REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STERLING, NEBRASKA

The Pro-temp Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Sterling, Nebraska, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:29 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. Pro-temp Chairman Ralph Wusk called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Dan Fraley. Absent: John Keizer. Others present: Spencer Pagel, Bill Moss, and Steve Mercure.

Pro-temp Chairman Wusk acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall. Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the August bills and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve payment to Wusk Power Equip. & Repair for trimmer repairs in the amount of $80.20 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Nieveen, Fraley, and Lempka. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Becky Barney, lib. Expenses-34.99; Black Hills, July heating-259.64; Black Hills, August heating-282.14; BMG CPA’s, budget & payroll-2650.00; Buss Pest Control, spraying-120.00; Colonial Life, ins.-134.30; Constellation, heating-7.71; Dresen Contracting LLC, stump grinding-200.00; Echo Group, sup.-292.88; Edward Jones, simple IRA-426.22; Eric McDonald, repairs-2962.04; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-52.99; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-701.00; Hamilton Equip. Company, repairs-938.10; Iowa Pump Works, repairs-1083.10; Jet Stop, fuel-471.48; Jet Stop-Village bucks-20.00; Kerner Ace Hardware, sup.-32.54; Kudu Lawn & Landscape, mowing-5400.00; Lincoln Concrete Specialists, rock-10,790.90; Moss Trucking & Excavating LLC, maintenance-675.00; NPHEL, samples-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2493.82; Olsson, fee-912.96; Payroll August, payroll-8967.35; Payroll Taxes August, taxes-2412.96; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Samantha Gordon, mileage-58.95; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; SENDD, dues-552.00; Steve Mercure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-140.88; Tecumseh Chieftain, lib. Sub.-52.00; USPS, stamps-198.00; Waste Connections, refuse-430.08; Waymire Well Drilling, repairs-328.65; Windstream, telephone-356.45; Wusk Power Equip. & Repair, repairs-80.20. Total: $45,634.33.

No public comment. No report from Becky Barney, librarian.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed currently down to one pump due to clogging and spinning a bearing and option of getting a grinder to bolt directly to the influent to solve this issue in the future, water meters showed up last week, contact from Legion asked about flag burning on October 1st at the park, well at the park is back up and running, contacted and was approved from the state about temporary burn permit for old burn site, railroad is coming out to do an on-site survey for the Main Street crossing next week, water main break on Sterling Ave. and Lincoln Street, also found a galvanized T along with a 2” main that should be replaced sooner than later while repairing main break that we could possibly do with ARPA funds, discussed replacing zero-turn mower that has over 900 hours on it within the next year or so, moved chairs from the brick building to the Village office, and rocking parking lot behind Scott’s since it’s been sprayed. Nieveen mentioned hole in Ohio Street by Depot Street that’s needing fixed.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, presented board with response letter from Roof Guard on parking on E. Locust Street and both sides of Nebraska St. blocking traffic. The board agreed to monitor this concern especially with harvest starting up. Lempka made a motion to appoint Bill Moss to the planning and zoning commission and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to deny the conditional use application from Brian Smith for a home-based firearm business at 550 Washington St. in residential district and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Garbage and recycling rates were discussed due to an increase per contract. Nieveen made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION 2023-05 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, INCREASING SANITATION AND RECYCLING RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS BY THE VILLAGE OF STERLING AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE** of October 1, 2023, with rates being $26 per month for sanitation and recycling services to residents and $12 per month for rural non-resident recycling services and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Property clean-ups were discussed and still need to get in contact with Durst regarding property located at 480 Iowa Street.

Spencer will contact Dan Alexander about Broadway St. bridge project. Mercure will get into contact with the school’s attorney on drainage concern and update the board.

Fraley made a motion to increase restrictive funds by an additional 1% and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 budget as presented and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2023-04 A RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST** and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. The board reviewed submitted quote for replacing the carpet in the library due to old carpet coming up and starting to become a tripping hazard. Lempka made a motion to approve quote from Jim’s Carpet to replace carpet in the library and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha explained the need to enclose windows and install some sort of heat and A/C unit in the concession stand. Lempka made a motion to approve quote for installation of a mini-split A/C-heat pump unit, enclose the East and South windows to install sliding windows, and to frame in the walk door and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Spencer discussed updating football field lights with LED’s since they are getting harder to find and about possible funding from NPPD. Mercure met with RJM Enterprises attorney along with Olsson Associates to review the subdivision agreement with still needing to add a provision of a performance bond and complete legal description for review prior to next meeting. Discussed annexation process bringing in neighboring property and acting at next board meeting. Mercure spoke with Jennifer Peters from Black Hills about concerns with streets and alley installation. Table discussion until next month so Jennifer Peters could be in attendance to answer questions. Lempka made a motion to approve the master agreement work order from Olsson for general engineering consulting services for 2024 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the master agreement work order from Olsson for street superintendent services for 2024 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha discussed needing to upgrade the utility billing software for use with the new meters and that the general ledger portion could be upgraded with a newer desktop version of QuickBooks. Lempka made a motion to approve the software upgrade to Power Manager for utility billing and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka brought up concern about having high school students involved in SVFD training. Mercure advised to check with the insurance carrier and have parents sign a release of liability.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Ralph Wusk, Pro-temp Chairman of the Board Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk