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, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office in 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, Andy Thies, Steve Lempka, and Tom Nieveen. Others present: Audrey Keebler, Steve & Edith Myers, Vane Rengstorf, Emily Bausch, Ann Wicket, Todd Blome, and Ryan Hoffman.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the north wall of the Village Office. Chairman Keizer led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Lempka made a motion to accept the consent agenda: which includes approval of regular meeting minutes; approval of bills including SCA Building Account Al Wusk Electric for $9,380.92; approval of monthly transfer to solid waste and General from sewer and water; and amend the agenda and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Barco, signs-78.95; Black Hills, heating-526.19; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; Constellation, heating-223.68; Cut & Curl, village bucks reimb.-30.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-187.67; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-277.78; Gilland Electric, Ehmen’s electrical-287.59; Hamilton, Equipment Co., snow pusher-1901.55; Jet Stop, fuel-213.20; Johnson County Treasurer, taxes-10.00; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-60.00; Midwest Laboratories Inc., fees-322.00; NPHEL, fees-262.00; NPPD, electricity-2282.50; NR Marketing, 375.00; NWEA, dues/fees-15.00; Olsson, consulting-1630.20; Payroll November, payroll-5247.33; Payroll Taxes November, taxes-1255.89; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-240.00; Scotts Place, Village Bucks Reimb.-25.00; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-103.20; Voice News, publishing-138.02; Waste Connections, refuse-4606.06; Windstream, telephone-392.87; Wusk Repair, parts-16.00. Total: $9,380.92.

John asked if anyone else would want to be the chairman of the board. Lempka made a motion to keep John Keizer as chairman of the board and Thies seconded. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. John discussed making changes to the committees. Nieveen made a motion to keep committees as listed from last year and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

School board representative was not present at meeting. Wusk attended last school board meeting with nothing Village related to discuss.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, was absent due to fire department training at the Cook school. Discharging is complete, salt spreader is fixed and ready to go, and sanitation survey is complete with needing to get records all in one place.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed federal offices being required to fly POW MIA flag so didn’t know if we should as well, board agreed that it sounded like a good idea we would just need to get one ordered, board needs to choose Christmas yard of the month by the beginning of next week, and about changing office hours to evenings and a full day on Saturday. Board members were fine with the change of office hours and would like to keep me ask Village Clerk.

John discussed letter from JEO Consulting Group and NNRD regarding hazard mitigation training for FEMA disasters for this next year. Emily from Olsson highly suggested this as we could get more FEMA funding in the case of future disasters if this was completed. Lempka made a motion to appoint John Keizer as the main point of contact for hazard mitigation training next year and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Also, we received a letter offering legal services for the up and coming year from Solheim Law Firm but board decided to pass as Nestor & Mecure have been serving the town just fine.

Property cleanups were discussed and going to hold off until after holidays.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, discussed increase in privacy fence to eight feet, changes to building permit fee calculations, Doug Schmidt’s building permit still not complete. Final extension was sent out to Doug in January with a deadline of July 16, 2019. Lempka made a motion to file a complaint against Doug Schmidt if his building permit isn’t satisfied within 60 days and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Also, attended a class on flood plain management at the Ashland Air & Space Museum and found that a lot of towns weren’t prepared for the flooding this year and some other valuable information on updating our flood maps, etc. Jordan Pavey turned in her letter of resignation from the zoning board. Samantha needs to advertise for vacant position.

John reminded board of comprehensive plan update meeting January 7th at 6:30 P.M. Community Center project is still moving right along as planned and SCA is continuing the fundraising for the remaining funds. Water meters were discussed with Emily suggesting to fill out the needs survey for some low interest financing or possible grants.

Todd Blome, BMG CPA’s, reviewed audited financials, explaining that valuations have gone up, was an average year for sales tax, went over comparative schedules of revenues, expenditures, and changes in cash. One- and six-year street improvement program for 2020-2025 was discussed with no changes made to presented program. Nieveen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-4 the 1 & 6 year street improvement program as presented and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Resolution 2019-5 SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF CITY STREET SUPERINTDENT FORM 2019 was discussed. Thies made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-5 SIGNING OF THE YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENT FORM 2019 and assigning Justin Stark as street superintendent and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Vacant property registration was discussed with making sure that 780 Broadway Street was removed from the listing due to the purchase and change of residence of the house. FEMA updates and Olsson’s contract for the E. Locust Street bridge repair project were reviewed. Wusk made the motion to accept Olsson’s contract for the E. Locust Street bridge project with the following changes: to include FEMA provisions, compensation table to time and material not to exceed for survey and geo-tech, exclusions to list owner as FEMA in review discussion, to cover an as-built design on water and sanitary, and removal of 6.2 arbitration or litigation clause and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Newspaper advertising was discussed with the Voice News having 78 local subscribers and the Tecumseh Chieftain having 136, the board decided to continue advertising as is to accommodate the residents. Nieveen made a motion to accept S&L Lawn Care’s cancellation agreement at the request of contractor and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Need to advertise cemetery mowing contract around first of January and first of February with bids due by the first of March. Appreciation dinner was discussed with January 12th, 2020 chosen as a date at Scott’s Place…The Legacy.

Delinquent water bills were discussed and notices will be sent out.

Nieveen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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