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, May 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in a GoTo conference 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: Spencer Pagel, Ryan Hoffman, Marissa Lempka, Sandy Weyers, Corie Hancock, Melodi Szymczak, Bill Harvey, Brad Slaughter, and Emily Bausch.

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 with the change under Marissa’s report to Ryan Lempka’s house; approval of special meeting minutes; approval of bills with the exception of Moss Trucking & Excavating bill and approval of Hancock Lumber for $3139.79; Roof Guard LLC for $8245.00; Fakler Architects, LLC for $217.70; Al Wusk Electric for $15547.70; Lincoln Concrete Specialists, Inc. for $6727.60; and Wentz Construction for $228.80 from SCA Building Account; approval of monthly transfer to solid waste and General from sewer and water; and amend the agenda to include Ehmens Add discussion and compression brake signs and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Barco, signs-175.43; Black Hills, heating-497.87; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; Buss Pest Control, pest control-120.00; Constellation, heating-532.41; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-10.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-398.45; Hancock Lumber, sup-8.78; Jet Stop, fuel-263.43; Kuhl Trenching, sup.-883.20; Kreativ Studios, graphics-150.00; Lincoln Concrete, rock-992.26; Moss Trucking & Excavating, repairs-4000.00; NPHEL, fees-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2164.91; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll Mar, payroll-4351.13; Payroll Taxes Mar, taxes-1300.32; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-480.00; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Sterling Public Schools, license monies-200.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-74.82; Voice News, publishing-90.47; Waste Connections, refuse-4566.06; Windstream, telephone-393.79; Wusk Power, repairs-261.97. Total: $27,912.26.

Emily Bausch discussed bridge update and bonding on both the East Locust Street and Broadway Street bridge. Could start bidding project in June and get resolutions approved then as well with funding coming in around July. Looking at using highway allocation funds for bonding of bridge projects over a period of 10, 15, or 20-year amortization schedules. Mecure discussed general obligation bonding and what types of bonds are available for this kind of bond. No penalty for early payment when using highway allocation. Brad Slaughter discussed highway allocation bonding being required for bridge replacement and repairs. We have legal authority to go back and levy the same amount to fund street improvements after the bridge project under highway allocation.

Bill Harvey, general council for Big Red Keno, discussed interlocal agreement with Omaha with live ball draw being hooked up to those results with higher payouts of up to $250K and payout would be higher. Would have to draft up new resolutions for a Keno agreement in town.

John Keizer discussed ordinances on number of animals per household, one resident has five dogs and are not following the noise restrictions. Also, the legion was asking for the Village to wave their water bill that’s currently approximately $150 per year. Board agreed to let them work with the ladies auxiliary on getting some help in regards to this. Also, spoke with Doug Schmidt about court date on building permit asking for a thirty-day extension to get supplies and board agreed.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed recycling dumpsters filling up fast and only dumping every two weeks and having to pickup stuff that has blown all over town so getting a fourth dumpster or possibly putting one in St. Mary. Also, discussed getting toters at houses just for recycle at a cost of $10. Some businesses are using the dumpsters as well so filling them up, need to ask them to get their own so they aren’t filling them up for residents. Residents are parking in yards and on curb stops so think a letter to customers or reminder in newsletter reminding them of ordinance about not parking in the yard. Summer help got brick building cleaned out and speed limit signs put up, rock bins cleaned up, backstop is fixed, and ballfield is seeded.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk,

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, joined in on Ricketts conference call on restrictions being lifted with no large groupings possibly through July, banners are up downtown,

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, one building permit for Colleen Carpenter for a fence, inquiry from school for edition for office space, general zoning code questions, and Hestermann wanting to move in a premade shed.

Lempka discussed property cleanups with starting with grass being overgrown, unlicensed vehicles, and other items just laying around yards. Need to get a list of those that have been sent out last year and send out some new ones.

John Keizer discussed community building getting drywall up, sprinkler system is done, need an updated report from Kenny Wentz on where we are with building remedies, still no actual completion date, and SCA board are going to get together to help get both lot and building cleaned up. Vacant property registrations were discussed with four properties still needing to pay registration fees. Discussed burning down Jim Wenzl’s vacant property and if there’s an ordinance burning down houses within the village city limits, which no one is aware of including Mecure so the Village could authorize a controlled burn on this residence.

Utility bills were discussed for those businesses being closed due to Covid-19

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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