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, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall 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, and Steve Lempka. Absent: Tom Nieveen. Others present: Andy Powell, Audrey Keebler, Dan Fraley, Sandy Weyers, Adrian Allen, Spencer Pagel, Rick Smith, Abby Heusman, Dani Nichols, and Ryan Hoffman.

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

Wusk made a motion to approve the consent agenda including approval of special meetings not meeting minutes and allowing of the following bills from SCA Building Account: Rodriguez Acoustical Ceilings, Inc. for $7980.00; Hancock Lumber, LLC for $6378.35; Al Wusk Electric for $1964.32 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills, heating-103.89; BMG CPA’s, accountant-250.00; Becky Barney, lib. Sup.-156.52; Caspers Tree Service, tree removal and trimming-3275.00; Constellation, heating-35.69; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-166.76; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-320.32; Hancock Lumber, sup-85.23; Roger Huls, safety cage-$75.00; Jet Stop, fuel-422.30; Kerner True Value, sup.-43.97; Kudo Lawn Care, cemetery mowing-5250.00; League of Nebraska Municipalities, dues-797.00; NPPD, electricity-2616.24; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll July, payroll-10862.14; Payroll Taxes July, taxes-2696.86; Olsson, bridge engineering-11989.23; Sargent Drilling, tax-29.81; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-246.10; Trauernicht Brothers Stump Removal, stump removal-150.00; Voice News, publishing-222.00; Waste Connections, refuse-6183.50; Windstream, telephone-399.48; Waymire Well Drilling, sup.-5.00; Wusk Power, repairs-16.00. Total: $46,788.04.

Becky Barney, librarian, discussed: sorting progress, seating areas, library commission accreditation requirements, library board required to be a public library, around one hundred patrons a month, book club, volunteers, work with school on tutoring, self-published book section, archive on back burner until library is in order, asked about a budget. Board needs to pass a resolution for a library board at next meeting and look into having a library budget as well.

Dani Nichols, discussed festival for craft and vendor fair, food trucks available, Village would get fifty percent of vendor fees, cleanup after everyone leaves as well, hosting event in Crab Orchard in April, and get with Sterling Community Association on lining up event along with fall festival.

Emily Bausch wasn’t in attendance but no update on bridge from previous meeting.

Andy Powell, Big Red Communications, starting a cooperative for internet providers and working with a massive shared network to tie to other networks, parting ways with Future Technologies so need to find a fiber feed, need to bore in underground to water tower from highway 41, and cutoff date is August 31st on current system. Wusk made a motion to allow Big Red Communications and Unite Private Networks to bore lines to water tower and provide fiber to the tower and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Rick Smith, Gilland’s representative owner of lot 1 at Ehmen’s addition, electing to get all covenants removed, Mecure addressed that zoning regulations would still apply to properties even with covenants removed. Lempka moved to approve RESOLUTION 2020-7 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA APPROVING THE REVOCATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS FOR EHMEN’S SECOND ADDITION IN VILLAGE OF STERLING, JOHNSON COUNTY, NEBRASKA and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, Pat from NPPD was going to come today but got sent to Iowa for storm damage, camera locations my need more receivers placed to have a view of the water tower on the school for park location, banner across street for 150 year celebration by Wusk Repair, driveshaft on back of mower damaged and Hestermann’s waiting on parts to get it fixed, bid from Midwest Custom Coatings on foaming roof on library and Village Office for $6600 with a ten-year warranty and no bid received from Roof Guard LLC. Thies made a motion to hire Midwest Custom Coatings to spray foam the roofs of both the Village Office and library for $6600 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed looking over hazard mitigation plans for any updates or changes by Friday, helicopters may be flying low due to mapping the underground aquifers, mailing of housing survey as an EDDM, off for October meeting due to siblings class so Sandy will be filling in, and still need to work on setting up new account for Community Center with Black Hills Energy.

Chairman Keizer discussed community center updates: acoustical ceiling is going up, interior painting in event center area is complete, working on trim, checking with Paul Scholl on tile, purchasing portable basketball hoops, grading is still outstanding according to Kenny Wentz, running into issues getting flooring in with pandemic going on, and board of architects and engineers has dismissed case due to being in compliance. Vacant property registrations were discussed: one paid fee, response to attorney on another, and filing complaint on last one. Also, discussed being out of town from August 20th to either September 10th or 11th with Andy filling in while gone.

County had not discussed bridge property lines yet as they were busy with the budget discussion so need to find another surveyor to find lines.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, was absent but reported no new permits to Samantha.

Property clean-ups were discussed with no response from letters sent out. Going to get some new pictures and continue to enforce the ones we have got started. SENDD’s suggested doing voluntary housing survey and that we were not eligible for some of the programs due to our LMI being too high.

Recycling and refuse fees were discussed with the new contract increase. Wusk made a motion to set the monthly rate for recycling and refuse to be $23 with an additional charge to match what Waste Connections of Nebraska charges for a second toter effective September 1st and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Delinquent water bills were discussed, and notices will be hung up. Delinquent trash bill will be sent to small claims.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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