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, April 12, 2022 at 7:35 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 Village of Sterling Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Tom Nieveen and Steve Lempka. Late arriving due to fire: Dan Fraley and Ralph Wusk. Others present: William & Jennifer Moss, Julie Saathoff, Stan Karr, Spencer Pagel, Andrew Richardson, Cody Goracke, Garrett Hier.

Chairman John Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the North wall.

Lempka made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the addition of approval of transfer of fund from SCA Building Acct to Highway Alloc. Bonds in the amount of $219,002.37 and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve the remaining bills and transfers and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yays: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: A Street Auto North, sup.-26.17; Black Hills, Feb. heating-1303.75; Black Hills, March heating-1051.34; BMG CPA’s, fee-100.00; BOK Financial, bond interest-5031.25; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-600.42; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-49.89; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-1254.68; High Tide Technologies, fee-360.00; Intuit Quickbooks, sup.-236.98; Jet Stop, fuel-369.26; Kerner True Value, fans-225.97; Kuhl Construction, Inc., repairs-370.00; Midwest Lab, fee-571.77; Nebraska Dept. of Rev. Charitable Gaming, fee-100.00; NPPD, electricity-2063.84; NPHEL, samples-150.00; Olsson, fee-257.18; One Call, fee-58.92; Payroll March, payroll-7423.27; Payroll Taxes March, taxes-1945.78; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; SENDD, OOR fee-1205.50; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-247.74; USPS, sup.-174.00; VanKirk Bros. Contracting, repairs-41971.93; Voice News, pub.-222.03; Waste Connections, refuse-5447.95; Windstream, telephone-330.35. Total: $74,456.02.

Stan Karr and Julie Saathoff were present representing the Sterling school board discussing the possible closure of E. Illinois St. between Lincoln and Main for safety concerns and the possibility of adding onto the school. The board would possibly be for this depending on utilities, fire marshal access, and other surveys. Also, asked what the setbacks were on the West side of the school for expansion and possibly fixing parking spaces. Stan also discussed the drainage concerns on the East side of Main Street since the street is much higher than in the past and water coming into the lobby. Board agreed that the school would have to find property lines then work on fixing the drainage concerns. The drainage in front of Waymire’s was another concern of Karr’s asking why something hasn’t been done to remedy this. The board was told not to mess with the drainage because it wouldn’t have fixed the issue anyway.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed getting the park bathrooms opened for the upcoming Easter egg hunt, ordered some repair kits for the faucets in the women’s bathroom, and spoke with Al Rogman about fixing street cut outs. Lempka asked about the West approach to the Broadway Street bridge needing to be added to Al Rogman’s list for a temporary fix until it’s replaced. Al Rogman also asked for a list of owners and addresses to quote sidewalk repairs throughout downtown. Also, asked VanKirk about getting some millings from the highway project for the cemetery and other places around town as needed but haven’t heard back. John Moss will be burying the ash in the coming weeks. Gary Kuhl’s working to find a couple dry days to complete the water main projects that are dug up from breaks. Spencer also discussed the possibility of having the water line for Moss’s development to come from the South instead of the West but would need to talk to an engineer and the county for this to happen.

William & Jennifer Moss’s variance application was discussed with Lempka’s concern about the weight of the equipment on the streets. He responded saying that it will only be the truck using the street access and no trailer so shouldn’t be a problem as he’s already been using Washington Street for access. Nieveen made a motion to approve the variance application from William & Jennifer Moss legal description STERLING-KNEELAND ADD E179.6’ LOTS 1-3 BLK 4 (.62A) zoning ordinance to allow for an accessory building permit changes from a ten-foot side wall to a sixteen-foot side wall and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to appoint Chuck Wingert to the planning/zoning board to fulfill the last vacant position and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Becky Barney, librarian, discussed a Shirley Zink Memorial reading room and the possible options for such. John discussed that an original idea was to cut through the vault gaining access to the Village Office and using some unoccupied space, but contractors didn’t think that was a great idea. Another possibility was to add onto the current library by building to the North depending on utilities, which the board agreed was a better option. Lempka mentioned having a brother that could possibly help with drawing out a plan for the building ideas and will get in contact with him.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed two small claims court cases, and no response from letter regarding illegal dumping. Also, talked about complaints from residents that live in residential areas with commercial district neighbors not having a fence or shrubbery separating properties and trash and other items being blown into their yard. Planning/zoning board will discuss and get letters sent out.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, reminded the board that he would be out of town the last week of April. John also updated the board on the SCA Building roof with contractors working on replacement and receiving more money to pay for it from insurance.

Property clean-ups were discussed with more letters being sent out. Board directed Mecure to file nuisance abatement action on four properties that haven’t responded to letters or cleaned up properties.

Vacant property registration letters will be sent out needing to send previous letters to Mecure for changes. No update on FEMA except that the Village may be able to receive assistance in paying our 12.5% of the E. Locust Street bridge.

Samantha discussed needing to add more diamond pro to the ball field soon since it’s been four years since it’s been done. Lempka made a motion to allow Diamond Pro, Inc. to add material to the field not exceeding $600 and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Two applications were received for summer help, Austin Buss and Cameron VanGroningen with both asking for in increase in wages. Fraley made a motion to hire Austin Buss for $13/hour and Cameron VanGroningen for $11/hour and not being guaranteed forty hours a week and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka approved Al Rogman to repair street cutouts with the chairmans approval and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Samantha discussed having someone come down from Edward Jones to discuss offering retirement for full time employees. Ralph and John would discuss then report back to the next regular board meeting.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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