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, April 13th, 2021 at 7:01 p.m. at the new community building 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, Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Andy Thies. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Adam Keebler, Audrey Keebler, and Marissa Lempka.

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

Thies made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included amending the agenda to include accepting Sandy Weyers and Marissa Lempka’s resignations and the payment of the following SCA Building Account bills: Wusk Electric for $352.96. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve Wusk Repair bill for $537.57 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Nieveen, Thies & Keizer. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve NR Marketing bill for $375.00 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Nieveen, Thies, and Lempka. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: 34 Electric LLC, well repairs-2878.41; Becky Barney, lib. Sup.-26.95; Black Hills, heating-657.71; Big Red Communications, labor-5103.95; BMG CPA’s, fees-50.00; Community Insurance Group, ins.-1236.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-164.14; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-764.15; Hamilton Equipment Company, sup.-277.27; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-22.39; Jet Stop, fuel-354.03; Klein Hardware, sup.-15.56; Lincoln Concrete, sup.-562.71; Midwest Labs, discharge-219.77; NPPD, electricity-2185.18; NPHEL, samples-15.00; Nebraska Rural Water Assoc., dues-125.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Olsson, cons.-1275.25; One Call, fee-11.52; Payroll March, payroll-5582.10; Payroll Taxes March, taxes-1514.11; Sid’s Auto Parts, sup.-25.70; Southeast Area Clerks Assoc., dues-20.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-60.00; Vernon Manufacturing, sup.-50.00; Voice News, pub.-138.00; Waste Connections, refuse-6398.34; Windstream, telephone-393.58; Wusk Repair, sup.-537.57. Total: $31,639.39.

Becky Barney, librarian, was not available but did receive grant of a 50/50 match of $500 for the friends of the library group for working towards accreditation to be used for hiring of someone to do all the paperwork needed to do get accredited and is working on becoming a certified librarian.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, new bid for tornado siren from Haug Communications Inc. to be wirelessly set off from Sheriff’s office in the case of an emergency, siren is back working at the Fire Hall, discussed adding a second siren farther North with the newer development, called Keith from Sargent about dialer unit on well to discuss pressure transducer and to place a controller so that you’d get a notification if the well went down or if pressure was high we’d get a notification, and he also suggested that we need to have a second well in case this one was to go down in the long term outlook. Nieveen made a motion to accept Sargent Drillings quote for a dialer unit on the well for $6,107.50 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Also, ordered some no parking streets for Depot Street, having problems with one outlet on the cameras but replaced the outlet from moisture getting in and fixed moisture problem, installed lights in community building parking lot, and working on applicators license. Nieveen mentioned adding some dirt to some graves that had settled. Keizer mentioned adding some dirt at the funeral home where tree went down, Spencer will take care of. Discussed redoing rubber under playground this summer by squaring it back up and replacing material and tube for intersection by coop for $3,274.48 plus whatever labor for installation. Nieveen made a motion to order tube and bands from Contech for up to $3,500 for the Coop intersection and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed hosting an Arbor Day event, ordering of signs, yard of the month, Aqua Chem rates increasing by $0.06/gallon, city limit map being reviewed for county and city parcels, and offering recycling to rural residents on county line of Johnson county.

Chairman Keizer, chairman, discussed LB 83 pertaining to zoom meetings allowed during a declaration of an emergency.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, going to meet with Sam on Saturday for updates, got ahold of Nextlink for cell tower going up with no permits, working with county on a 911 address, need an 911 address for the coop, variance for Wenzl’s for higher side walls, closer to street, and corner lot setbacks being an accessory building still needs taken care of, addition of a driveway at house on Washington but no permit needed, a change of zoning on Clark’s house, and fence height to eight feet is still pending boards approval.

Marissa updated on community building, got quotes on keypads for doors, planning of Sterling picnic on June 5th and 6th, went through punch list items at SCA meeting, alumni bowling and basketball tournament went well, vendor fair and grand opening planned in the community building on Saturday at 11:00 during the picnic.

Property cleanups were discussed with needing to send out letters to unlicensed vehicle property owners. Lempka will take pictures and get lists of property owners.

Mecure discussed vacant property registrations with having two that went to court that were depicted as not vacant per the ordinance guidelines. One new registration form was submitted. No update from FEMA. Professional services for Broadway Street bridge replacement were discussed with three bids submitted from Olsson, Midwest Engineering Inc., and Speece Lewis. Lempka made a motion to accept Midwest Engineering, Inc. proposal for the Broadway Street bridge permitting, design, and associated engineering for $42,200 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Street repairs were discussed with needing to put out for bids again, need new price quotes on Lincoln Street from Broadway Street to E. Locust Street for next meeting. Community building insurance was discussed and approved with bills. Lempka made a motion to hire Austin Buss and Cameron VanGroningen for summer help and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Nieveen, Lempka, and Keizer. Abstained: Thies. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to stick with wages of $12/hour for Austin Buss and $10/hour for Cameron VanGroningen and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Board discussed combining all three employee positions of clerk/assistant clerk/and zoning administrator, would like to get other towns wages and duties to compare to. Special meeting scheduled for April 22nd at 8:00 p.m. for discussion of converting position to full time and assigning of responsibilities. No survey report from Rob Tichy. Audrey discussed an additional three feet being farmed from Spruce Street, board discussed abandoning street since no utilities or anything down the street but need to get surveyed then adopt an ordinance.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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