

Village of McGrew, Nebraska
262 East 3rd Street, Rt 2 Box 844, McGrew, Nebraska
Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026

- I. Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting for the Village of McGrew was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Martin (Vic) Staab. Notice of this meeting and the agenda were posted prior to the meeting in three public places; Community Room, Fire Hall and the Pink Palace. The Open Meetings Act was placed on the table to the East of the room. Roll was taken by Village Clerk Courtney Cerny. Board of Trustee Members present: Martin (Vic) Staab, Penny Cooper, Tom Cooper, Lisa Hutchison, and Donald (Scott) Mackrill. Board of Trustee Member absent: None. Quorum was declared. Attorney Kovarik was present.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:
- III. Approve Agenda/Emergency Items if Necessary: Hutchison made a motion to approve the agenda. Approving the agenda was seconded by P. Cooper. Yes: Staab, P. Cooper, T. Cooper, Hutchison, and Mackrill. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- IV. Approve Minutes of the Past Meeting: P. Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the past meeting. It was seconded by Mackrill. Yes: Staab, P. Cooper, T. Cooper, Hutchison and Mackrill. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- V. Payment of Bills:

Name and Description	Amount	Method
CenturyLink (telephone)	\$153.19	Check
Courtney Cerny (Clerk/Treasurer – less taxes)	\$1400.00	Check
Column Software, PBC (publish meeting minutes)	\$83.99	Debit Card
Ellison, Kovarik, & Turman Law Firm (attorney)	\$171.00	Check
Mike Hutchison (Maintenance – less taxes)	\$459.00	Check
Mike Hutchison (reimbursement for sprinkler part)	\$53.71	Check
Mike Hutchison (reimbursement for mower blades at Home Depot)	\$70.59	Check
Mike Hutchison (reimbursement for oil filter at O'Reilly Auto Parts)	\$19.25	Check
Kuskie Oil Company (propane for fire hall)	\$560.21	Check
Menards (concrete, weed killer, lawn fertilizer, fuel stabilizer, bolts)	\$181.56	Check
Nebraska Public Power District (electricity)	\$582.59	Check
One Call Concepts (NE 811 Digger Hotline)	\$0.82	Check
Quickbooks (annual subscription)	\$1149.00	Debit Card

Sandberg (oil filter and air filter)	\$46.00	Check
United States Post Office (200 stamps)	\$156.00	Check
Vistabeam (internet)	\$87.95	Check
Waste Connections (trash service)	\$802.20	Check
Total	\$5,977.06	

P. Cooper made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by T. Cooper. Yes: Staab, P. Cooper, T. Cooper, Hutchison, and Mackrill. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Hutchison abstained from voting on payments to Mike Hutchison.

VI. New Business:

- A. Tire Grant – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: There are no tire grants available at this time. We will look again toward the end of the year.
- B. Computer Repair – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Cerny explained that there was an error on the laptop saying boot device missing or boot failed. She contacted Staples, and they said it could be a loose connection to the hard drive or the hard drive is about to fail. Replacing the hard drive will cost approximately \$250 at Staples. Cerny also asked Staples about an exterior backup which would cost approximately \$80-\$90 to install plus the cost of the device which could cost approximately \$30-\$100 at Staples. Cerny is currently saving to the cloud. Hutchison, Staab, and T. Cooper all stated that another backup is needed. Hutchison made a motion to repair and backup the laptop as necessary with a limit of \$600. It was seconded by P. Cooper. Roll call vote: Staab = yes, P. Cooper = yes, Hutchison = yes, T. Cooper = yes, Mackrill = yes. Motion Carried.
- C. Vacating Easement – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Staab stated that some easements have been registered with the county. The person at the Title Department told Staab that some did not go through. Staab said that currently three parties want to vacate their easements. There is no benefit to the village to make an easement. Kovarik stated that he will make the application to vacate an easement. Kovarik stated that once the property owner fills out an application for an easement, there will be a public hearing and vote whether or not to vacate the easement.
- D. Tankless Water Heater – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: M. Hutchison said they were expensive and require too much maintenance. T. Cooper asked Cerny to turn the hot water on for a couple of minutes while she is in the office. The current water heater should be left on.

