REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STERLING, NEBRASKA

The Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Sterling, Nebraska, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office being a publicly convened meeting the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advanced publicized notice at the following locations: First Bank of Nebraska-Sterling, Sterling Public Library, and Village of Sterling Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Ralph Wusk. Absent: Dan Fraley. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Adrian Allen, and MaryAnn Pella.

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall. Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve Laffman Hot Rod Garage bill for $101.00 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Nieveen, and Wusk. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the September bills with the addition of Doug Schmidt for tornado siren repairs for $125, Samantha Gordon for $105.30 for mileage and change in amount for Community Insurance for addition of utility trailer coverage for a total of $18293.00 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: A Street Auto North, sup.-5.33; Atlas Automation, repairs-1020.00; Black Hills, heating-219.53; BMG CPA’s, payroll-330.00; BOK Financial, bond pmt.-30031.25; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Community Insurance Group, Inc., ins.-18293.00; Constellation, heating-25.13; Edward Jones, simple IRA-400.04; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-121.97; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-3781.73; Hamilton Equipment Company, skidloader-6500.00; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-9.93; Jet Stop, fuel-357.37; Kudu Lawn & Landscape, cemetery mowing-1250.00; Kuhl Construction LLC, haul blocks-200.00; Midwest Labs, samples-70.07; NPHEL, samples-500.00; NPPD, electricity-2515.44; One Call Concepts, Inc.-fee-21.82; Payroll September, payroll-7735.26; Payroll Taxes September, taxes-2011.49; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-196.08; Voice News, pub.-286.11; USPS, sup.-180.00; Waste Connections, refuse-5498.47; Windstream, telephone-335.72. Total: $83,533.09.

Chairman Keizer discussed the cancellation of the sublease agreement between Big Red Communications and Next Link (Future Technologies). Wusk made a motion to cancel the sublease agreement between Big Red Communications and Next Link (Future Technologies) and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. No public comment on the discussion of a sales tax increase.

Becky Barney, librarian, didn’t have a report.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed wastewater class in December out in Grand Island, talked to Billy Kaster about being a backup water operator since he’s got all the licenses as needed, gas company came and started new service installation for the generator at the well, Doug Schmidt checked out tornado siren today and found a battery needed replaced so got one from Wusk Repair and it’s back up and going again.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed a complaint on barking dogs and Mecure said he could send a letter then file a complaint if wasn’t remedied, also working with JEO on understanding and updating the zoning ordinance, and bill from Lincoln Winelectric for switch for generator at the well for $3,000 but count would pay out of approved ARPA funding.

Chairman Keizer discussed post card received from USPS regarding relocation of the post office and encouraged individuals to respond. Also, drafted up a response letter from the board with possibly locations that would be signed by board members.

Property clean-ups were discussed with two abatement actions filed and third has been dismissed. Going to add two more properties to the list of clean-ups.

No discussion on vacant property registrations. Downtown business sidewalks were discussed with setting up a special meeting with property owners.

School agreement was discussed with updated changes from Adrian Allen and the school board. Wusk made a motion to approve the agreement with Sterling Public Schools for use of the Sterling Community Park and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Relocating the burn and brush site was discussed with community burn permit being denied due to being within a quarter mile of a home, railroad tracks, and major highway. Board discussed possibly moving out to sewer pond site with still having it all fenced in and separate or purchase property around the sewer site. Brad Goracke turned in a quote to Spencer to replace the fence around the sewer ponds and making a separate fenced area for new burn site. Nieveen mentioned getting with the Extension office on how to make a good compost pile to make use of some of the clippings. Lempka made a motion to accept Brad Goracke’s quote for fencing around the sewer site and new brush site for an estimated $13,335.25 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Highway Allocation bond payments were discussed with paying bi-annual payments for principal and interest and possibly paying down the bonds after the Broadway Street bridge project is complete or using remaining funds on street repairs, board thought it would be best to put money into more street projects. Bids for time/temp sign was tabled due to not hearing back from two other companies for additional quotes. No action was taken on street repair bids. Wusk made a motion to appoint Justin Stark as our Class A street superintendent with license number S-1534 and Engineering license number E-13167 for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Keizer discussed putting engineering services out to bid earlier next year since street reporting and other programs are already in progress. Nieveen made a motion to approve Olsson’s master agreement work order for general engineering consulting services from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve Olsson’s master agreement work order for street superintendent services from January 1, 2023 through December 21, 2023 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Chairman Keizer discussed the acquisition of the Senior Center and Village Office space. Also asked the board if the Village would be interested in acquiring such building located at 130 Broadway Street in exchange for funds borrowed by the SCA from the Village keno proceeds for the new community building project. Board agreed that they would like to get an appraisal on the building first and to make sure they had a use for the building before agreeing to purchasing.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk