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 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office 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, Tom Nieveen, Andy Thies, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Audrey Keebler, Wilma Nieveen, Dan Fraley, Jason Othmer, Spencer Pagel, Roger Moss, Marissa Lempka, Ryan Lempka, Doris Behrens, Vane Rengstorf, Roger Huls, Neil, Anne Maher, and Addie Heusman.

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.

Lempka made a motion to accept the public hearing minutes and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to accept the special meeting minutes and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes with changed to spelling error of pedal and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to allow the bills to include Austin Buss, summer recreations director for $1500 and the following and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: 3D Asphalt, asphalt-17493.00; Al Wusk Electric, concession stand-450.00; Aqua Chem, sup-179.10; Black Hills, heating-23.01; Blessing Plumbing, repairs-345.00; BMG CPA’s, accountant-250.00; Buss Pest Control, heating-120.00; Constellation, heating-8.20; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-772.83; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-246.06; Farmers Cooperative, sup.-63.30; Gage County Equipment, sup.-526.71; Hamilton Equipment, sup.-323.38; Jet Stop, fuel-470.72; Kuhl Trenching, repair-400.00; Lincoln Concrete Specialists, rock-850.50; Municipal Supply Inc., sup-939.39; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-80.00; NR Marketing, 375.00; NPHEL, fees-15.00; NPPD electricity-2470.84; Nebraska Department of Revenue, taxes-448.61; Olsson, fee-943.15; Quickbooks, sup.-169.98; Payroll July, payroll-6184.83; July Payroll Taxes, taxes-1447.25; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-240.00; Sterling Lumber, sup-434.99; S&L Lawn Care, mowing-2025.00; Southeast NE Development District, dues/fees; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-138.09; Unico, bond-100.00; USPS, sup-330.00; Voice News, publishing-170.21; Waymire Well, sup.-46.73; Windstream, telephone-393.01; Waste Connections, refuse-4596.06; Wusk Repair, repairs-51.75. Total: $45,269.70.

No public comment. No amendments to agenda.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reported on the following topics: generator slab was poured, painted swing sets and replaced swings, removed old heater on the Firehall, patched roof on Firehall as much as possible, Black Hills is going to install a bigger meter, one hundred forty-four feet of fence in cemetery storage shed, and fence at West side of park is three hundred forty-three feet and price from American Fence is $7760 for five foot chain link fence. Merlyn Saathoff’s tube is filled in with dirt but should be able to fix drainage with the bobcat. Also, discussed bobcat swap, no credit available for new tires so going to switch them back out with old prior to swap. Thies made a motion to swap the bobcat out for $5,250 and then just keep it for next year and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Fans were installed in concession stand and bathrooms at park. Austin’s last day will be Thursday.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed financial documents, newsletter to included Boosters mum fundraiser, budget hearing next month at 7:00, and a few grants available to apply for.

John Keizer, chairman of the board, discussed Julie Slama coming to Scott’s Place August 20th from noon-1:00, community center update an estimated $21,000 remaining to get remainder of grant funds match, informed property owners by church that the alley was closed and they talked about hauling rock in for a driveway.

Property clean-ups were discussed. Truck will be towed at owners’ expense at 175 Main Street.

Mecure discussed coming up with a list of both vacant residential and commercial properties in town so we can start to enforce the ordinance we had adopted.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, issued a new address to Ryan & Lindsay Lempka and is working on one for the community building. Also, working with Jet Stop on a wind break addition to the building.

Jason Othmer was present to discuss the conditional use permit for the grain bins. Binders had parked on his property so they were off the streets and the board addressed the concern that the permit was issued to him for his use only. Othmer said he is respectful of the neighboring property owners and follows hours to a T and informs new employees of the rules.

Neil from Small Data Tech discussed that due to a relay blowing out twice in the last month he’s at a stand still to get an estimate on dialer unit but was guessing it would be approximately $150 for the unit then five dollars per month for the service. Dialer unit discussion was tabled until next month.

Hydrologist study has not been completed yet by Olsson’s.

Covenants were tabled as we are waiting on two more signatures of property owners.

Wilma Nieveen discussed her resignation as cemetery board secretary. Having been secretary for 18 years and accomplished her big goals of getting everything computerized, getting the directory up, and has been training Denise Horstman to take over the position. Lempka accepted Wilma Nieveen’s resignation as being cemetery board secretary with deep regrets and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to appoint Denise Horstman as cemetery board secretary and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Also, Wilma mentioned of having some complaints about the looks of the cemetery. Thies mentioned that they were out trimming tonight when he came in and Doris Behrens had been out trimming around some graves to keep them looking nice as well. Mecure is going to send out a letter to S&L Lawn Care about these complaints and requirements of contract.

FEMA is at a stand still currently as we are waiting on their engineers to come up with a scope of work to compare to that of our engineers.

Street bids were discussed and Spencer had gone out and measured the intersection by Sonja Wenzl’s from the driveway to manhole cover being approximately 1250 sq. ft. and on Division Street by John’s being approximately 660 sq. ft. Waymire no longer wants tube put in, need to come up with a different plan so leaving as is for now. Armour coat remaining portion of Lincoln Street from Sterling Ave. North to the highway and do some crack filling where needed around town especially by Coop.

Marissa Lempka asked for permission from the board to use the Community Building lot or the practice ballfield as a back up for the Circus coming to town September 2nd. Building is planned to be erected by the 22nd then Kenny will have lot graded and start bringing rock in. Need to keep consumer and animal waste separate for disposal. Nieveen made a motion for Sterling Community Association to use the community building lot or practice field for the circus September 1-2nd which includes set up and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Samantha Gordon discussed the five applications that were turned in for the assistant village clerk position. Thies made a motion to hire Sandy Weyers as assistant village clerk and Wusk seconded the motion. Votes: yeas: Thies, Wusk nays: Lempka, Nieveen, Keizer. Motion denied. Nieveen made a motion to hire Kelly Holthus as assistant village clerk and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to pay the assistant village clerk $15 per hour and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

NPPD Community Center installation of underground commercial electric service was discussed with a $0 fee. Nieveen made a motion to accept the proposal from NPPD for the community center installation of underground commercial electric service for a $0 fee and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. NPPD contract for Ehmens addition was also discussed. Lempka made a motion to split the $7283.04 between the six lots for electrical installation to be paid by the town and reimbursed by property owners and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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

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