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, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall 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, USPS-Sterling, and Village of Sterling City Offices. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Ralph Wusk, Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Andy Thies via Zoom. Others present: Sandy Weyers, Ryan Hoffman, Audrey Keebler, Spencer Pagel, Adrian Allen, Brian Schuele, and Marissa Lempka.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the updated version of the Open Meetings Act and the location on the north wall of the Fire Hall. Chairman Keizer led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included payment of the following SCA Building Account bills: Frontier Cooperative $167.70, General Fire & Safety $10418.24, Fricke Construction $4235.79, and Hancock Lumber $1003.37 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Becky Barney, lib. Sup.-143.23; Black Hills, heating-590.62; BMG CPA’s, accountant-250.00; Buss Pest Control, pest control-120.00; Constellation, heating-8.53; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-358.97; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-504.68; Hamilton Equipment Company, repairs-596.22; Hancock Lumber, sup-43.79; Jet Stop, fuel-324.70; Kudo Lawn Care, cemetery mowing-1050.00; Lincoln Concrete Specialist, sup-525.90; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-100.00; NPPD, electricity-2331.41; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll October, payroll-5627.10; Payroll Taxes October, taxes-1520.92; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-113.52; Unico Group, bond-200.00; Voice News, publishing-146.02; Waste Connections, refuse-6635.56; Windstream, telephone-405.38; Wusk Power, rep. & maint.-779.63. Total: $23,366.18.

No public comment. Adrian Allen discussed the possibility of grading and leveling off practice field then reseeding the grass afterwards, the board was fine with this. Becky Barney wasn’t in attendance but discussed report with Samantha in that the after school program was going well, working on a grant that will be a 50/50 match for the library, and working on yearly report.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, well went down last Monday replacement parts have been ordered and should be here within six to eight weeks but waiting on insurance claim, rental is currently installed to get us by, also moving electrical panels for easier access so bid won’t be included on insurance claim, will be out of town on the 24th for training in Auburn, water main break last week at Depot & Greenwood Ave. and need to look into replacing this block section of water main from Atchison Street to Depot Street where some main is two inch, need to look into getting engineered plans since we would be going up in size of water main, camper should be out of park the Monday after Thanksgiving and has been paying weekly, Stan Karr has trailer blocking parking by school and Lempka will talk to about issue, three day classes are done for waste water training, no parking on streets for snow removal signs will be put up, did insurance walk around with Community Insurance Group, and waiting for replacement banners to come in to get installed.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed adjusting water billing for Sterling Dental Clinic down to a single household use of $15 since he’s only open one day a week now and raising Hancock Lumber’s with the addition of the new business upstairs and more water usage. The board agreed that Sterling Dental Clinic’s bill should be lowered to a single household use and Hancock Lumber’s should be the same as Scott’s Place. Also, reminded board to review committees as we will appoint new at our December meeting. And asked if the board was fine with doing another coloring contest for December, which they were okay with.

Chairman Keizer discussed being out of town on vacation from November 17th until December 5th so Andy would have to fill in for special meeting.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, meeting planned for December 1st and will be setting all of meetings for next year, Bill Moss is not building a shed just reseeding lot, no other inquiries about changes building wise, and need to advertise and have a public hearing for zoning change.

Property cleanups were discussed and need to update Mecure if things are still needing cleaned up on those that have received letters.

Bonding interest rate was discussed with getting an interest rate of 2.27% for the bridge replacement project on E. Locust Street.

Marissa Lempka discussed community building updates, have had a couple open houses, waiting on ordering flooring which is a light oak color and multi-purpose flooring with basketball lines, need fifty percent down on flooring and takes six to nine weeks to get in, bathroom fixtures are getting installed this week, countertops are getting ordered, going to fix transition from walk way into big room, in the home stretch, no rental agreements until flooring is installed just due to COVID except already rented for Graduation next year, still need to negotiate with school on use of building, basketball hoops are in, events are down to 25% occupancy right now so hard to have any events now so not going to do a pitch tournament, Christmas tree lighting is December 6th, increasing loan in the amount of $40K for flooring, needing more rock, and second half of fire alarm system, and discussed utility bills and how the SCA would reimburse for these under an operational agreement. Mecure is going to draft up an operational agreement that would address the utility bills.

Mecure is going to file two complaints on vacant property registrations that have not been paid. And going to send notices to two that were on a six-month grace period. Zito media contract was discussed and going to look into signing a five-year instead of fifteen-year contract. Lempka made a motion to renew Zito Media’s contract for five-years and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. No FEMA updates. Street repair bid letter was discussed with bids being due November 17th. Discussion of recycling and refuse fees were discussed. Nieveen made a motion to offer recycling to country residents for a fee of $10/month and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Nieveen made a motion to appoint Tollie Riensche, Brenda Thies, Evi Wusk, Cassie Pfeiffer, and Christine Andrews as members of the library board and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: Yays: Nieveen, Lempka, Thies, and Keizer. Obstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-11 SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENT 2020** and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to accept Sargent Drilling quote for well controller repair and rental of temp. VFD and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve keno license application for a new keno sales outlet (satellite) at Hancock Lumber LLC. DBA: The Hammer and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Discussed Farmers Cooperative utility billing refund or credit due to billing for propane office at storage units by Jet Stop. Nieveen made a motion to apply a six-month credit to Farmers Cooperative’s account due to being billed for the propane office and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to adopt one- and six- year Street Improvement Program for 2021-2026 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Brian Schuele, Olsson, discussed FEMA deadline coming up November 15th, and discussed Broadway Street bridge project to see if county was going to be involved or not. Lempka made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-12 WHEREAS, THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, has conducted a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Public Roads Classification and Standards, NOW, THEREFORE, be is resolved by the Chairperson and Village Board that the One and Six Year Plan for streets as presented at said public hearing has been accepted and approved** and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Appreciation dinner was discussed with Scott’s Place being location need to check into dates in January. Wusk made a motion to increase the line of credit for the community building by $40,000 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Delinquent water bills were discussed, and notices will be sent out. In the future we can include a notice on utility bills to notify that once balance gets to two months then they will be shut off and then no 24-hour notice would be needed per Mecure.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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