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, 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, Ralph Wusk, and Dan Fraley. Others present: Todd Blome, Chuck Wingert, and Tony Diaz.

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall and lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Wusk made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve Laffman Hot Rod Garage bill for $660.70 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Fraley, Nieveen, and Wusk. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Fraley made a motion to approve the November bills and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: A Street Auto North, sup.-43.74; Al Rogman, repairs-150.00; American Legal Publishing, code books-650.00; Aqua-Chem, Inc., sup.-307.95; Black Hills, heating-1097.43; Blue Valley Door Co., Inc., repairs-302.50; BMG CPA’s, payroll-50.00; Caspers Tree Service, tree removal and trimming-2400.00; City of Tecumseh, handibus contract-300.00; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Edward Jones, simple IRA-405.90; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-538.85; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-222.62; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-25.97; Jet Stop, fuel-91.80; Johnson County Treasurer, taxes-10.18; Kuhl Construction LLC, repairs-277.50; Lincoln Concrete Specialists, street repairs and new approach at fire hall-17817.50; Maguire Iron, Inc., water tower maint.-46535.00; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NPPD, electricity-1939.46; Payroll November, payroll-7839.10; Payroll Taxes November, taxes-2037.40; Olsson, street sup.-158.88; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; SENDD, OOR fees-6065.00; Steve Mercure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-79.20; USPS, sup.-180.00; Voice News, pub.-161.17; Waste Connections, refuse-5485.40; Windstream, telephone-327.68. Total: $96,821.28.

Mercure administered the oath of office to re-elected board members John Keizer, Ralph Wusk, and Tom Nieveen. Keizer discussed annual reorganization and asked for a nomination for Chairman of the board. Lempka made a motion to appoint John Keizer as Chairman of the Board and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Wusk, Fraley, and Nieveen. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Keizer made a motion to appoint Ralph Wusk as pro-temp chairman and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion for committees to remain the same as previously appointed and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Becky Barney, librarian, had no report for the board.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, wasn’t in attendance due to a wastewater training in Grand Island but had nothing to report. Nieveen mentioned the need to sign up for an applicators license with training coming up in February.

Todd Blome, BMG CPA’s, reviewed audited financials with the board with no major concerns.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk/zoning administrator, discussed Binders asking for rip/rap from the dump but another person has already spoken for it, informed board of previous history of wells within the Village and the need to vacate a portion of S. Main Street that has no access. Also, discussed allowing storage containers within the Village and the need for adopting regulations for such, which the board didn’t want in residential districts. Discussed water rates for buildings within residential districts and board agreed to use normal residential rates since that’s the way property is zoned. Then reviewed Lincoln Concrete’s bid for sidewalk replacement throughout downtown and options for handicap access for the Post Office and board agreed to hold off until Spring.

Tony Diaz asked the board what they had planned for the old Depot lot south of Scott’s with having a couple options in mind to either make the property public parking or sell it to Scott’s for a dollar and then will no longer have to maintain the vacant lot. Board discussed the Depot lot and agreed to make it public parking by putting down some sort of barrier for grass and weed control and rocking the lot. Tony also offered to host the appreciation dinner for the board. Board agreed to host appreciation dinner at Scott’s in January.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, informed the board of the pitch tournament coming up on New Year’s Eve. Samantha received application for an SDL for the pitch tournament from Sterling Community Association. Lempka made a motion to approve an SDL for SCA on December 31st and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Fraley, Lempka, and Nieveen. Abstained: Keizer.

Property clean-ups were discussed with Mercure filing for hearings on two properties and asking for a time frame on demolition of another.

Keizer discussed a new location for an additional well and needing to get with Chuck Wingert on capping the downtown well. Also, discussed acquisition of the Sr. Center and office space from the Sterling Community Association with getting an estimated value from BJ. Board agreed to purchase the building with funds the SCA owes the Village and to see if there are funds available for renovations to the upstairs portion of the building. Discussion on purchasing SnapOn tool cart and tools was tabled until the next meeting with needing more details.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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