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 8th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom 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, USPS-Sterling, and Village of Sterling Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Ralph Wusk, Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Andy Thies. Others present: Sandy Weyers, Ryan Hoffman, Spencer Pagel, Adrian Allen, and Brian Schuele.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged 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: Practice Sports for $20,071.50 upon completion of installation of flooring and addition from General of BOK Financial for $750.00 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: American Legal Publishing Corp., code books-650.00; Aqua-Chem, Inc., sup.-179.10; Black Hills, heating-830.60; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; City of Tecumseh, repairs-500.00; Jackie Eickhoff, refund of fire hall rental-75.00; Constellation, heating-215.53; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-192.54; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-29.49; Hancock Lumber, sup.-1.10; Jet Stop, fuel-129.27; Johnson County Treasurer, taxes-9.96; Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc., repairs-907.00; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-20.00; Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha, sup.-790.01; NPPD, electricity-2306.48; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll November, payroll-5954.60; Payroll Taxes November, taxes-1546.10; Olsson, labor-110.15; Quickbooks, sup.-164.98; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-108.36; Voice News, publishing-149.81; Waste Connections, refuse-5684.30; Windstream, telephone-256.73. Total: $21,821.22.

No public comment.

Administered oath of office to Steve Lempka and Andy Thies. Nieveen made a motion to appoint John Keizer as Village Chairman and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Keizer made a motion to appoint Andy Thies as pro-temp chairman and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Thies, Wusk, and Keizer. Abstained: Thies. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to keep committees and personnel the same as last year with the change of librarian to Becky Barney and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to appoint Denise Horstman, Jill McAuliffe, Wilma Nieveen, Linda Hronek, and Vane Rengstorf as cemetery board members along with Tom Nieveen being the Village board representative and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Thies, Lempka, Wusk, and Keizer. Abstained: Nieveen. Motion carried.

Chairman Keizer and Brian Schuele discussed being approved from FEMA for the E. Locust Street bridge from the appeal that had been submitted. Broadway Street bridge was discussed with it being less complex than E. Locust Street bridge with only a water line to the South of bridge. Spencer discussed relocating a fire hydrant from Moss’s lot while working with the E. Locust Street bridge project. Wetland delineation permit is limited to growing season but could work on bidding Broadway Street project in the meantime.

Librarian report from Samantha library commission is not currently doing accreditation for library during the COVID so we won’t be able to get accredited until 2022. Also, discussed matching grant for the accreditation and what the board would be willing to match either $500 or $1,000 to go towards being accredited. Need to get a rough estimate as to what it would consist of and come back to board since we have time with the current pandemic delaying things.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, ceiling tiles that have been purchased are all up in the library, but older tiles don’t match new tiles so suggested replacing the remaining tiles since the roof has been repaired, approximately $225 to finish off and approximately $190 in replacing what he has so far, and possibly sell good used ceiling tiles. Lempka made a motion to finish off replacing ceiling tiles in the library and sell old tiles and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Big Red looking at coming next Tuesday to install cameras, spoke with TJ from Big Red about allowing sheriff’s office to have access to cameras that will be password protected, relocated a couple cameras that were going to located behind Fire Hall and Scott’s to other locations. Not going to relocate equipment from Fire Hall for cameras but will keep them in there without having to move all the wires and equipment. Attending hazard mitigation training class with John, and water class in Tecumseh tomorrow. Got a nick in windshield but safelite has been here to repair already so it doesn’t crack, bill was paid for by credit card but going to be reimbursed from insurance claim. Camper is out of park and will have open this next week since it’ll be nice out but then will winterize and close up. DR&G Services, LLC used approximately 11,900 gallons of water for railroad repairs without permission and need to bill the usage back to them. Nieveen made a motion to bill back to them for $0.20/gallon and let them know that they aren’t allowed to tie into a water hydrant in the future Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Equipment will be ready for snow later this week with salt spreader installed. New Bobcat should be here sometime next week. Lempka received a complaint about having no dumpster for rural customers over the weekend so need to check with garbage company to see why.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed St. Mary dumpster being misused by customers and needing to get a list of who all uses that site instead of the Sterling site. Board agreed to bill usage back to customer misusing the service.

John Keizer discussed community building updates with electrical needing inspections, needing more rock, and adding another entrance to the West.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, was not present for a report.

Board decided to remove 440 Main Street from clean up list, need to let Mecure know since he is not present.

Alan Rogman’s bid was discussed for street repairs. Lempka approved Alan Rogman’s bid in the amount of $3126 for street repairs pending bonding and insurance and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Vacant property registrations were discussed with Mecure assessing fees against two more properties.

Keizer discussed SCA agreement for community building that Mecure had drafted up for borrowing of funds for completion of the building. Wusk made a motion to approve the agreement between the Village of Sterling and Sterling Community Association and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Appreciation dinner was set for January 17th at Scotts Place. Nieveen made a motion to approve the purchase of four new Sterling banners in the amount of $494.00 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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