

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**
January 14, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold, Ben Hershey and Cole Short

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the December 10, 2025 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Ben Herhsey; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4586.80
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1229.65
Direct	Visa Card	\$494.50
Direct	US Treasury	\$1938.36
Direct	Harland Checks	\$133.94
13272	Holly Aamold	\$180.08
13273	Richard Aamold	\$162.54
13274	Keaton Flanagan	\$180.08
13275	Ben Hershey	\$180.08
13276	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1616.12
13277	Jeff Siewert	\$180.08
13278	Travis Soderberg	\$900.41
13279	Anderson Excavating LLC	\$8393.75
13280	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$251.84
13281	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$19.38
13282	Hillsboro Banner	\$259.12
13283	Midco	\$49.76
13284	Paulson Gravel Service, Inc.	\$850.00
13285	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
13286	Traill County Treasurer	\$4057.13
13287	Traill County Auditor	\$750.00
13288	Xcel Energy	\$28.59

Holly Aamold motioned to approve the bills; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2025 year to date financial and year to date budget comparison.

Mayor Soderberg noted that no one was present for public comments.

Mayor Soderberg asked the council if there were any park issues that needed to be discuss. Mayor Soderberg noted that there were no current issues.

Mayor Soderberg and the council discussed potential project goals for 2026 and 2027. Mayor Soderberg stated that lagoon renovations are still top on the list. Naastad Brothers is still working on the numbers for final cost estimate for repairs. They are hoping to have them finalized by the February meeting. Several projects were discussed for the park. New volleyball poles and net and pickleball court covering and net were projects that the council would like to consider and research for any grant opportunities to offset the cost. Backstop fencing for the pickleball court was also suggested for consideration. The playground area is in need of new mulch. Mayor Soderberg advised the council a long-term goal he would like to still consider is a community shed for heated storage for the mower and Toolcat. Ben Hershey inquired on the status of solar speed limit signs for county road 21 and if they were still being considered. Travis advised the council that since it is a county road it wouldn't qualify for a state grant. The county has not installed any solar speed limit signs on any other county roads. Travis said that he would continue to research pricing and any other grant possibilities. The research for what trees would be best for our area is ongoing as well as researching for available tree grants. We are still waiting for a quote to finish off the back side of the city flower bed/planter that the 4H group does such a wonderful job of planting flowers each year. It was also discussed if any additional attachments were needed for the Toolcat such as grapple forks. Mayor Soderberg thanked the council for their input.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the 2026 primary election is June 9th. Mayor Soderberg and council members, Holly Aamold and Ben Hershey are all up for re-election. All three are planning on running for re-election. Anyone that is seeking re-election or interested in running for mayor or a council seat must turn in an election petition with a minimum

of six signatures as well as a statement of interest for any new candidates by no later than April 6th at 4pm to the city auditor, Jackie Siewert.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, explained to the council that all officeholders must file a statement of interest each year by January 31st. Also, every candidate must file a statement of interest at the same time as filing a petition/certification of nomination.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she signed up for a webinar titled City and Park District Elections 2026 through the ND League of Cities to be held on February 26th at 10am.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had received a letter back in November which stated that all communities needed to update their current floodplain ordinance or establish one if one was not currently in place. Travis did some extensive research in regard to this. Mayor Soderberg contacted someone from the office that the letter was sent. They stated that since the city of Buxton was not part of the NFIP nothing needs to be done. Unfortunately, that was not stated within the letter that was received.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there have been several inquiries on the availability of the city lots. Travis also advised the council that there is an engineering firm, Burian & Associates, doing a housing study for the Traill County EDC. There are still three lots available for \$16,000 with the stipulation that construction needs to begin within one year. Mayor Soderberg stated that there is a public quorum link available on the City's Facebook page for the Traill County EDC housing study. Travis encourages all residents to take part in it.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had received a quote from Team Lab for the 2026 Team Lab Rip Rap Program for \$1,980 which includes two pond sprayings. Last year the cost was \$1,780. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the quote from Team Lab for the 2026 Team Lab Rip Rap Program for \$1,980; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received a letter via email from the ND Department of Environmental Quality stating that December 3, 2025 an unannounced routine inspection of the Buxton Inert Landfill was conducted. Everything was noted as good and all deficiencies on the previous inspection have been corrected.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that she received notice from Midco Business that there will be a price increase of \$4.00 for the digital line on the next billing statement.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that she completed a survey for the US Census Bureau for the reporting of new building and zoning permits issued for new homes.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Spike's Construction is still waiting on the door for the city shed. The estimated date for the door to come in is January 24th. The completion of the project will be dependent on the weather.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that the first round of the ACH payments went well.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he replaced the American Flags with the last 2 flags on hand. Jackie presented the council with a quote for a 5x8 all-weather flag on Amazon for \$62.98 per flag. Ben Hershey made a motion to purchase 4 flags from Amazon at \$62.98 per flag; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Waste Management contract renewal is up this spring. Mayor Soderberg asked Jackie Siewert, city auditor, to contact our new Waste Management representative.

Mayor Soderberg wants to remind all residents to pull garbage and recycling containers off the street after they have been dumped for the ease of snow removal.

Mayor Soderberg had a realtor selling a house in Buxton inquire about set back requirements. Travis did not see anything in the current ordinances. There were setback requirements in the previous ordinances. Bobbi Hepper-Olson worked with the previous setback requirements and is going to research this for the city.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that on January 5th at 11:30pm there was a power blink that caused the generator switch to get stuck causing there to be no power from the pole or the generator to the lift station. Travis was able to pump down the water to a safe level. The next day he contacted Kirk Waslien with Waslien Electric. The panel was iced up. Kirk Waslien is going to order a cabinet heater. Mayor Soderberg also noted that the green light had not been working. The green light was filled with water. Kirk Waslien is also going to order a green light LED fixture.

Ben Hershey inquired if the tree pile needed to be burned. Mayor Soderberg stated that it is good although if the fire department wanted to burn it he could begin the process for a burn permit from the state. Mayor Soderberg stated that he would contact fire chief, Jeremy Billings.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received an email from Kayla Knutson, Traill County Tax Equalization Director, that the tax equalization meeting is currently scheduled for April 8, 2026 at 7pm. The regular council meeting would follow.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that next city council meeting will be February 11th at 7pm.

Jeff Siewert made a motion to adjourn; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor