seconded by German to increase Moormeier pay by \$1.25 per hour at the beginning of the fiscal year (October 2025). Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

The clerk was asked to put on August agenda; Town Truck, One- & 6-Year Plan

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Burkey to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Roll Call: Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Burkey No: None Motion carried.

Respectively submitted: Donelle Moormeier. Clerk/Treasurer – Village of Cortland