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, July 12, 2022 at 7:30 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, Tom Nieveen, and Steve Lempka. Others present: 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. Nieveen made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the additions of fund transfers from Library fund to general in the amount of $5093.80 and from SCA Building Account to General for $2541.25 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve summer ball positions same as last year and Lempka 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: Al Rogman, street repairs-2862.50; Aqua Chem, Inc., chlorine-300.90; Big Red Communications, camera-3424.19; Black Hills, heating-229.23; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-49.52; Fairfield by Marriot, conf. room-219.90; Farmers Cooperative, spray-71.02; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-273.84; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-4545.76; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-73.23; Iowa Pumpworks, repairs-3351.00; Jet Stop, fuel-918.68; Jet Stop, village bucks-20.00; Kerner True Value, sup-10.94; Kudu Lawn & Landscape, cemetery mowing-3750.00; Kuhl Construction, LLC, repairs-375.00; Lincoln Winelectric, sup.-380.00; Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha, repairs-162.34; NPPD, electricity-2245.22; NPHEL, samples-15.00; Nestor & Mecure, fees-3911.31; Payroll June, payroll-10,400.77; Payroll Taxes June, taxes-2655.34; One Call Concepts, fee-44.90; Sterling Rural Fire District #5, ins.-1525.00; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Samantha Gordon, fuel & meals at conf.-87.08; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Rick Borrenpohl, rec. dir.-1500; Sterling Ball Assoc., fee-450.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-98.73; USPS, sup.-174.00; USA Bluebook, sup.-601.06; Waste Connections, refuse-5544.30; Windstream, telephone-328.95. Board Member Fees: John Keizer-875.00, Dan Fraley-450.00, Ralph Wusk-450.00, Steve Lempka-525.00, Tom Nieveen-525.00; Denise Horstman, cem. Sec.-250.00. Total: $54,980.76.

Deer Creek Sodbusters asked for permission to borrow the bleachers from the park and the board approved such. Also, Dave Thiesfelds selection for benches were approved for front of the Fire Hall, Library, and Community Building.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, playground mulch came in but missing the pins for the edging so waiting on them for installation, Austins last day is Friday for the summer, tree piles grown at the dump but plan to burn at the end of the week depending on weather, ash pile and some of the grass pile have been buried, will have extra dirt that can be used for Broadway Street bridge project, tree at the cemetery was damaged so Caspers trimmed it up and now completely dying so plan to take down the whole thing now, cameras have all been installed with a few trees causing some interruption in service so going to remove one and trim up others for a better view, looking into applying for more ARPA funds for a grinder for the sewer pumps, Kenny Wentz approached about building a house on Lincoln Street and getting sewer mains to property so will do some research on it, and discussed possibly readdressing wages again next month if possible with the cost of living as high as it is currently.

Becky Barney, librarian, discussed all grants have been submitted and paperwork has been complete, received a letter from the IRS for tax exempt status for the Friends of the Library group, and received an invitation to become accredited, and received another donation last week. Also, looked forward to using the back room for a reading room/archive room if Village Office and library are open which board wanted to discuss further.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed blocking off Broadway Street for the Farmers’ market. Nieveen made a motion to block off Broadway Street from the East side of Scotts parking to Main Street for the farmers’ market every other Saturday starting this Saturday the 16th and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Also, discussed Abby Heusmans building permit being expired so she has asked the board for an extension. Lempka made a motion to approve a six-month extension for Abby Heusman’s building permit number 2021-6 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. The zoning board is currently reviewing the zoning ordinance page by page for possible updates as needed to make things easier to understand and more realistic. A question about what setbacks were measured from was brought up to Mecure as to whether you figure them based off the property line or center of the street and he stated that it’s always been property line so language may need updated to ordinance for less confusion. Gordon mentioned that a zoning variance application will be turned in and needing to schedule a hearing prior to next board meeting. Also, mentioned to board that wind turbines have been an issue in neighboring counties and that we might want to get ahead of them with regulations for them.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, will be gone July 26th through August 20th .

Property clean-ups were discussed with three complaints being filed and a few more added with the court.

Vacant property registrations were discussed with needing to release Heusman’s property from the list. Wusk made a motion to cancel Ivan Heusmans vacant property registration and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. John and Samantha are working on setting up a meeting with Olsson to discuss the sidewalk improvements needed through downtown. Also, John was approached by the Legion asking what the Village was willing to match for the sidewalk repairs which he responded that nothing has been decided yet. Mecure mentioned that a sidewalk improvement district might be a minimum of $250K in improvements with a match.

Vacating a portion of College Ave. between Washington and Main Street was discussed but a previous ordinance had already vacated 16.5’ off the south side so shouldn’t need to vacate more. Samantha discussed a mileage log that was discussed at the accounting conference she attended. Board agreed that instead of a mileage log for Village owned equipment that the board would reimburse for personal vehicle use based off the current reimbursement rates which will be drafted by Mecure and approved at a later meeting. Keizer discussed the Midwest Engineering, Inc. construction engineering proposal and being hourly not a total amount that will be billed for services that he said normally works in our favor in the end. Nieveen made a motion to approve the Midwest Engineering, Inc. construction engineering proposal for the Broadway Street bridge and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Spencer mentioned getting the concrete ready to go for the generator at the well so it’s ready when the generator came in which the board agreed would be a good idea.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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