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, October 13th, 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: Sandy Weyers, Ryan Hoffman, Becky Barney, Danny Fraley, Steve Spadt, Spencer Pagel, and Marissa Lempka

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.

Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda and allowing payment for the following bills from the SCA Building Account; Lincoln Concrete Specialists 23,275.80, Moss Trucking & Excavating, LLC 3,749.54, Nemaha Construction Inc. 3,940.00, Practice Sports 250.00, Paul Scholl Construction 10,000.00, Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc. 2,523.70, Belnick Retail, LLC 16,205.94, Hancock Lumber LLC, 199.00, Marlin Ebbers Trucking, LLC 3,370.73 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Becky Barney-lib. sup. -85.76; Black Hills, heating-234.53; BMG CPA’s, fees, 2,400.00; Constellation, heating-8.57; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-350.64; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-553.88; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup-66.48 Hancock Lumber, LLC, Village Bucks -20.00; Jet Stop, Village bucks-20.00; Jet Stop, fuel-166.98; Community Ins.-11,443.00; Kudo Lawn Care, cemetery mowing-1050.00; Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc., repairs 320.00; Midwest Laboratories, Inc. water samples-77.48; NPPD, elect.-2683.94, NPHEL, fees,15.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; One Call Concepts, fees-11.14;Payroll Sept., payroll-5,577.10; Payroll Taxes Sept., taxes-1,510.21; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-118.94; The Voice News, publishing- 422.63; Waste Connections, refuse-5,810.94; Windstream, tele.-401.11; Wusk Power, sup. & maint.-200.40; Total: $34,523.73.

No Public Comment

Becky Barney, Librarian reported that five names have been selected for the Library Board. All other interested names will join the Friends of the Library Organization. The Friends of the Library Organization is needed to do non-profit fund-raising for the library. This group will have to apply with the Dept. of Revenue and must be approved before any fundraising can occur. Barney also requested two extra hours per week for an after-school program that will occur during the school year. Wusk made a motion to accept the two additional hours per week for Becky Barney, it was seconded by Thies. Vote: yeas-all, Motion carried. Barney also reported that she has three volunteers to assist with the after-school program, as well.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reported he had received a quote of $5,500.00 from Hamilton for a leasing contract of a bobcat. The bobcat the Village would be leasing will be brand new, with many upgrades and will carry a 2-year warranty. Thies made a motion to accept the lease agreement with Hamilton Equipment Co. for $5,500.00 and it was seconded by Wusk. Vote: yeas: all, Motion carried. Pagel also reported he has registered for a two-day continuing education course at the cost of $75.00. Also, is getting prices on four new all-terrain tires for pick-up before winter. The sewer work has been completed on the new SCA community building and for a new home that is currently being built in Sterling. The old sewer line has been cut at Jim Wenzl’s and this site is ready for clean-up by Doug Schmidt. Pagel shared with the board the list of streets needing repairs and that need opened for bids. Lempka made a motion to authorize the opening for bids on the needed street repairs. The motion was seconded by Wusk, Vote: yeas -all, Motion carried. The village shredder is currently at Hamilton’s for repair and a new chainsaw has been ordered from Wusk Repair. Pagel is in the process of replacing the stained ceiling tiles in the library. A few of the banners blew away after the last storm, some were recovered, others not yet. More banners may need to be ordered to have in stock. No updates on the installation of cameras, still waiting on Big Red. NPPD did install a power source at the bridge in preparation for the bridge replacement project. The topic of discharge reporting was brought up, and Keizer reported that the issues have been resolved. Pagel will be flushing water lines next week. Pagel informed the board that the volleyball field at the city park needs to be cleaned up, as it is overgrown with weeds. Arrangements were made to have this area tilled up. Pagel discussed blocking off Main Street from Broadway to E. Locust on Halloween night for the Boosters Trunk or Treat event and the board was okay with this.