- E. Humane Society – SNR Program – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: The Humane Society in Scottsbluff has a program to control the cat population. People can bring them stray cats. The Humane Society will spay/neuter them, get rabies vaccination, and tip the ears so they know if this cat has been fixed before. If they are friendly, they will go up for adoption if no one has claimed them in one week. If they are feral, they will be returned to McGrew by the Humane Society. We can rent traps. The Humane Society will get Kovarik a contract for the board members to look at. Cerny will information in the next utility bill.
- F. Audit Waiver Results – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: A letter was received from Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts saying that the request for an audit waiver has been approved. The Auditor of Public Accounts noted certain internal control or compliance matters. How to correct them was discussed.
- i. Possible Conflict of Interest: Lisa Hutchison is on the board of trustees and her husband Mike Hutchison does the village maintenance. Lisa Hutchison will abstain from voting on money paid to Mike Hutchison.
 - ii. Extra Compensation to Board Member: There were payments to Kevin Ross. Payments can be made if they are seasonal and an emergency. Ross got paid for mowing, spraying for mosquitoes, and shoveling snow which is seasonal and working on the sewer which was an emergency. Cerny will put a better description of the payment as seasonal or emergency in the description instead of maintenance in the future if any board members are to be paid.
 - iii. Debit Card Issues:
 - a. Lack of Purchasing Card Policy: Attorney Kovarik will make one.
 - b. Lack of adequate supporting documentation: There were five purchases totaling \$244.17 made with a debit card without adequate documentation. Cerny will get better documentation in the future.
 - c. Payment of NE Sales Tax: There were three purchases that included sales tax totaling \$66.53. Cerny will watch this in the future.
 - iv. Possibly Disallowed Purchase: Kevin Ross used the debit card to purchase flowers for Cerny's father's funeral. At the time this was done, we didn't realize it was wrong.
 - v. Payment of Unapproved Claims: Cerny was putting the debit card payments on the payments list for the meeting after the payment

took place. She will put the debit card payments on the payments list for the meeting before the payment takes place.

- vi. Payment of Claims Prior to Board Approval: Cerny was putting the debit card payments on the payments list for the meeting after the payment took place. She will put the debit card payments on the payments list for the meeting before the payment takes place.
- vii. Negative Fund Balance: Village of McGrew's checking account has three funds in it: Sewer Fund, General Fund, and Street Fund. Most payments are paid out of the General Fund. Even though there is a positive bank account balance, the General Fund became negative and the other two were positive. This was brought to Cerny's attention in February 2026, and she transferred money from the Sewer Fund and the Street Fund to make all three funds positive.

Cerny had transferred the funds in February 2026 after being told that the General Fund had a negative balance. To have a record of this Staab made a motion to move \$60,000 from street and \$30,000 from sewer and transfer to general to ratify the funds. It was seconded by T. Cooper. Roll call vote: Hutchison = yes, T. Cooper = yes, Mackrill = yes, Staab = yes, P. Cooper = yes. Motion Carried.

G. Debit Card Policy – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Kovarik will make one.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- A. Comprehensive Plan and Rezoning – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Staab said we should start over. PADD is looking through the binder.
- B. Tires at Old School - Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Tires are slowly going away.
- C. Mosquito Spraying - Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Staab has not found a class for M. Hutchison to take to spray for mosquitoes. Staab found a PDF study material for \$30-\$50 and a paper copy of study material for \$50-75. Study material is at NDA.nebraska.gov to order applicator 9. There is no cost for the test in Gering. Tests are May 20 or June 17. Staab made a motion to order study materials for mosquito spraying not to exceed \$75. It was seconded by

Hutchison. Yes: Staab, P. Cooper, T. Cooper, Hutchison and Mackrill. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- D. Unsafe Buildings at 203 Pine Street and 410 Main Street -
Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: The buildings are gone at 203 Pine Street and 410 Main Street. Staab made a motion to close out this item. It was seconded by Mackrill. Yes: Staab, P. Cooper, T. Cooper, Hutchison and Mackrill. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- E. Board of Health - Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: No discussion or action taken.
- F. Planning Board - Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: No discussion or action taken.
- G. Speeding Vehicles – Discussion/Action: There were issues with the sign, so it isn't up yet.
- H. Village Festival (previously Summer Days) – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Marshall Lee Days will be September 19, 2026. Cerny will put a note in the utility bills asking people to contact P. Cooper if they have ideas about a goat rope, craft fair, car show, etc.
- I. Chip Sealing Asphalt – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: An email was received from Scotts Bluff County Roads Department saying they will be chip sealing CR 34 the week of June 15, 2026. They asked if we would like them to chip seal CR 34 inside village limits (Main Street). Cost is \$23,166.00. T. Cooper made a motion to have Scotts Bluff County Roads Department chip seal CR 34 (Main Street) at a cost of \$23,166 and to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Street Fund. It was seconded by Mackrill. Roll call: Staab = yes, Hutchison = yes, P. Cooper = yes, Mackrill = yes, and T. Cooper = yes. Motion carried. T. Cooper will contact Steve Baird at the Scotts Bluff County Roads Department. Staab will sign it.
- J. Update on Sewer – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: Staab mentioned that there are no grants. A loan will probably be taken out and the utility bills increased.
- K. Spring Clean Up – Discussion/Action/Possible Vote: T. Cooper asked if we could have a village cleanup twice a year. Cerny will look into it.

VIII. Department/Committee Reports:

- A. Maintenance: Mike Hutchison got new mower blades and will be regenerating the Kubota. A new basketball court would be nice.
- B. Clerk: Cerny received an email from Panhandle Public Health District and signed up to get Deet wipes, bug spray, and west nile brochures free. They will also reimburse us up to \$250 for mosquito training and spraying.

IX. Public Comments:

- A. Mackrill says prairie dogs are close to town.
- B. Staab will make copies of keys for Mackrill.

- X. Adjournment: There being nothing further to discuss, Chairman Staab adjourned the meeting at 9:05.

Courtney Cerny
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Martin Staab
Chairman