

**City of Buxton**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
May 13, 2026 @ 7:00 PM  
Buxton Fire Hall

**Present:** Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold, Ben Hershey, Cassie Tostenson, Ken Nesvig, Tom Eblen, Dan Fuglesten, Jacob Unterseher and Jacob Unterseher Jr.

**Recording:** Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg. Mayor Soderberg stated that meeting was being recorded by the request of Cole Short, Hillsboro Banner.

Meeting minutes from the April 8, 2026 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Jeff Siewert; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

|        |                                  |           |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Direct | Visa Card                        | \$84.00   |
| Direct | Waste Management                 | \$4892.55 |
| Direct | Xcel Energy                      | \$1193.42 |
| 13329  | East Central Regional Water Dist | \$327.31  |
| 13330  | Hillsboro Banner                 | \$50.47   |
| 13331  | Midco                            | \$54.23   |
| 13332  | Thomas Moe                       | \$150.00  |
| 13333  | Xcel Energy                      | \$51.51   |
| 13334  | Jaqueline Siewert                | \$1616.12 |

Ben Hershey motioned to approve the bills; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2026 year to date financial and year to date budget comparison.

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

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Jacob Unterseher was in attendance to discuss the proposal to change the ordinance on chickens. Mr. Unterseher handed out a proposal addressing several common issues and problems with chickens and proposed guidelines to prevent these issues and problems from happening. His proposal included limits on the amount of chickens allowed, no roosters and chicken coop requirements. Jacob stated the main purposes for his request to allow chickens within city limits is to teach his kids stewardship and as well as providing food for his family. Cassie Tostenson, city attorney, explained code enforcement. She stated that being a small town it is very costly to enforce the ordinance. Mayor Soderberg is also concerned about the enforcing of the ordinance, some will be good and some won't. Keaton Flanagan stated even if we state chickens have to be kept in a pen we also state dogs need to be on leashes. Dogs can get off a leash. Ben Hershey asked if the city decided to allow chickens could the city switch back if it there are too many problems. Cassie suggested that if the city decides to allow chickens within city limits that the city requires an annual permit with a fee with strict guidelines to include limited number of chickens and no roosters. Holly Aamold stated that she understands that Jacob wants chickens for a purpose but her concern is will others have the same purpose. Mayor Soderberg also stated that there is concern of diseases. It was also discussed that Fargo requires a minimum/maximum coop size and Grand Forks requires residents to get approval from their neighbors. Mayor Soderberg asked the council if anyone wanted to make a motion to change the current ordinance to allow chickens to be kept within city limits. There was no motion to change the current ordinance prohibiting chickens. Mayor Soderberg and the council thanked Jacob and his son for attending the meeting and commended them on the well written proposal.

Mayor Soderberg moved to the bid opening for Parcel ID 31000410085020. It was confirmed that there were no bids received in the mail. Dan Fugelsten was the only bid holder present for the bid opening. Dan submitted his sealed bid to Cassie Tostenson. Cassie Tostenson opened the bid and advised the council that bid from Mr. Fugelsten was for \$1 and included a cashier's check for bid amount. Cassie stated that the city can decline the bid if they choose to. It was stated that the property has assessment balances of \$3,835.39 for the storm sewer and \$2,441.12 for the street. Mayor Soderberg also stated that Dan and Gary Fuglesten have cleaned up the property and maintained it for several years at no cost. Cassie stated that if the bid is accepted she could draw up a quit claim deed for the property and file it with Traill County. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept Dan Fugelsten's bid of \$1 for Parcel ID 31000410085020; Holly Aamold seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold, Ben Hershey. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Ken Nesvig and Tom Eblen, Traill County Commissioners, were in attendance to discuss Traill County Home Rule Charter and the benefits it could bring such as a new revenue source for special

