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, February 11, 2020 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, Andy Thies, Steve Lempka, and Tom Nieveen. Others present: Vane Rengstorf, Audrey Keebler, Spencer Pagel, Ryan Hoffman, Marissa Lempka, Steve & Edith Myers, Anne Wicket, Clint Kage, and Addie Heusman, Emily Bausch, and Terry Keebler.

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 consent agenda: which includes approval of regular meeting minutes and special meeting minutes; approval of bills with nothing from SCA Building Account; approval of monthly transfer to solid waste and General from sewer and water; and amend the agenda and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills, heating-719.94; BMG CPA’s, accountant-303.00; Constellation, heating-631.03; Marlin Ebbers Trucking Inc., trucking-750.40; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-166.04; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-60.23; Hancock Lumber, sup-27.25; Iowa Pumpworks, repairs-1430.00; Jet Stop, fuel-295.62; Jet Stop, village bucks-20.00; Maguire Iron, water tower-46535.00; Municipal Supply Inc. of Omaha, sup-602.87; NPHEL, fees-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2476.16; NR Marketing, 375.00; Payroll Jan., payroll-6681.62; Payroll Taxes Jan, taxes-1594.28; Olsson, consulting-3046.72; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-840.00; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-158.19; Unico, bond-200.00; Waste Connections, refuse-4534.77; Windstream, telephone-389.93. Total: $72,453.05.

Emily Bausch, Olsson Engineering Consultant, need to proceed forward and assume that FEMA is still going to be involved in bridge project. Also, sewer manhole project is complete and sewer line was in decent shape, we might think about adding a few more shut offs. Wetland delineation report is complete so that we can work on permitting portion after hydraulic analysis is complete then move on to alternative analysis. Interim financing with state revolving loan fund might help with cash flow or possible bonding. Need to investigate having some tree removal upstream and make sure channel is not impacted by this. Sterling Board of Education Update consisted of offering the superintendent position to Dr. Sharp. Clint Kage discussed workers comp insurance or becoming our BOR for our current package policy and possibly getting our other insurance policy. Clint will get with Samantha for current policy and get us a quote. Addie Heusman addressed the board with her concern about Ed Ehmen not completing purchase agreement. Board addressed Mecure to send a letter to offer our assistance in any way we can to resolve the issues since we have put forth the money in the electricity improvements.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed sewer on E. Locust Street was complete, Iowa Pump Works was down to inspect the pumps, NPPD will string wire for cameras and install outlets which will include set metered amounts, dialer unit is ordered and should be getting installed within the next couple of weeks, and purchasing salt lick from Hotsy for deactivating salt on equipment. Board agreed that the salt lick was a good idea to keep equipment free working smoothly and free from rust.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed Moss’s getting started on drainage issues on E. Locust Street within the next couple weeks since it was put to a halt due to weather, comp plan update has been started but would possibly need some help with updating land use map and other maps associated with this with the help of Bobbi Pettit who has helped with other smaller municipalities. Small Data Tech stopped by Saturday to discuss getting dialer unit and possibly water meters down the road. SKILLS kids are willing to help with town cleanup if residents need assistance with anything. Board discussed getting two dumpsters at first to help keep up and plan run for two weekends.

John Keizer discussed Ozon 3 water treatment facility costing an estimated $3600 to keep water lines cleaned out.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, discussed Jason Harms getting a building permit to build a house and getting occupancy to Ryan and Lindsay. Also discussed superintendent looking for lots to build on. Chairman Keizer and Zoning Administrator Marissa Lempka recommended Addie Heusman to the vacant planning commission. Lempka made a motion to appoint Addie Heusman to the planning commission and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Chairman Keizer reported that the HGTV hometown project went well and not sure how long it’ll take to hear back from them. Hazard mitigation update went well and we are in the process of getting needed paperwork filled out. Emily offered to assist in filling out the paperwork Monday at 10:00. Community building is moving along with walls going up inside. Keizer also discussed possibly using some keno funds as a safety valve with the SCA agreeing to repay it if needed. Thies made a motion to use Keno funds as backup for the community building in the event of a shortfall for short term loan and a letter of commitment for repayment from the Sterling Community Association and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Mecure discussed that we would be assessing registration fees at next meeting for vacant property registration, Samantha will have a current list of properties for approval for meeting. Samantha discussed that we may need to be looking for a Sterling Ball Association coordinator as Matt Uher was not wanting to continue to do it if someone else was interested but he was going to start getting things rolling for the summer ball program. Board agreed to make the Sterling Ball Association a paid position to possibly help keep someone in the position as we don’t want to lose the program with all the efforts we’ve put into improving the ball field. Lempka made a motion to pay the Sterling Ball Association coordinator $300 per year and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Austin Buss was interested in the position with the assistance of Matt Uher to learn all of the duties. Kuhl Trenching project was already accepted at the last meeting as a pay certificate by the board, so no new action was taken. John discussed allowing Sterling Public Schools to use our snow removal equipment such as the bobcat for snow removal on the school parking lot and the board all agreed that due to insurance coverage, we couldn’t allow this. Snow removal letters were discussed for downtown snow removal and board agreed that it was a good idea to send them out to property owners giving them 24 hours to clear snow off the sidewalks. Samantha discussed some ideas for the 150-year celebration, being an open house of the Village Office, downtown banners, and offer some memorabilia people may have for residents to browse through during the Sterling Picnic weekend. Park reservation form was reviewed, can’t completely close park for rentals due to walking path being open to the public; and get rid of the fee but note that donations are welcome for park improvements. Lempka asked if the board had any plans for old Depot lot or if we’d like to offer it to the public for sale. Board agreed that if it was for a new business in town they may consider it but not wanting more storage buildings downtown and might want the space for improvements down the road.

Delinquent water bills were discussed and notices will be sent out with attorney sending one to small claims court.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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