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, March 10, 2020 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: Vane Rengstorf, Audrey Keebler, Spencer Pagel, Ryan Hoffman, Marissa Lempka, Steve & Edith Myers, Sandy Weyers, Dan Fraley, Mary Lafferty, and Eric McDonald.

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.

Nieveen made a motion to accept the consent agenda: which includes approval of regular meeting minutes; approval of bills with exception of Kuhl Trenching bill, removal of Unico bill from February meeting for $200 due to a credit on account from previous bond and approval of Hancock Lumber for $6987.86 from SCA Building Account; approval of monthly transfer to solid waste and General from sewer and water; and amend the agenda and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills, heating-652.92; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; Constellation, heating-824.60; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-380.36; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-66.49; Hancock Lumber, sup-20.57; Home and Farm Ins., ins.-2363.00; Independent Salt Company, salt-938.00; Jet Stop, fuel-97.51; Kuhl Trenching, repairs-18670.00; Midwest Lab, sup.-70.00; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-40.00; NPHEL, fees-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2076.46; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll Feb., payroll-5659.83; Payroll Taxes Feb, taxes-1343.93; Olsson, consulting-6995.50; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-77.40; Voice News, publishing-237.65; Waste Connections, refuse-4546.06; Windstream, telephone-393.67. Total: $46,494.05.

Wusk made a motion to approve Kuhl Trenching bill for sewer repairs on E. Locust Street in the amount of $18,670.00 depending on Olsson’s review and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Emily Bausch couldn’t attend meeting but wanted to go over Kuhl Trenching bill compared to bid that was submitted. Sterling Board of Education was going to be meeting along with a few others from the community to discuss usage of the community building. Sonja Wenzl from Community Insurance Group was wanting to put in a bid for our insurance renewal coming up in October.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, Iowa Pump Works will be here next week to install high tide and they do offer yearly service plan to inspect everything yearly for a cost of $1430/year. Called Aero Fence again today with no answer or response to get backstop fixed and discussed taking some trees down at the park. Need to flush hydrants this Spring as well. Big Red was down today to install an access point on the Village Office for the cameras, hoping NPPD can be down by the end of April to install electrical boxes. Advertise old pumps with the league or Nebraska Rural Water Association to get rid of them. Also, discussed fixing fans at Fire Hall or replacing since band will be in there for picnic.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed purchasing pens, keychains, etc. for promotional giveaways during the 150-year celebration but wanted to find some reputable companies to go through. Mary Lafferty mentioned she had a couple she had used in the past she could hook us up with. Mary also discussed banner bids for Broadway Street form Mainstreet Designs, Inc. and Sign Solutions of Lincoln with a couple of options available. Board felt that the 150-year didn’t have to be as high of quality since they would only be used for a year. Thies made a motion to purchase 6 screen print and 6 vinyl double sided signs from Mainstreet Designs and spend up to $425 on a banner for across the street and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, discussed complaints about alley by church being drove on still with barricades being moved. Nieveen has a couple posts that we can set to block the alley, so it’s not drove on and Mecure can send out a letter. Authorized $75 for graphics for 150-year celebration for website. Will be on vacation March 28-April 18th, Andy will be pro-temp. Also, attending seminar from Suez on lining water mains.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, approved two new building permits: Hancock is putting up a lean-to to protect wood and lumber, and Jason Harms permit for a single-family dwelling house. Doug Schmidt’s extension has been long past but Mecure has sent him a letter for permit to be complete by April 1st. Owens plans to move new shed so that it’s offset out of alley, Lempka’s house is complete and notice of occupancy has been issued.

Meeting times will change to a 7:30 start time in April. Vane discussed the need to have cemetery cleaned up this Spring, going to contact SKILLS to discuss helping with this. Cemetery bids were reviewed with only receiving one from Kudu Lawn Care. Eric McDonald was in attendance with a bid because he was under the impression, we had not received a bid yet. Lempka made a motion to reject Kudu Lawn Care’s bid based on the mowing time frames being every two weeks instead of weekly or as needed for funerals and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Cemetery board member along with Wusk will negotiate bids for cemetery mowing and make a recommendation to board at next meeting.

Community center framing is almost complete, concrete work will be started as soon as weather cooperates, architect will be walking through building this week, fundraising brochure will be going out and open house April 26th, sewer will be installed and hydrotesting will hopefully be complete next week, extension letter for grant due to completion date changing. Ehmen’s Add. Lot was discussed with hay being stacked on lot 7 which is zoned residential, tractors being driven on Village Streets, and farming clover on lots in city limits. No response from letter from Mecure on Ehmen’s Add. Lots. Board discussed sending out another letter to address commercial use in a residential area. File complaint if bales aren’t removed within 15 days from date of letter from Mecure. FEMA is still in the eligibility determination stand still so waiting to hear an update. Assessing of fees for unregistered vacant property registrations per ordinance 2018-6 section 8 was discussed and three have been deferred, three cancelled, one outside of village limits, and four will be assessed when due.

One letter of interest was received for the open Summer Recreation Director position being Austin Buss. Lempka made a motion to hire Austin Buss as Summer Recreation Director and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Summer help was discussed with needing to get it advertised and board members and utility superintendent have a list to possibly keep two people busy for the term. Spraying was removed from job description as you are required to have a public application license to do so, which Spencer will be working on getting.

Nieveen made a motion to go into executive session at 8:55 to discuss personnel and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:03 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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