

**VILLAGE OF HAIGLER MINUTES FOR BUDGET HEARING, TAX REQUEST HEARING AND REGULAR
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 03, 2025**

The Village of Haigler Board met for a Budget Hearing on September 03, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at The Golden Inn located at 203 S Porter Ave., Haigler, NE. Notice of Hearing was posted in advance by publication in Scoop Media News, at the Haigler US Post Office, Family Market and Haigler Country Café. The Agenda for the Hearing was posted and available at the Village office and The Golden Inn. Notice of this Hearing, along with the Agenda, were delivered to the Board of Trustees in advance and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of said things is kept on file at the Village office.

Chairperson Irwin called the Hearing to order at 7:02p.m. and stated that the Hearing was an Open Meeting of the Village of Haigler, which abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the North wall of The Golden Inn as required by state law.

Present by roll call vote were Board Members Haskell, Tafoya, Irwin and Gregory. Absent: Noffsinger. Also present were Dan Miller, CPA, PC, Superintendent James Thorn, Clerk/Treasurer Daniela Thorn and Sheriff Bang. There were no community members present to offer public comment in support or opposition of the 2025-2026 proposed budget. Dan Miller, CPA, PC, prepared and presented the budget based on figures from the August budget workshop. Budget expenditures for the Village 2025-2026 fiscal year are projected at \$329,000. There being no further business, Chairperson Irwin closed the Hearing at 7:17p.m.

The Village of Haigler Board met for a Tax Request Hearing on September 03, 2025 immediately following the Budget Hearing at The Golden Inn located at 203 S Porter Ave., Haigler, NE. Notice of Hearing was posted in advance by publication in Scoop Media News, at the Haigler US Post Office, Family Market and Haigler Country Café. The Agenda for the Hearing was posted and available at the Village office and The Golden Inn. Notice of this Hearing, along with the Agenda, were delivered to the Board of Trustees in advance and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of said things is kept on file at the Village office.

Chairperson Irwin called the Hearing to order at 7:18p.m. and stated that the Hearing was an Open Meeting of the Village of Haigler, which abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the North wall of The Golden Inn as required by state law. Present by roll call vote were Board Members Tafoya, Gregory, Haskell and Irwin. Absent: Noffsinger. Also present were Dan Miller, CPA, PC, Superintendent James Thorn, Clerk/Treasurer Daniela Thorn and Sheriff Bang. Discussion was had regarding the Village's proposed 2025-2026 Tax Request. There were no community members present to offer public comment in support or opposition of the proposed Tax Request asking. There being no further business, Chairperson Irwin closed the Hearing at 7:19p.m.

The regular meeting of the Village of Haigler Board was held on September 03, 2025 immediately following the adjournment of the Tax Request Hearing at The Golden Inn located at 203 S Porter Ave., Haigler, NE. Notice of Meeting was posted in advance at the Haigler US Post Office, Family Market and Haigler Country Café. The Agenda for the Meeting was posted and available at the Village office and The Golden Inn. Notice of this meeting, along with the Agenda, were delivered to the Board of Trustees in advance and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of said things is kept on file at the Village office.

Chairperson Janelle Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:23p.m. and stated that the meeting was an open meeting of the Village of Haigler, which abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the North wall of The Golden Inn as required by state law.

Present by roll call vote were Board Members Irwin, Tafoya, Haskell and Gregory. Absent: Noffsinger. Also present were Superintendent James Thorn, Clerk/Treasurer Daniela Thorn and Sheriff Bang. There were no public comments.

In Reports – Sheriff's Department - The August Sheriff's Dept. report was submitted in advance via email by Chief Deputy Lucci and handed out by the Clerk. Sheriff Bang shared that it has been a busy month and a half for the Department. Focus continues to be in regard to the speed zones throughout the Village. Bang specially commended the Haigler Rural Fire Department, along with Benkelman Fire & Rescue, for the outstanding work they did together on the night of August 25th in a very tragic situation. A copy of the Sheriff's Report is kept on file at the Village office.

Dundy County Commissioner: No one present to give a report.

Clerk: Daniela gave her clerk report from prepared notes, a copy of which is kept on file at the Village office. In regard to status of water/sewer/trash bill payments: A total of 5 Disconnect Notice letters for the month of August were