projects. Ben Hershey inquired if there is a change in taxes once the project is final would the tax automatically be eliminated? Ken Nesvig explained that it would be stated in the tax proposal and voted for by the voters. Home Rule tax would apply to local taxable purchases and packages delivered to Buxton to include Amazon packages. Ken explained that it would also help with zoning and protects residents from data centers and cattle yards. Home Rule would have more control with zoning versus townships. Under Home Rule everything goes to the vote of the people. The county board doesn't have the power to make changes. Home Rule can't make ordinances but it could initiate a fine. Home Rule would also would eliminate elected officials and instead changing the positions to appointed or hired. The primary purpose to Home Rule is the funding.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he received a letter from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in regards to the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Matching Grant Program. They are delaying the consideration of grants for the spring application deadline due to some ongoing challenges to the program. They anticipate, but cannot guarantee, that funding will be available at some point later in 2026. The city had applied for a grant to offset the cost of coating the basketball and pickleball courts and a new pickleball net. Ben Hershey made a motion to move forward with the basketball and pickleball court coatings and pickleball net for \$22,195.00; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Mayor Soderberg stated that he would contact JB Surfaces.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council of an issue in April in regards to the basketball hoops and the heights. A resident contacted Travis and wanted the hoops to be lowered. Travis stated that the hoops were at regulation height and he would not lower them. The resident reached out to Mayor Soderberg on how changes can be made. Travis invited them to the May 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Travis advised the council that he does not have a tool to lower and raise the hoops. The council were all in agreeance if the hoops were lowered it would only encourage people to hang on the hoops which could lead to unforeseen expense of replacing hoops and backboards.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Jackie received a quote from M & K Porta Potties for an estimated cost of \$630/month for two porta potties. Jeff Siewert made a motion to accept M & K Porta Potties quote for \$630/month for two porta potties; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Holly Aamold inquired when the grills were going to be removed from the park shelter. Mayor Soderberg stated that he planned on having them removed after the meeting and disposing them Saturday when the city roll-offs arrive.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the parts for the wastewater lagoon repairs are starting to be delivered. The anticipated start date will be in July.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he found a company in Kentucky, Crushin Co. LLC, that could rebuild the control cable for the mosquito fogger. He mailed them the control cable and it was rebuilt and mailed back for \$336. Travis tested it and it works great.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he spoke to Delray Huot and he planned on starting to take down the planter this week with an anticipated completion date by June. Mayor Soderberg also stated that the City of Buxton was awarded a \$2000 beautification grant through the Traill County EDC. Mayor Soderberg thanked the Traill County EDC and their members for all that they do to help the city complete these projects.

Mayor Soderberg reminded the council that the roll-offs for city clean-up were being delivered Saturday morning.

Jackie Siewert stated that a thank you was received from the CV Post Prom for the City's donation.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that a quote was received from Ironhide Equipment for new forks for the toolcat for \$1200.00. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the quote from Ironhide Equipment for new forks for \$1200.00; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg also stated Central Valley Bean let the city him use their bucket sweeper to clean the gravel from the snow removal. A quote was received from Ironhide Equipment for a bucket sweeper but we will hold off until next year for consideration of that attachment purchase.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the annual testing for the mosquito fogger is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> through Van Diest.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he received a quote from Advanced Striping & Seal Coating to fill in approximately 21,000 linear feet of suitable cracks for \$27,300.00. Mayor Soderberg suggested that we hold off a year since we are doing the wastewater lagoon repairs. In the mean time, we can get additional quotes. Travis stated that he has noticed a fair amount of tar had peel off this winter with the snow removal.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had been in contact with Jet-Way in regards to getting a routine of flushing the city sewer lines. Travis stated that he going to work on sectioning out the city so we can begin a rotating schedule.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the city mower had a hydraulic leak. John Deere picked up the mower for repairs and left a replacement mower.

Holly Aamold advised the council that the fence around the lagoon was sprayed today for weeds by our city employees.

Mayor Soderberg asked Jackie to put a reminder in the next Buxton Beat that building permits are required for any projects over \$2500.00

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that next city council meeting will be June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Holly Aamold made a motion to adjourn; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

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City Auditor

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Council Member

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Mayor