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 8, 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: Ralph Wusk, Danny Fraley, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Vane Rengstorf, Spencer Pagel,

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall then lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. VanKirk Bros. Contracting pay app was tabled as we didn’t have an amount in time for the meeting. No bill for Wusk Repair. Wusk made a motion to approve the Laffman Hot Rod Garage bill for $623.97 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote yeas: Lempka, Fraley, Wusk, and Nieveen. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the remaining bills with the addition of Home & Farm for work comp. insurance in the amount of $2304.00.

These bills were approved for payment: Arbor Day Foundation, donation-50.00; Black Hills, heating-145.39; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-899.64; Eric McDonald Contracting, repairs-400.07; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-400.73; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-725.46; Jet Stop, fuel-332.00; Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc., repairs-560.00; Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha, sup.-2646.05; NPPD, electricity-2095.03; NPHEL, samples-24.90; Payroll February, payroll-7915.27; Payroll Taxes February, taxes-2191.04; Roof Guard, LLC, repairs-3600.00; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-169.65; USPS, sup.-174.00; Voice News, pub.-110.25; Waste Connections, refuse-5164.95; Windstream, telephone-327.43. Total: $30,061.88.

Vane Rengstorf discussed someone wanting to donate some red oak trees to be placed on the West side of the cemetery and needs the towns permission. Also, needs more garbage cans at the cemetery which Nieveen said he could handle. Board was fine with the planting of trees on the West side of the cemetery.

Becky Barney, librarian, is working on becoming a 501c(3) and already has the articles of incorporation and tax id done. The Zink family is going to be donating funding to the library, so trying to find some options of what to do with it.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, getting ready for the upcoming snow storm, has a list of street repair bids, waiting for a warm day to get with Gary Kuhl to get the new valve in and main fixed by the apartments, meet with Big Red on camera locations and talked to Adrian Allen about an antennae on top of the school to reach the park, the school will be tearing the house down to the South, Dion is done with the lean-to and added some flashing between the building and lean-to and going to replace a downspout, and Senior center roof was tarped down.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed zoning vacancies and one interested candidate. Nieveen made a motion to appoint Troy Huetson on the zoning board and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Board discussed possible fees for zoning variances/conditional use permits/change of zoning with recommendations of $200 or $500 and deciding to go with a $200 fee. This change will be approved next month per a resolution. Wusk made a motion to approve John & Mycala Moss’s lot split for property with legal description Sterling-Bentz Add Lot 7 & W9.7’ Lot 8 Blk 1 (0.86A) and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, SCA has a contractor in line for the roof replacement and contacted insurance company about getting a quote from another adjuster for the roof on the Senior center, received a call from Brent Heusman that Lewiston High School has requested to use our football field for three or four of their home games as their field is getting redone, that the Village would charge $50/game to recoup some of the maintenance cost and lights. Steve Weiss stopped by and talked about the following: house demolition of Derrick Buss’s needing to be secured-John talked to Scott Buss and told them to put up a temporary fence; Ike Heusman demolition cannot be burnt in town-to our knowledge there is no such resolution; fire hydrant size from 4” to 6”-no such resolution has been found; salt getting into the water where storing currently-well in the old city hall is shut off due to arsenic so no worries; and recommended to take generator from the sewer ponds to the well and get a smaller one for the well-one at sewer ponds is only 38KW and would need a 120KW for the well. Landscaping at the community building is roughly $17K with retaining walls and flower gardens, NNRD would only pay for flower gardens and must be native trees or plants. Lempka mentioned having people in the community volunteer to do the retaining walls. Also, Ralph is registered for the general election this fall. Lempka and Keizer meet with John and Roger Moss to see design and plans that they are working on with their engineer.

Property clean-ups were discussed with letters sent out to four people. Board directed Mecure to file nuisance abatement action on them if not cleaned up by March 23rd as stated in letters.

Vacant property registration letters will be sent out. No update on FEMA. Mecure discussed sidewalk repairs and plans to get downtown sidewalks repaired per State code. The board would have to adopt a plan, request replacement from the owner, and if not taken care of the Village can do the work and assess the costs to the property owners. Board would have to come up with a plan and what properties need to be redone and get with the engineer on what should be required. Summer Recreation director and ball president positions were discussed and finding enough interest to get teams together. Helmets, bats, and other equipment will most likely need to be replaced in the coming years as well. Lempka made a motion to hire Rick Borrenpohl as summer recreation director and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to hire Samantha Gordon as ball president and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yays: all. Motion carried.

Keizer discussed hiring summer help and needing to advertise for two positions. Street repairs were discussed with the street committee getting together to get a list of all the repairs or over lays needed. Also, Spencer and Samantha attended NDOT meeting in Tecumseh about redoing hwy. 41 from Sterling to Adams and doing approaches throughout town.

Mecure discussed problems with increasing our sales tax to two percent having more plans and numbers together and a deadline of March 1st so he would recommend doing a half a percent for the next election.

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

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