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 8, 2022 at 7:00 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. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Ralph Wusk, Danny Fraley, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Dion Hancock, John Moss, Roger Moss, Spencer Pagel, and Vane Rengstorf.

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall then lead the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda with changing fence at the park to fence at the dump from January minutes and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve VanKirk Bros. Contracting pay app 6 for $3008.78 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the Wusk Power Equipment and Repair for $293.44 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Fraley, Lempka, Nieveen, and Keizer. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve the refund of rural garbage customer balances and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to transfer funds in the amount of $3101.85 from the Library fund to general account and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the following list of bills and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Becky Barney, library contract-328.69; Cristine Andrews, library contract-460.00; Black Hills, heating-1708.11; BMG CPA’s, fees-700.00; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-1463.85; Doug Schmidt, tow-125.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-1132.81; Hancock Lumber, LLC, sup.-9.17; Independent Salt Company, salt-983.68; Jed Shupp Trucking, Inc., trucking-808.50; Jet Stop, fuel-313.16; JW Kennedy, library shelving-1250.00; Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc., repairs-1040.00; Levi Stroup, library DVD player & labor-224.90; Midwest Engineering, Inc., engineering of Broadway St. bridge-32,200.00; NPPD, electricity-2081.06; NPHEL, samples-15.00; Olsson, 1&6 year plans-154.00; Payroll January, payroll-7459.27; Payroll Taxes January, taxes-1956.27; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-82.56; USPS, sup.-174.00; VanKirk Bros. Contracting, E. Locust St. bridge-3008.78; Voice News, pub.-98.88; Waste Connections, refuse-5988.92; Waymire Well Drilling, Inc., repairs-30.00; Windstream, telephone-330.14; Wusk Power Equip. and Repair, sup.-293.44; Ryan & Sarah Bredthauer, S&W refund-2.00; Scott & Sandy Buss, S&W refund-23.00; Vadim Divizinskiy, S&W refund-2.00; Dave Keim, S&W refund-23.00; Tom & Nancy Reeves, S&W refund-115.00; Arlo & Barb Wusk, S&W refund-46.00. Total: $65,726.24; Total S&W Refunds-$246.02.

John Moss discussed the purchase of eighty acres next to Dean Seeds as a possible subdivision but would need to have water to the properties, electrical isn’t an issue. Also, already discussed a utility easement with Dean Seeds on the North side of property, if need be, which was fine. Mecure suggested to have a couple board members act as a liaison to work with Moss’s on plans. Spencer suggested to just dig a new well outside of town at the development to provide water since a backup well was already being discussed. Lempka and Keizer can be a liaison for the project to report back to the board.

Vane Rengstorf brought up a concern as to why four-inch hydrants were replaced with four-inch hydrants instead of six-inch per an ordinance. Spencer and John said the ordinance was looked for but didn’t see of such requirement. Also, wanted to know if there were any applicants for the vacant cemetery board position which was listed later in the agenda but there were three applicants.

Dion Hancock presented plans for re-platting an area North of Iowa Street along Tecumseh Ave. for potential housing development. Board was presented with this idea in the past but questioned access and street development so asked that an engineer look at plans prior to being reviewed by the planning commission then back to the Village board.

Becky Barney, librarian, discussed grants-library improvement grant that’s spent down, youth for excellence grant that’s being used for a maker space, and ARPA grant for a new online catalog and e-books. New friends of the library group that have meet twice already, and planning roll out for mini mobile maker space in March. Discussed doing a movie night once a month on a Friday night and board approved of such. Wusk made a motion to approve appointing Gladys Kuhlmann, Liz Fraley, and Jane Harms to fulfill the vacant library board positions and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Lempka, Nieveen, Wusk, and Keizer. Abstained: Fraley. Motion carried.

Spencer discussed water main break by the apartments, replacing a valve and doing a line stop, along with replacing the section where main has been broke twice now, generator at the pumps over heated and going to have it looked at and possibly install an automatic switch as well, also discussed putting more valves in town so we don’t have to shut off the whole town for a main break. Withdrew application from City of Lincoln so will be staying with the Village. Also, plans to start discharging later this week. Going to keep a pile of sand on hand to fill in cut outs so they don’t take so long to settle and can be repaved shortly after.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed Keno being closed at The Hammer, lot split application for Moss, still two zoning board vacancies so need to extend deadline, working on NNRD intent letter for landscaping, League survey about possibly offering health plans to full time employees, and DHHS offering a low income water assistance program that will be rolling out in March. Delinquest utility bills were discussed with two going to small claims, Mecure sending out a letter to another, and board approving to dismiss the charges on another.

John Keizer, reminded board members to register for ballot, wrote letters to Adrian Smith about community meeting for the Post Office as a response to e-mail to Omer Kuhlmann and ARPA denial letter, wine and ale festival is Saturday, and new roof was $31,000 on the Senior Center but only received $19,000 from insurance going to have Mecure take a look at the claim, and circus will be coming to town in September-need to check into having it on the practice field instead in case VanKirk is in town to work on the Broadway Street bridge replacement.

Property clean ups were discussed with having Mecure send out letters for abatement on a few properties from previous letters that were sent out. Vacant property registrations were discussed and sending letters out to two property owners. Received an in-progress payment from FEMA, working on administrative costs, and project closeout. No update on agreement with the Sterling Public Schools. No update on downtown business sidewalks but could do a sidewalk district and assess a lien. ARPA funding was discussed and water meter quotes from the Village of Cook was reviewed for comparison. Fraley made a motion to proceed to advertise and get bids for water meters and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Need to extend deadline on Recreation Director and Ball President and start getting the word out so we get the ball rolling on setting up summer ball. Need to get a list together for street repairs for next meeting to use remaining bonding funds. There were three interested candidates in the vacant cemetery board position. Keizer recommended Missy Wentz to fulfill the vacant cemetery board position. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve Big Red Communications quote for purchasing three more cameras, installation, and moving of existing cameras for $3424.19 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Two bids were received for repairing damage to lean to on Village shop. Nieveen made a motion to approve Roof Guard Exteriors bid for $2700 to repair the lean to on the shop and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the replacement of the tin on the south slope by Roof Guard Exterior for an additional $900 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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