Sandy Weyers, Assistant to the Village Clerk, filling in for the Village Clerk reported: The Village audit is in process. Items are being sent on a regular basis. This will continue throughout October. There was a discussion on prizes for the children’s Halloween coloring contest and on the Halloween Decorated Yard contest. The Village received the premium bill and information on the insurance policy declarations with The Community Insurance Company. A representative from the insurance office will schedule an appointment to access the Village of Sterling properties. There may be some adjustments made to the premiums after this assessment. Samantha Gordan and Sandy Weyers are both interested in taking a QuickBooks class from SCC when they become available. The Village received a letter from NPPD Directors welcoming someone from the Village to attend a virtual board forum to visit about current issues facing villages and to discuss other items of interest. The letter was made available to any interested board members. A question was asked if a public hearing was needed to change the zoning of the Seth Clark resident. After discussion, it was determined that at this time no public hearing was necessary. If the owner makes any significant changes to the property in the future, a change in zoning may need to occur then.

John Keizer, Village Chairman reported that patrons of rural Sterling have expressed an interest in a recycle bin. These patrons are willing to pay a fee to recycle monthly. A discussion was held on possible fees if the village had enough interest in this opportunity. It was also discussed to reach out to area communities to see what they offer to rural customers regarding recycling and the fees that are charged. Keizer also shared that some village customers are interested in adding another trash bin to be used by village residents only. It was decided that this is not needed, as there is already a process in place. Keizer also shared that he will be on vacation in late Nov. into early Dec.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, reported that some of the recent building permits for new homes have been placed on pause due to the increase of lumber prices, it is hoped that the prices come done in 2021. There has been some general interest in zoning information from people living currently outside the village. One new home is currently being built in the northern part of Sterling. One resident has requested a building permit for an addition he is adding to a current building of his. Another resident is currently building a new deck onto their home.

Property clean-ups were discussed with no response from letters previously sent out. Board directed Mecure to file action to no response properties. Discussion was also held on the removal of vehicles sitting for extensive periods of time on some village properties.

John Keizer, Village Chairman gave an update on the progress of the SCA Community Center. Frontier Cooperative has donated the grass seed, and the planting of the grass has been schedule. The tile work on the interior has been completed and tables and chairs have been ordered. The basketball hoops have been delivered and the cabinets are being set and prepared for installation. A double oven is being purchased and the floor is scheduled for completion. The SCA expenses are coming close to the $150,000 loan allotment, an increase in the loan amount may need to be adjusted as the building is reaching the final construction stages. More fundraising will also need to occur in the future.

A discussion was held on the service provided by Zito to the Village of Sterling. Several complaints have been received. Three area villages were contacted to see what they offer in cable services. (Adams, Tecumseh, and Cook) one of the villages also has a contract with Zito, one village does not offer any contractual cable service and one has a contract with Time Warner. It was discussed to possibly reach out to Time Warner and get some information on the service that they offer. There is some concern that Sterling may not be a large enough community for them to provide service to this area. Mercure has requested a copy of the Village’s current contract with Zito to review. More discussion on this topic will occur next month. There was nothing new to report on the Fema Bridge appeal. The State of NE has supported the appeal and it is still under review. The highway allocation bonds are ready to be sold. The board agreed to follow through on this process, and a vote was not necessary.

A handful of Sterling Village-Wide Housing Rehabilitation Program applications have been handed out. It was discussed to continue to make village homeowners aware of this program, so that more citizens take vantage of this program.

In new business, Lempka made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-10 SIGNING OF THE MUNICPAL ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE FORM 2020. It was seconded by Wusk, Vote: yeas: all, Motion carried. Thies made a motion to forego the three readings of Ordinance 2020-2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY BOARD FOR THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA TO CONSIST OF (5) MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Wusk seconded it, Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Thies made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2020-2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY BOARD FOR THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA TO CONSIST OF (5) MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE and this five-member board will consist of Tollie Riensche-chairman, Brenda Thies, Evi Wusk, Cassie Pfieffer and Cristine Andrews as members and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all, Motion carried.

Thies made a motion to approve a Liquor license for an additional outdoor area for Hancock Lumber, LLC (Hancock General Value/The Hammer) 165 Nebraska St, Sterling, NE It was seconded by Lempka, Vote: yeas: all, Motion carried.

A discussion was held with Steve Spadt on the topic of right-away near his property. It was decided that members of the Village board will contact the Cooperative to come up with a possible solution. It was asked that Spadt not park his vehicle in the right-away so, as to not, impede traffic and he agreed.

Delinquent water bills were discussed, and notices will be hung up. A letter was sent out to a patron with a delinquent trash bill.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board Sandy Weyers, Assistant Village Clerk