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 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall in a publicly convened meeting the same being open to the public and having been preceded by advanced publicized notice. Chairman Dennis Heusman called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Vane Rengstorf, Greg Peterson, and Sean Moss. Absent: Scott Buss. Others present: Steve Mercure, Leroy Riensche, Audrey Keebler, Spencer Pagel, Roger Moss, Kevin McAuliffe, Bill Moss, Derek Belding, Doug Schmidt, John Moss, Roger Huls, Andy Thies, Steve Lempka, Eldon & Sue Wilken, and Joe Pella. Chairman Heusman acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the north wall of the Sterling Fire Hall.

Rengstorf made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2016 meeting and Moss seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Peterson made a motion to approve the bills as follows Moss seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Barco, signs-537.40; Black Hills Energy, fuel-297.74; BMG, fee-45.00; Brenda Brammeier, cleaning-80.00; Constellation Energy, heating fuel-265.18; Darrell Janda, trees-200.00; D.J. Gongol. Pump-5630.99; Farmers Coop., propane-52.62; First National Bank of Omaha, supplies-179.71; First National Bank of Omaha, shop supplies-421.25; Hamilton Equip., bobcat-2750.00; Jet Stop, fuel-123.73; Johnson County Treasurer, taxes-10.16; Kaye Heusman, cleaning-80.00; Kuhl Trenching, repairs-2592.00; NPHEL, fee-317.00; NPPD, electricity, 2995.38; One Call Concepts, fee-15.57; Payroll-4421.28; Payroll Taxes-665.83; Postmaster, stamps lib.-94.00; Quill, lib. Sup.-27.75; Recycling Enterprises, recycling-240.00; Sterling Lumber, supplies-637.43; Southeast Area Clerks Assoc., dues-10.00; SENDD, dues-548.00; Spencer Pagel, phone and ins.-360.00; Steve Mercure, monthly retainer-100.00; Steve Weiss, fee-121.58; Street Décor, Inc., Christmas lights-3533.00; Sunrise Publications, pub.-14.23; Twila Wusk, wall paper repair-60.00; Voice News, pub.-87.23; Waymire Well, park lights.-487.43; Windstream, phones-352.78; Wusk Power Equipment, repairs-273.95. Total: $28,628.22.

Sean Moss handed out resignation letter to board of trustees due to moving outside of city limits. Heusman made a motion to accept resignation and Peterson seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Board adjourns meeting to swear in new board.

Steve Mecure, village attorney, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected board members: Andy Thies and Steve Lempka. Since this was the annual reorganizational meeting nominations were taken for chairman. Steve Lempka nominated Greg Peterson and Andy Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Peterson will serve as chairman of the board. Peterson called the meeting to order. Trustees answering call: Denny Heusman, Andy Thies, and Steve Lempka. No appointments of personnel or committees were made this month. Peterson will make appointments at the January meeting.

Peterson discussed advertising for vacant board member position until December 29th and discussing applicants at a special meeting January 3rd. Building permits were tabled until the January meeting so that we can get a current list of delinquent permits and discuss them further with the new board members. Mecure and Heusman discussed Community Association building taxes, they should be exempt from taxes since it’s a non-profit organization but going to contact Sterling Community Association to make sure. Property clean-ups were tabled until January so that new board members could get filled in and know what codes are.

John Moss asked about the progress on Conradi’s property. Mecure stated that he was sent a letter but still don’t know where ex-wife is to get her to sign off on property. Peterson discussed filing a legal complaint about the property nuisance needing to be cleaned up. Steve Lempka made a motion to file a complaint against Conradi and Andy Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Doug Schmidt asked about progress on building permits that he had turned in to Steve Weiss. Going to find out what is going on or get him new permits so they are current. Joe Pella brought up concern about chickens and cats running around town. The code book states: It shall be unlawful for the owner of any cow, hog, horse, mule, sheep, goat, dog, chicken, turkey, goose, or other animal except a cat to permit the animal to run at large at any time on any of the public ways and property or the property of another in the village or to be tethered or staked out in such a manner so as to allow the animal to reach or pass into any public way or property or any property of another. Peterson addressed concern and is going to send out letters to property owner stating the code.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reported that new Christmas lights were purchased and replaced and old ones were donated to St. Mary’s. Also, park is closed and locked up for the winter.

Steve Lempka made a motion to go into executive session at 8:09 P.M. to discuss employee evaluations and Peterson seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to end executive session at 8:37 P.M. Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Peterson discussed employee evaluations and raises. Peterson made a motion to give Sue Wilken, librarian, a $1/hour raise. Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Peterson made a motion to table salary employee reviews/raises until the January meeting and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Peterson made a motion to back pay Spencer his $1,000/year raise from date of water/sewer licenses and also to include a $1,000 raise of his salary Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Delinquent utility bills were discussed and shut off notices will be send out then posted to those in arrears.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

 Greg Peterson, Chairman of the Board Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk