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 8th, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. at the 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, Tom Nieveen, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Audrey Keebler, Roger Huls, and Danny Fraley.

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

Wusk made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the payment of the following SCA Building Account bill: Moss Trucking & Excavating LLC for $4062.20 seconded by Nieveen. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve Wusk Repair bill for $436.10 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Nieveen, & Keizer. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Keizer discussed NR Marketing offering to donate some of her time working on website and social media updates and working for a lower yearly rate. Nieveen made a motion to pay NR Marketing $400 per year to assist Samantha with website and social media updates and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Lempka, and Nieveen. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the current $100 transfer of funds from General to Employee Benefits for May and to setup automatic transfer of funds in the amount of $200 for Samantha’s HRA account from General to Employee Benefits and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. 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.

Roger Huls complained about ditch not being mowed before the picnic weekend, but everyone else’s were mowed. Asked for an apology and to be published in the newsletter. Board and Spencer apologized and explained that the mower had broke down but had since been taken care of with the trimmers.

Becky Barney, librarian, was not available but had a bake sale Saturday for the picnic that went well and is putting together a summer reading program as well.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed that the Case mower is becoming more un-repairable and not able to find parts for breakdowns, found a couple options for a replacement from Hamilton, AKRS, and Burr Machinery that includes a municipal discount. Nieveen asked about difference between two Kioti options, Pagel said mainly just horsepower difference between models. Samantha checked out surplus but only found larger mowers for wide open spaces, going to investigate leasing programs like is done with the bobcat. Blue truck needs brakes, power steering pump, and lines replaced, Lempka asked if there was a need for a second pickup or if we could just have employee use a personal vehicle when a second one is needed. Board agreed to repair the blue truck this time but probably be the last time to put money into it. Water/sewer is done at the bridge, guys were down on East side working on wiring for lift station, valve in corner of street on E Locust Street and Main Street has been leaking that shuts off loop but is needing replaced. Gary Kuhl is going to tear out from approach to approach, six inches deep, going to lay two-inch rock as a base, roll it all in, and finish off for $11,750. Nieveen made a motion for Kuhl Trenching to tear out Lincoln Street between Broadway and E. Locust and redo for a total of $11,750 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed costs from Maguire Iron increasing due to market and supply chain up 2-3% not to exceed $2,000; annual conference for floodplain and stormwater in Kearney for $100; NEDNR how and why to update floodplain ordinance conference on June 17th-Samantha will be traveling but a board member will try to attend or see if conference is recorded to view later; signed up for municipal accounting and finance conference to get ten hours of continuous education; community building was in Nebraska Municipal Review publication; submitted lane mile report; park fence advertising request for 4x6 instead of 4x8 and board was fine with that; vacation next week 17th through 20th.

Chairman Keizer, chairman, discussed medical concerns being better than expected but still doing some testing.

Samantha Gordon, Zoning Administrator, discussed permits being issued: demo, fence, deck, and house; change of zoning hearing next week; and needing to get building permit and variance for building put up right outside of village limits.

Nieveen brought up concern about camper being parked partially in street off Sterling Ave., need to have Samantha send a letter to notify property owner.

Property cleanups were discussed, and letters will be sent out by the Village clerk.

Keizer discussed community center updates, with west entrance and drain being completed, reflective tape was added to poles and reflectors at driveways, parking lot will eventually be extended to the South, and inside is complete and working with just a few small items needing to be finished. Nothing on vacant property registrations. E. Locust Street bridge project has been approved by FEMA and working with NEMA now on reimbursement and inspections.

Lempka made a motion to approve application for catering endorsement to license from Hancock Lumber, LLC/Hancock General Value and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha discussed replacing recycle roll off with a six-yard dumpster to be dumped weekly, but board decided to continue with roll off that is currently being used. Football field upkeep was discussed, and school was notified to keep up with it more regularly otherwise town would have to take over maintenance. Three letters of interest were submitted for the vacant board member position: Dan Fraley, Carrie Wenzl, and James Wenzl. Chairman Keizer submitted Dan Fraley as a recommendation to the board to fulfill the vacant position to continue Andy Thies’s term through 2024. Votes: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to make Ralph Wusk pro-temp chairman and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Board agreed to keep Sandy on accounts as a signer in case of emergency. Spencer discussed sidewalk repair in front of the legion and library with having standing water and a chunk of concrete missing. Mecure said that sidewalks would normally be the businesses responsibility. Board discussed looking at doing a downtown renovation project for sidewalk and curb improvements. John discussed purchasing the office space from the Sterling Community Association in exchange for some debt they owe for community building, need to look at getting the assessed value on building and investigate doing this. Nieveen made a motion to approve pay app #1 for VanKirk Brothers progress on E. Locust Street bridge project and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve transfer of funds from highway allocations bonds account to general in the amount of $68,969.70 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha discussed running concession stand and donating proceeds to volunteer groups that help run it. Nieveen made a motion for the Village to run the concession stands and donate proceeds to volunteer groups with Samantha and Austin overseeing the operations and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to increase wages with a cost-of-living wage of 1.5% and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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