

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, December 10, 2024, 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, and the Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Steve Lempka, and Daniel Fraley. Absent: Tom Nieveen and Ralph Wusk. Others present: Steve Mercure, Steve Weiss, Clint Simmons, Tracy Pella, John Moss, and Dion Hancock.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act located on the North wall and led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Fraley made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the November bills and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc. pay app #4 in the amount of \$44,334.26 from the water main extension loan and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Fraley made a motion to transfer funds from Housing Rehabilitation to General for zoning change reimbursement in the amount of \$200 and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to transfer funds from the General Money Market account to the General account in the amount of \$100,000 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills Energy-heating \$763.07; BMG CPA's-audit and payroll \$8250.00; City of Tecumseh-fee \$300.00; Colonial Life-insurance \$134.30; Edward Jones-employee benefits \$556.94; First National Bank of Omaha-fee \$49.99; First National Bank of Omaha-supplies/fee \$2354.24; Hancock Lumber-supplies \$11.99; Jet Stop-fuel \$197.60; Johnson County Clerk-fee \$100.00; Johnson County Treasurer-taxes \$7.90; Kuhl Construction LLC-repairs \$1370.00; Maguire Iron, Inc.-maintenance \$10,457.00; Nebraska Department of Environment-fee \$150.00; Nebraska Department of Revenue-taxes \$324.78; November Payroll-payroll \$10,871.47; November Payroll Taxes-taxes \$2709.34; NPHEL-fee \$15.00; NPPD-electricity \$2168.12; Olsson-fee \$11,515.71; Roof Guard LLC-repairs \$5755.00; Sterling Public Schools-license monies \$10.00; Nestor & Mercure-fee \$100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain-publishing \$206.38; Village of Sterling-utilities \$323.81; Windstream-telephone \$365.69; USPS-S&W supplies \$219.00; Waste Connections-S&W fee \$6104.53; Samantha Gordon-employee benefits reimbursement \$1404.43. Total: 66,796.29.

Mercure administered the oath of office to newly elected board members, Daniel Fraley and Steve Lempka. Committee and personnel assignments were tabled until the January meeting for a full board. Also, need to establish a safety committee of equal parts employees and administration.

Tracy Pella has talked to other parents in the community and has decided to move forward with making a youth association and possibly include softball and baseball with them. She plans to create a non-profit and committees for each sport. Lempka would like the community to have ball and other things to keep the youth involved. Clint Simmons explained and reviewed the valuation of village property with the board and made changes as necessary. LARM doesn't offer coverage for bridges but could add guard rail to the policy. It was also recommended to quote the fire hall building coverage to compare rates with their current policy.

Becky Barney, the librarian, had no report.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reminded the board of training next Wednesday, Sargent was in town today to see what was needed to remove the right-angle drive for the tractor hookup and will be in town next week to do the work, Lincoln Concrete was supposed to be here tomorrow but will be here next week instead with the cold weather this week, received an e-mail on the security grant that we're tentatively approved but waiting on final approval, salt shed roof is done and was raised three feet for easier accessibility with the skid loader, removed trees South of town going out to the tree pile, discussed counting the number of vehicles that go across the railroad tracks for installing cross arms, hasn't received a new skid steer so will most likely need new to replace the tires, will price tires with Turnball or Laffman and get back to the board, also discussed tearing old

bench out of the shop so he could insulate the building and rebuild the bench instead of paying someone to spray foam it. The board agreed that if he's willing to do the work, he could rebuild the bench and insulate the village shop.

Samantha Gordon, clerk/treasurer/zoning administrator, will be attending the clerks meeting in Louisville on Thursday and is working on the appreciation dinner plans.

John Keizer discussed projects with the use of ARPA funds for installation of new water services on E. Sterling Ave. and replacing two older fire hydrants. Fraley made a motion to approve the use of the remaining ARPA funds for installation of water services on E. Sterling Ave. and replacing two fire hydrants and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Property clean-ups will be discussed in the executive session for pending litigation.

Fraley made a motion to hold off on combining funds from the Sterling Ball Association with the new Youth Association until the plan was further in motion and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Dion Hancock brought up concerns with the process of replating and developing his subdivision stating that the East side of the road being the Parrish subdivision was already approved by the board. Mercure advised that the Hancock subdivision still needed to be reviewed and approved by the planning and zoning board and village board. Dion chose not to review the subdivision agreement at this time and will bring it to the next regular meeting. Lempka made a motion to cancel the automatic transfer of funds in the amount of \$200 to the employee benefit account and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. The discussion on an ordinance for establishing an initial meter fee for commercial customers and a separate ordinance on amending the water rates was deferred until January. Lempka made a motion to approve the agreement with JEO Consulting Group for updating the zoning map and ordinance and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Discussion and setting of amounts for the QSEHRA plan was deferred until January for a full board to review. The board discussed moving the fire hydrant out of the state right of way and cost to do so. Lempka made a motion to approve moving the fire hydrant off the state right of way and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 8:28 p.m. and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:43 p.m. and seconded by Fraley. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board

Samantha Gordon, Village Clerk