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, January 12th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall 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, USPS-Sterling, and Village of Sterling Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Ralph Wusk, Tom Nieveen, Steve Lempka, and Andy Thies. Others present: Sandy Weyers, Ryan Hoffman, Spencer Pagel, Marissa Lempka, Todd Blome, and Becky Barney.

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 which included amending the agenda to change SCA repayment agreement to operations agreement and for payment of the following SCA Building Account bills: Lempka Heating & AC for $5,000, Fricke Construction for $3913.40, Al Wusk Electric for $660.88 and Paint & Paper Pals for $2393.20 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to approve Wusk Repair bill for $61.15 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Thies, Nieveen, & Keizer. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve NR Marketing bill for $375.00 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Nieveen, Thies, and Lempka. Abstained: Keizer. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to approve Sterling Community Association bill for office space rental in the amount of $5,000 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills, heating-1199.83; City of Tecumseh, handibus-300.00; Constellation, heating-332.88; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-272.23; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-138.35; First Bank of Nebraska, fee-20.00; Hamilton’s Equipment Company, equip. and repairs-5550.98; Hancock Lumber, sup.-53.96; Jet Stop, fuel-349.51; Johnson County Clerk, fee-100.00; Kerner True Value, sup.-295.20; Main Street Designs, banners-494.00; Maguire Iron, Inc., maint.-46,535.00; Menninga Electronics, maint/sup.-149.30; Municipal Supply, Inc. of Omaha, sup.-456.79; Nebraska Agi-Business Assoc., fee-225.00; NPPD, electricity-2251.05; NPHEL, samples-163.00; Nestor & Mecure, fees-4152.50; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll December, payroll-5602.10; Payroll Taxes December, taxes-995.20; Olsson, labor-995.20; One Call Concepts, fee-16.14; Rembolt/Ludtke, fee-1250.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Sterling Community Association, rent-5,000.00; Sterling Public Schools, license monies-630.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-72.24; Voice News, publishing-86.68; USPS, stamps-165.00; Waste Connections, refuse-6049.00; Waymire Well Drilling, sup.-736.17; Windstream, telephone-241.48; Wusk Repair, maint.-61.15; Board Member Fees: Ralph Wusk-750.00, Tom Nieveen-450.00, Andy Thies-250.00, Steve Lempka-300.00, John Keizer-1000.00; Zoning admin Fee, Marissa Lempka-1050.00; cemetery fee., Densie Horstman-250.00. Total: $90,486.90.

No public comment.

Becky Barney, librarian, reported on submitting a grant, adult book group Monday nights, homework group is growing, after school program is growing on Thursday evenings with two volunteers, first library board meeting will be this month, board needs to get twenty credits each, average of one hundred people per month, ceiling looks a lot better. Planning to use grant funds to hire someone to setup a friend’s of the library group that will help with getting accredited and becoming a 501 C 3.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed the following: got a load of salt last week, signed up for commercial applicators class, snowball conference to get credits-have until April, got new Bobcat but back in the shop getting repaired, talked to Brian at Olsson’s for Broadway Street bridge with needing to move water line, bridge piling is split down the middle so needing replaced, NIFCO and Fire Marshall completed testing at community building, broke down pallets at building, and talked to Brian about moving fire hydrant on Sean Moss’s lot which wouldn’t be covered by FEMA so would need to get another contractor to move it to the West.

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk, discussed Ricketts extending videoconferencing through the end of April, setting up payment arrangements for Ehmen’s addition NPPD electrical installation. Nieveen made a motion to allow Ryan and Lindsay Lempka to make payments over the term of a year for their portion of the NPPD electrical installation at Ehmen’s addition and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Nieveen, and Thies. Abstained: Lempka. Motion carried. Discussed COVID vaccine list, becoming a member of NASASP for surplus equipment which board agreed to be a part of for $39.00, urban development application for park improvements but will need to review for eligible items, complaint on trash prices but can’t adjust due to new contract amounts, complaint about needing rock South of Main Street-will do in the spring, and discussion of snow removal on walking path at the park-board discussed that it is closed in the winter and that cemetery is plowed so could used for that use.

Chairman Keizer will be on vacation March 25th through April 11th and discussed Broadway Street bridge with Jim Erickson but still need to get together on more details.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, discussed the following: December meeting did not work so rescheduling for January 27th and issued first building permit for 2021.

Todd Blome, BMG CPA’s, discussed audit, collecting of all the data and processes needed for financial statements and presented financial statements with no significant concerns. Keizer discussed processes for sending out delinquent property notices being changed by legislature. Marissa Lempka discussed community center updates with getting floor installation starting as early as January 18th, passed fire inspections, passed electrical inspections in the end of December, need to finish up cabinetry in kitchen and still needing to order counter tops, need to finish up some painting, contacted school about renting space for practices this spring, possibility of having prom there and already booked for graduation and have a wedding booked, wine and ale festival is set for February 27th, need to expand parking lot, adding a second driveway to the West, and possibly get old telephone poles to line parking lot to keep rock in place, updating website with calendar for availability of community building, and discussed rental agreement. Vacant property registrations were discussed and letter from property owner at 175 Depot Street was reviewed. Nieveen made a motion to remove 175 Depot Street from the vacant property list and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas. Motion carried. Hearings are set on two other properties for the 28th. Samantha discussed FEMA update with needing to submit more information about maintenance schedule and pictures prior to disaster. Olsson’s agreement for the Broadway Street bridge replacement was discussed with a cost of $63,800. Board discussed tabling depending on FEMA funding and county involvement on Broadway Street bridge. Nieveen made a motion to table Olsson’s agreement on Broadway Street bridge until next month and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Street repairs were discussed with needing to get with Al Rogman about waiving workmens comp. insurance requirement since he has no employees.

Nieveen made a motion to approve the operating agreement for the Sterling Community Center with Sterling Community Association and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Thies made a motion to approve 50G Nebraska application for county/city lottery and $100 fee from the keno account and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka moved Resolution 2021-1 WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was signed into law on October 30, 2000, placing emphasis on state and local mitigation planning for natural hazards and requiring communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed $25 for any individual, employee, board member, or volunteer and for spouses and special friends to be responsible for their own meal for a recognition dinner and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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