

MINUTES OF THE AKELEY CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AT AKELEY CITY HALL 6:00PM, JANUARY 14TH, 2026

The Akeley City Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026. Mayor Brian Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Council members present: Brian Hitchcock, Dan Riggs, Dale Nelson, and Bobbie Wosika

Council members absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Council and attending audience.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from December 17th, 2025, Regular Meeting
- Minutes from December 30th, 2025, Special Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for December
- Total disbursements including all automatic payments equaling \$220,215.40. Check numbers #23544 - #23616. Voided check #23574 due to being lost in the mail. Total receipts including all automatic deposits equaling \$385,942.07.
- Administration Finance Report for December
- December Permits Issued – 0
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**

City Hall – Kristi Kath

- Discussion on the 2026 department commissioners. The park and recreation commissioners are currently blank due to Billy resigning. Dan states that he spends a lot of time down at the campground and that he is willing to be the parks and recreation commissioners.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve the 2026 department commissioner's assignments with the addition of Dan Riggs as the parks and recreation commissioner, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Discussion on the new auditor proposals that were received in response to an RFP that Kristi sent out. The first proposal was from CDS. For the first year it would cost the city a total between \$21,600.00 and \$23,600 due to a first-year setup fee. The second proposal was from Walker, Giroux, and Hahne LLC came in at \$17,500.00. The third proposal was from Brian Koehn that would not exceed \$14,750.00 for the first year.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve the proposal from Brian Koehn for the city's auditor, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 1-2026 is a resolution to adopt consignments for 2026. City auditor was left blank as a selection needed to be made first. City auditor is now Brian Koehn.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 1-2026, seconded by Brian Hitchcock, passed.**
- Resolution 2-2026 is a resolution for authorization approvals for signatories of all accounts at First National Bank of Walker-Akeley Branch.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 2-2026, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 3-2026 is a resolution for payments prior to council authorization.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 3-2026, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- Resolution 4-2026 is a resolution allowing wire/automated bank payments.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 4-2026, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 5-2026 is a resolution for a policy to allow electronic funds wire transfer. Kristi states that last year it was discussed paying bills online instead of sending a check. It will still have the paper trail just without the check. The league helped add the correct language to this resolution so that it can also cover online payments to vendors.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 5-2026, seconded by Brian Hitchcock, passed.**

- Resolution 6-2025 is a resolution authorizing the City of Akeley to contribute funds to Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program. Kristi states that the money per hour rose from \$26.00 to \$27.00. Last year the city contributed \$1,196.00. This year it would rise to \$1,242.00.
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve resolution 6-2026 with funds coming from the park, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Resolution 7-2026 is a resolution acknowledging the donations from Hubbard County in the amount of \$47,420.00 for the Akeley Community Projects Fund Restroom Project.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve resolution 7-2026, seconded by Bobbie Wosika, passed.**
- There is a conflict with the 2026 meeting schedule for the second Wednesday of every month starting at 6pm at the Akeley City Hall. It is on November 11th, 2026, and is Veterans Day. Discussion on moving the November regular meeting to Thursday.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to move November 11th, 2026, regular meeting to November 12th, 2026, due to that Wednesday being a holiday, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- 2026 mileage rates increased to \$0.725 per mile per IRS.

Police Department – Jimmy Hansen

- Jimmy states everything is going well and that he has started some new training for the new year.

Liquor Store - Lacey Hitchcock

- Lacey was absent.

Parks – Dan Riggs

Water/Sewer/Maintenance Report-Nate Deshayes/Reid Watson

- Reid states that he had Electric Pump come in for lift station two due to it going down. While they were there, they brought the pump they had rebuilt for the main lift station and installed it. The pump that they took out is now in storage at the shop. The cost of fixing lift station two and installing the pump was \$1,823.50
- **Motion by Bobbie Wosika to approve paying the invoice from Electric Pump in the amount of \$1,823.50, seconded by Dan Riggs, passed.**
- Reid discussed that sometime before Christmas his water loss had increased. He thought that it would go back down after the holidays, but it has not. He states that there is a loss of around 10,000 gallons a day, which is equivalent to a toilet running. He has been looking for wet spots on the ground, steamed up windows on houses, and listening to fire hydrants to see if they have a flow. He states that it is not going through the lift stations. He is still working on finding it. MN Rural Water will be back with listening equipment.
- Bobbie asks Reid if he can spread sand behind the shop.

East Hubbard County Fire District –Dan Riggs/Bobbie Wosika

- Report on December minutes.
- The department hired a new first assistant chief and second assistant chief. Kasey Klasen is the new first assistant chief and Jordan Gaetz is the new second assistant chief.

Old Business

- Bobbie states that she is very excited about the work being done building the new restrooms. She states that contractors are doing a great job. She asks if the city could put some sort of camera system on the outside of the bathroom when it is finished. The city could certainly do that. It can be something to check on in the spring.

New Business

- Owen Pierce states that he needs to do an eagle scout project. He provided the council with a picture of the area near the Eleventh Crow Wing Lake public access. He would like to renovate the stairway path that goes from the road down to the pavilion. He would like to add handrails, pressure wash the steps and would want to add a sign at the top of the steps stating that it was his eagle scout project. The city would either provide the material, or Owen would go around and ask for donations from local businesses.
- **Motion by Dan Riggs to approve Owen Pierce to renovate the stairway near public boat access for his eagle scout project, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.**
- Dan Riggs discussed that he has a parcel that he would like to split. He would like to split lot five on block three. The parcel number is 29.37.41000.
- **Motion by Brian Hitchcock to approve separate lots six, seven, and eight from lot five on block three with a parcel number of 29.37.41000, seconded by Bobbie Woiska, passed. Dan abstained.**

Public Forum

Motion by Bobbie Wosika to adjourn the meeting at 6:48pm, seconded by Dale Nelson, passed.

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Michaella Becker
Deputy Clerk**