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, June 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall 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, Tom Nieveen, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Christine Andrews, and Gladys Kuhlmann, Marvin & Debra Schwab.

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. Wusk made a motion to approve bill for Laffman Hot Rod Garage Bill for $18.74 and Fraley seconded the motion. Votes yeas: Lempka, Fraley, Wusk and Nieveen. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve a monthly transfer to Edward Jones for employee retirement program in the amount of three percent of salary for full time employees in arrears and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the remaining bills and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: American Legion Post #140, flags-145.00; Becky Barney, lib. Sup.-28.16; Biblionix, library catalog-1599.00; Black Hills, heating-305.53; BRAA, fee-250.00; BMG CPA’s, payroll-50.00; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-280.87; Eric McDonald Contracting, repairs-430.00; Farmers Cooperative, spray and propane-819.88; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-612.07; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-861.27; Hamilton Equipment Company, sup.-112.37; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-3.98; Jet Stop, fuel-721.01; Jet Stop, village bucks-20.00; Kudu Lawn & Landscape, cemetery mowing-3750.00; Kuhl Construction, LLC, repairs-1800.75; Laffman Hot Rod Garage, sup.-18.74; Lisa Martin, library fee-275.00; Municipal Pipe Services, line stop-3000.00; Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha, repairs-828.52; NPPD, electricity-1980.78; NPHEL, samples-252.00; Payroll May, payroll-8275.27; Payroll Taxes May, taxes-2097.84; SENDD, fee-1335.75; Southeast Trenching, repairs-1095.50; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-77.40; USPS, sup.-174.00; Voice News, pub.-91.31; Waste Connections, refuse-6437.33; Waymire Well Drilling, fire hall repairs-527.34; Windstream, telephone-329.90. Total: $39,892.62.

Marvin & Debra Schwab discussed the vacant property letter they’ve received for the assessed $1,000 fee and that they maintain the property and keep it mowed up nice so asked that they be removed from the vacant commercial property registration. Wusk made a motion to remove Debra & Marvin Schwab from the commercial vacant property registration list and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Christine Andrews with the library board came to discuss having a separate account and her own credit card for spending on their own. She was also wondering about the $200 monthly book budget and about retaining the unspent funds on a month-to-month basis. Board offered to review and do some checking into it and get back to the library board. Al Rogman discussed street repairs and downtown sidewalks to see if the town plans to do some sort of match with the owners or not and the owner of the Post Office contacting for more information on the project. Lempka discussed that we should add steps or a couple more handicap ramps on the South side of the street by the Fire Hall. John recommended that we use the ARPA funding for a downtown sidewalk match instead of water meters. John recommended a company that would assist in writing grants for smaller communities out of Kansas City and can also check with SENDD for potential grants for downtown sidewalks. Board thought it would be a good idea to get to working on the sidewalk improvement district and get engineers to working on design aspects. Also, discussed having Al do some street repairs from water and sewer cut outs around town. Dave Thiesfeld is interested in placing some benches in front of the library, fire hall, and at the community building which board was for just wanted to know what design and make sure they all matched.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, took down the fence at the dump so can put up for sealed bids, meet with Jorgensen and from the North power line pole to the South has a 82.5’ street but only 42.5’ to the South to Ralph’s property due to possible replatting so we should be fine to place the generator without leasing property from Ralph, meet with Caspers to trim some trees up at the cemetery and remove some dead portions as needed by the directory, removed rural dumpster sign, talked to John Moss about clearing ash from the dump, Andy Saathoff mentioned that he would take a lot of the grass pile from the dump if we would haul it out to him. Lempka mentioned that we need to limit the size of logs that people drop off. Also, need to ask Constructors if we could get rid of the asphalt pile from the dump for them to reuse or mill for our use. Summer help is going to work on rebuilding the rock bins at the dump. John discussed that the roof on the old city hall building has multiple holes in the roof but would cost roughly $7K for a new roof or demo the building for roughly $8K and building is not on a historical list. Has asked Jasa on a quote for a building to use as a city shop and Nielsens gave a quote on concrete. Spencer also discussed possibly replating his property since College Ave. is 82.5’ wide so just on the North side of his parking space. Also, the well shed will need some gutters, so the water deters away from the generator once installed.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed Roger Huls getting a couple loads of dirt/rock mix from the dump, greenhouse permit application, letter from Brian Heusman on illegal dumping, OOR program through SENDD denying properties in a flood plain so sent an email for clarification, and letter from the USPS discussing potential options for a Post Office. Also discussed Brian Schmidt wondering what all needed done with his property to be removed from the cleanup list which board reviewed and a letter will be sent out regarding this.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, reminded the board that he would be out of town June 20-July 10th for vacation.

Property clean-ups were discussed with Mecure sending out another letter and one certified letter wasn’t delivered so will have the sheriff’s office serve a notice. Will go around and look at the list of properties that have already been sent out for an update. Vacant properties were discussed, and letters will be sent out. Spencer talked to Al Rogman and he asked for a list of property owners and addresses for downtown sidewalks.

Gordon discussed that the office repairs were about complete just needing carpet and baseboard installed. Spencer will contact Sterling West to get material ordered for under the park equipment. Nieveen made a motion to approve carpet cleaning at the Village Office, library, and Fire Hall and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. John discussed the water coming in the basement at the Village Office and finding out exactly where the water is coming in and getting ahold of someone to quote what needs to be done to fix the water issues from either Thrasher or Epp Concrete.

Becky Barney, librarian, asked for some extra optional hours that wouldn’t be open for the public since it’s busy during regular hours. Asked for a little wiggle room of possibly five hours more per week to get a few more things done without patrons in. Also, has asked for volunteers to help but sometimes don’t show up. Hasn’t had time to deep clean in over a month, has to clean up after music class, has to setup and tear down after other classes, summer reading program needs to be setup so may require extra hours, and time for sorting books etc. that are donated. Added hours would give roughly 25 hours per week flex hours as needed. Board let her know to go ahead and stay the extra hours to clean or complete tasks as needed without approving the addition of five hours extra per week.

Chairman Keizer discussed possible termites in park concession stands and needing to have a professional come down and remedy the situation with a recommendation of A1 out of Lincoln from Scott Buss. Employee wages and benefits were discussed with offering a 2% cost of living raise for full-time employees. Nieveen made a motion to approve for a 2 percent cost of living raise for full time employees and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Nieveen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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