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 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in a GoTo conference 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: Spencer Pagel, Ryan Hoffman, Marissa Lempka, Sandy Weyers, Austin Buss, Brian Schuele, and Emily Bausch.

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.

Nieveen made a motion to accept the consent agenda: which includes approval of regular meeting minutes with the change under Marissa’s report to Ryan Lempka’s house; approval of special meeting minutes; approval of bills with the exception of Moss Trucking & Excavating bill and approval of Hancock Lumber for $3139.79; Roof Guard LLC for $8245.00; Fakler Architects, LLC for $217.70; Al Wusk Electric for $15547.70; Lincoln Concrete Specialists, Inc. for $6727.60; and Wentz Construction for $228.80 from SCA Building Account; approval of monthly transfer to solid waste and General from sewer and water; and amend the agenda to include Ehmens Add discussion and compression brake signs and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Barco, signs-175.43; Black Hills, heating-497.87; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; Buss Pest Control, pest control-120.00; Constellation, heating-532.41; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-10.00; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-398.45; Hancock Lumber, sup-8.78; Jet Stop, fuel-263.43; Kuhl Trenching, sup.-883.20; Kreativ Studios, graphics-150.00; Lincoln Concrete, rock-992.26; Moss Trucking & Excavating, repairs-4000.00; NPHEL, fees-15.00; NPPD, electricity-2164.91; NR Marketing, website-375.00; Payroll Mar, payroll-4351.13; Payroll Taxes Mar, taxes-1300.32; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-480.00; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Sterling Public Schools, license monies-200.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-74.82; Voice News, publishing-90.47; Waste Connections, refuse-4566.06; Windstream, telephone-393.79; Wusk Power, repairs-261.97. Total: $27,912.26.

Moss Trucking & Excavating bill for tube and drainage was discussed since bill came in at over what board had previously approved. Lempka made a motion to ask John Moss for a break down of the additional $1,000 difference from the original quote and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Brian Schuele discussed the bridge estimate and prelim plans and ways that we can reduce the cost. Traffic control could be our concrete blocks that we already currently have to save on the costs as well. Bid environment may or may not get better with the pandemic we are currently in.

Ehmen addition was discussed bales have been moved but wondering about boundaries of North lots and auger and ammonia tanks have not been moved. Mecure suggested having the lots surveyed so that we are aware of where the lines are at for sure. Marissa addressed concern with when the zoning change was made to residential and as far as Samantha found it was all changed when the zoning book and map were updated. Nieveen discussed getting compression brake signs put up by the Village limits coming into town to control noise through the night, would need to talk to state to get permission.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, discussed ground behind backstop at park being pretty torn up so renting a tiller attachment from Hamilton’s for $200 per day and Andy picked up some grass seed to replant along with replanting down by Keim’s from the drainage and tube that was fixed. Thies thought tilling and reseeding was a good idea especially now with no ball going on right now. Lempka suggested renting an over seeder from Lowe’s to just reseed over it instead of tilling it. Also, gravel on Lincoln Street has kind of spread off the sides of the streets so thought about renting a street sweeper for $200 per day to sweep it into the middle of the street then cleaning it up and moving it somewhere it could be used. Gets rubber balls, fishing lures, etc. in wet well and down in pump so looked into getting a telescoping pole to be able to fish that kind of stuff out. Board was fine with purchasing that as a tool to keep the pumps up and going without any issues. Also, currently discharging so should be done hopefully by the end of the month. Checked out some trees at the park today with Caspers Tree Service today with wanting to taking out four trees and trimming another at the park, taking down a limb off a tree on Washington Street, and taking down rotten tree at dump for a total of $2600.00 but can’t start until May/June. Concession stands and restrooms at the park are ready to go whenever we can open to the public again. Aero Fence is still not responding for work on back stop so may need to go with second bid.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, discussed promotional items coming within the next two to three weeks. Also, checked with Mecure on Chris Saathoff court costs, he’s going to check on the status of where we are at.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, had no other discussion besides what is already on the agenda.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, Jason Harms started construction on his house, Dions starting on his addition, and Danny Fraley turned in a permit for a fence. Also, going to continue hearing to May 13th on Doug Schmidt’s building permit.

Marissa Lempka discussed community center updates, electrical being pulled, framing is coming along, lighting is approved with LED’s with dimmers, plumber discussed fixtures needing to be commercial instead of residential, the need of having an additional fire alarm system that is an estimated $20,837, and set back with drywall due to the fire system. Also, cancelled bowling tournament due to virus and slowed down with other fundraising efforts. Vacant property registrations were discussed with receiving a letter from Chad Riensche regarding his property at 175 Walnut St. being fully furnished and usable by their family with future plans to tear down the existing house and rebuild. Also, received a letter from Marvin Schwaab regarding his commercial property at 131 E. Broadway Street being used for storage and not vacant. Board directed Mecure to send out a letter in response to the letters received.

Emily Bausch discussed SRF funding and possible stimulus funds with getting meters along with the utility funding for the bridge. With meter pits, radio, installation, handheld device, training, contingency, bidding assistance, and engineering in the amount of $450K. Application needs to be submitted for SRF funding that Emily already has completed with this information that John will need to sign. Thies made a motion to submit an application to the state revolving fund for meter installation and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. FEMA is still at eligibility requirement stage of the project and have declared the Covid disaster in the case of loss in revenue. Lempka made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-1 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING BY SEALED BID and Wusk seconded the motion. James Wenzl’s legal description was updated due to his current house and vacant property being on the same lot. Four applications were received for summer help. Lempka made a motion to hire Austin Buss for summer help and Wusk seconded his motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to hire Cameron Vangroningen and Lempka seconded the motion: Vote: yeas: Wusk, Keizer, Lempka, and Nieveen Obstained: Thies. Motion carried. Board also discussed with the list of things to get done this summer it might not be a bad idea to have a third person. Lempka made a motion to hire Kaleb Williams and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Wusk, Lempka, Nieveen, and Keizer. Obstained: Thies. Motion carried. Board discussed paying Sue Wilken while off for possible corona virus exposure and agreed to do so. Sterling Ball was discussed with not wanting to completely cancel right now so going to wait to see how things go. 150-year celebration and Sterling picnic was discussed with possible delaying of these celebrations until later on in the summer. Park facility closure was discussed with keeping an eye on things for now so that we don’t go over the 10-person limit and in the case of a local case then fully close.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m. and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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