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, February 14, 2023 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: Spencer Pagel, Denise Horstman, Jill McAuliffe, Deputy Furtado, and Deputy Anderson.

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall and lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Nieveen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the January bills with the Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha bill coming out of the highway allocation bond account for bridge expenses and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills, heating-1949.97; BMG CPA’s, payroll-7550.00; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-657.51; Edward Jones, simple IRA-405.90; Eric McDonald, repairs-1045.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-588.60; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-1005.13; Five Star, carpet cleaning-734.00; Hancock Lumber, sup.-40.96; Jet Stop, fuel-183.99; Jorgensen Surveying, fee-625.00; Kerner True Value, sup.-79.96; Main Street Designs, brackets-118.02; Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha, valves & couplings-2981.54; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2146.70; Payroll January, payroll-7857.10; Payroll Taxes January, taxes-2032.12; Olsson, fee-96.25; Scotts Place, app dinner-225.00; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Sterling Public Schools, license monies-20.00; Steve Mercure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-155.52; Tecumseh Chieftain, lib. Sub.-98.00; USPS, sup.-180.00; Voice News, pub-171.24; Waste Connections, refuse-6596.84; Windstream, telephone-330.20. Total: $39,195.69.

Deputy Jayda Furtado presented the board about shootings in communities our size and the number of shootings already this year. Also, discussed Sterling’s growth over the past couple of years and risk at the Sterling Public Schools, DHHS intakes increasing thus year so far, and summer festivities bringing on increased numbers of DUI’s. Wanted the board to work together with the school board and JCSO to keep our community safe.

Denise Horstman, cemetery secretary, discussed updating the by laws and acquisition of family plots of a deceased great grandfather. Mercure recommended that since the plots were family plots the family could determine who would inherit the remaining plots.

Spencer Pagel, Broadway Street bridge is closed, valve is installed on East side of the bridge on Broadway St., asphalt is cut and hammered out for installation of another valve, meeting set for Friday with VanKirk, engineers, and Black Hills for a utility meeting for bridge installation. John discussed request from St. Johns Lutheran Church wanting bridge planks and Jake Saathoff wanted guardrails which board agreed to let them have.

Samantha Gordon has received two building permits for fences, SEACA luncheon and meeting on Thursday in Wymore, summer ball teams coming together, using empty back room of the office for Girl Scouts cookies, temporary camping in downtown commercial district was discussed with board approving this on a temporary basis and conditional use permit given out to property owners, and time limit discussed on camping at the park with no changes made at this time.

Chairman Keizer plans to be on vacation in June so won’t be at the regular board meeting. Also, asked Mercure about request for bids being increased to $30K instead of $25K in the Nebraska codes but would have to do some checking on this for future bidding.

Property clean-ups were discussed with Mercure filing a nuisance on one property, sending a letter out on another, and hearings set for March 6th on two other properties.

John discussed agreement with Sterling Community Association on purchasing the building space at 130 Broadway St. and using the keno funds for purchasing of building after review by BMG for community betterment guidelines and setting a closing date with Mercure on such. Samantha turned in application to NNRD for their Urban Special Project matching funds grant for landscaping with native plants at the community building from Heritage Nursery out of Lincoln.

Lempka made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2023-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING BY SEALED BIDS and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Mercure advised the board that the Village is not required to publish the meeting minutes in a newspaper they just need to be available for public inspection within ten days from meeting. Nieveen made a motion to discontinue the publishing of meeting minutes in the local newspapers by just having them available for public inspection within ten days and by posting them on the Village website effective after this month’s meeting and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Chairman Keizer introduced ORDINANCE 2023-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, VACATING THE ALLEY IN BLOCK SEVENTEEN (17), AND THE ALLEY IN BLOCK NINETEEN (19), ALL IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF STERLING, JOHNSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA. Wusk made a motion to waive the three time reading on Ordinance 2023-02 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen moved ORDINANCE 2023-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, VACATING THE ALLEY IN BLOCK SEVENTEEN (17), AND THE ALLEY IN BLOCK NINETEEN (19), ALL IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF STERLING, JOHNSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA for final passage and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha opened sealed bids for the cemetery mowing contract for three years commencing April 1, 2023 with receiving two bids: Kudu Lawn Care for $1350/mowing and trimming service and Jason’s Handyman Service for $1750/mowing and trimming every other time. Wusk made a motion to accept Kudu Lawn Care’s bid for $1350 per mowing and trimming service commencing April 1, 2023 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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