mailed out on August 7th, 2025. All payments were received before the official water shut-off date of August 18th, 2025. A total of 17 Past Due Notice letters for bills that were due by August 15th, 2025 were mailed out on August 22nd, 2025. Disconnect Notice letters will be mailed out September 8th, 2025 after checking in with SWPPD (who does our billing) for an update on payments that morning. The official water shut-off date is September 17th, 2025. Regarding QuickBooks PayrollCore, on August 8th, 2025 the Village received an overpayment credit for \$151.50 associated with July's Federal 941 payment, along with an overpayment credit of \$84.76 associated with July's unemployment tax. The original amounts were due to an automatic withdrawal setting as of July based on accruing net pay and tax liabilities; the automatic setting has been off as of August 1st, 2025. The Village received payment of \$1,127.16 from Haigler Rural Fire Department for the share of half of each of the total amounts for the Life Insurance and Telephone billing. The Village received the signed and approved Interlocal Enforcement Agreement back from the Dundy County Sheriff's Department with the term being October 01, 2025 to September 30, 2027. In regard to an inquiry at the Annual Budget Workshop Meeting in August, Other/Amount Over entries in QuickBooks for Water income is when an account has been paid more than what was due at the time. The original copy of Resolution #2025-05 for the Annual Certification of Program Compliance has been signed by Street Superintendent Chris Miller; it was mailed to Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards in Lincoln, NE on August 18th, 2025. The Village received a new Open Meetings Act Poster from the League of Nebraska Municipalities effective May 30, 2025, that has been hung on the West wall of the Meeting Room. As a reminder, \$13,109.00 comes out of the Water Improvement account at the end of September; historically on September 28th each year. The Board has financially approved the transfers from the General Fund account to the Water Improvement account at meetings throughout the year to build up this account in preparation for this annual transaction. This is for the USDA Rural Development Program Loan for the Water Improvement Project that occurred for the new water tower several years ago.

Superintendent/Maintenance: James gave his Superintendent/Maintenance report from prepared notes, a copy of which is kept on file at the Village office. James is awaiting results for Coliform testing that were mailed on September 3rd, 2025. Eight faulty water meters and readers were replaced this past month. Third quarter Reverse Osmosis filter replacements will begin this month. Mowing at the parks, Village building, Ballfield, area next to the Ballfield of lumber and old equipment, old wells, new wells, fire station, The Golden Inn, sewer ponds and ditches in addition to weed trimming, is ongoing. Two more sprinkler heads have been replaced at the main park. James reported that new hire Casey Richard did a good job getting the main park ready for an annual family reunion that was held in the park this past Labor Day weekend. The next big event at the main park will be the Fall Music Festival on Sunday, September 14th. Upcoming projects include the drainage ditch and culvert repair northeast of The Golden Inn in the alley; alleyway repairs and grading; sewer distribution center clean out; ordering a Tree Dump sign (included in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year budget) with Hot Brush to be picked up in October to post what is allowed in order to stay compliant with the state requirements. A representative from the County approached James recently and would like to use the tree dump for tree limbs. They would also be willing to bring a front loader to push up what they can in the current pile at the Tree Dump.

Haskell made a motion, seconded by Gregory, to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting held on August 06, 2025. Yes votes: Irwin, Gregory, Tafoya and Haskell. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. A copy of the Minutes is kept on file at the Village office and also posted on the website.

Haskell made a motion, seconded by Tafoya, to approve the Minutes of the Special Budget Workshop Meeting held on August 12, 2025. Yes votes: Haskell, Gregory, Irwin and Tafoya. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. A copy of the Minutes is kept on file at the Village office and also posted on the website.

Tafoya made a motion, seconded by Haskell, that the \$16,706.96 surplus USDA Water Improvement Reserve account funds stay in the Reserve account. Yes votes: Irwin, Gregory, Haskell and Tafoya. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried.

Haskell made a motion, seconded by Tafoya, to approve to pay the September 2025 Claims. Yes votes: Haskell, Tafoya, Irwin and Gregory. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. A copy of the Claims is kept on file at the Village office.

Salaries	General (Superintendent, Clerk/Treasurer)	\$ 7,705.11
IRS/941 payroll taxes (ACH)	General (941 payroll taxes)	\$ 1,503.43
NE Dept of Revenue (ACH)	General (Form 94/Waste reduction fee)	\$ 25.00
Dundy Co. Sheriff's Dept.	General (Contract)	\$ 840.00
BWTelecom	General/FD (Telephone)	\$ 312.25
SWPPD	Utilities/Billing	\$ 1,114.09
St. Francis Equity	Street/Water/Sewer/Park/Fire (Gas/Oil/Diesel)	\$ 350.52
American Ag Lab	Water (Lab Fees)	\$ 205.12
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	Water (Lab Fees)	\$ 446.00
Frenchman Valley Coop	General (Utilities)	\$ 107.01
Dundy County Clerk	General (Contracted Services) Civil Defense Director	\$ 983.11
NAPA Auto Parts	Street/Water/Sewer/Park/Fire (Repair/Maintenance)	\$ 13.96
Owens Imp. & Supply	Street/Water/Sewer/Park/Fire (Repair/Maintenance)	\$ 135.96
Scoop Media	General (Publications)	\$ 220.20
Wray Gazette	General (Printing/Reproduction)	\$ 72.00
Daniela Thorn	General (Mileage)	\$ 190.40
Daniel D. Miller, CPA, PC	General (Professional Fees)	\$ 1,200.00
Waste Connections of NE, Inc.	Solid Waste (Contract)	\$ 2,731.24
James Thorn	General (Telephone)	\$ 15.00
Pinnacle Bank - Insurance Acct (Bank transfer)	General (Insurance) to build acct for Annual LARM pymt	\$ 2,000.00
Pinnacle Bank - Water Improvement Acct (Bank Transfer)	Water (to build acct for Annual USDA loan pymt)	\$ 1,200.00
Pinnacle Bank - Street Acct (Bank Transfer)	Street (25% Hwy Allocation August \$834.07, September \$822.69 pymt receive	\$ 1,656.76
Pinnacle Bank - Credit Card (ACH)	General (Postage/Stamps/Office Supply/Dues/Subscriptions) Water (Postage), Street/Water/Sewer/Park/Fire (R/M)	\$ 502.96
	TOTAL	\$ 23,530.12

Irwin made a motion, seconded by Haskell, to approve the September 2025 Treasurer's Report. Yes votes: Tafoya, Haskell, Gregory and Irwin. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. A copy of the report is kept on file at the Village office.

Regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process, the application will be submitted by West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) by the deadline of September 15th, 2025.

Haskell made a motion, seconded by Gregory, to officially approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget as published and presented at the Budget Hearing. Yes votes: Irwin, Haskell, Gregory and Tafoya. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried.

Chairperson Irwin read aloud Resolution #2025-06. Haskell made a motion, seconded by Tafoya, to adopt and approve Resolution #2025-06 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for setting the final Tax Levy Request. Yes votes: Gregory, Tafoya, Irwin and Haskell. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. The original copy of Resolution # 2025-06 is kept on file at the Village office.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST, RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06. WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of the Village of Haigler passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the Village of Haigler resolves that: 1.) The 2025-2026 property tax request be set at: General Fund: \$44,254.94. 2.) The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 8.03 percent. 3.) The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.462826 per \$100 of assessed value. 4.) The Village of Haigler proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.5 per \$100 of assessed value. 5.) Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the Village of Haigler will increase (or decrease) last year's budget by -1.46 percent. 6.) A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025. Motion by Haskell, seconded by Tafoya, to adopt Resolution # 2025-06. Voting yes were Sherri Gregory, JoAnn Tafoya, Janelle Irwin and Keith Haskell. Monte Noffsinger was absent. Dated this 3rd day of September, 2025.

Ordinance #2025-05 establishing the wages of officers and employees of the Village of Haigler, Nebraska, as required by Section 17-209 of the revised statutes of the state of Nebraska; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances or sections; to provide when this ordinance shall be in full force and effect; and to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form was introduced and read by Chairperson Irwin. Haskell made a motion, seconded by Tafoya, to waive three readings of Ordinance #2025-05. Yes votes: Gregory, Irwin, Haskell, and Tafoya. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. Haskell made a motion, seconded by Irwin, for final passage and adoption of Ordinance #2025-05. Yes votes: Tafoya, Gregory, Haskell and Irwin. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. Said ordinance will be posted at the Haigler US Post Office, Family Market, Haigler Country Café and will be available on the website.

The start time of regular monthly meetings was discussed with interest expressed for an earlier time of 7:00p.m.; an Ordinance will be introduced at the regular October meeting.

The Board agreed that the Village will offer Direct Deposit, along with paper check, as another available option for monthly employee payroll.

Haskell made a motion, seconded by Tafoya, to enter into closed session at 8:37p.m. for the purpose of discussing Clerk/Treasurer candidates and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of any person. Yes votes: Haskell, Tafoya, Gregory and Irwin. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried. Chairperson Irwin adjourned the closed session at 9:08p.m.

Irwin made a motion, seconded by Haskell, to approve hiring Karen Testa as the new full-time Clerk/Treasurer for the Village of Haigler with a start date of October 1st, 2025 and a starting wage of \$17.00 per hour with an increase to \$18.00 per hour after the 90-day probationary period contingent upon becoming bonded. Benefits include paid holidays, sick days and paid vacation time as reflected in the employee handbook; a \$500.00 per month health insurance stipend and \$15.00 per month phone stipend for use of personal cell phone for Village business will begin after the 90-day probation period. Yes votes: Gregory, Tafoya, Haskell and Irwin. Absent: Noffsinger. Motion carried.

Office hours for the full-time new hire for Clerk/Treasurer were discussed to include 32 to 40 hours per week. Hours will be posted on the office door to include a regular start time with the understanding that hours may vary depending on the week.

The Public Hearing for 1 & 6 Year Street Improvement Program will be held October 08, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at the Village office meeting room. The next Regular Meeting will be held October 08, 2025 immediately following the Public Hearing that starts at 7:00p.m.

There being no further business, Chairperson Irwin adjourned the meeting at 9:26p.m. A complete copy of the Minutes is available for viewing at the Village office, or on the website at: www.haiglerne.com/boardoftrustees. Please be advised that the Clerk has within 10 working days after a Board Meeting to prepare the Meeting Minutes for public viewing; Minutes are approved at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

Signed, Daniela Thorn, Village Clerk

Chairperson, Janelle Irwin

Village Clerk, Daniela Thorn