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, May 10, 2022 at 7:30 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: Ralph Wusk, Danny Fraley, Tom Nieveen, and Steve Lempka. Others present: Vane Rengstorf, Spencer Pagel, Denise Horstman, and MaryAnn Pella.

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 and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion to approve bill for Wusk Repair for $63.95 and Fraley seconded the motion. Votes yeas: Lempka, Fraley, and Nieveen. Abstained: Wusk. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve the remaining bills and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Becky Barney, lib. Sup.-40.81; Black Hills, heating-675.87; BMG CPA’s, payroll-300.00; Buss Pest Control, spraying-120.00; Colonial Life, ins.-206.05; Constellation, heating-464.70; Farmers Cooperative, spray-259.73; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-197.42; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-541.55; Hamilton Equipment Company, sup.-400.98; Jet Stop, fuel-201.36; Kerner True Value, sup.-45.98; Nebraska Department of Revenue, taxes-727.78; NPPD, electricity-1981.57; NPHEL, samples-15.00; Nemaha NRD, trees-66.00; Payroll April, payroll-7603.27; Payroll Taxes April, taxes-1973.32; Sargent Drilling, well test-300.00; Samantha Gordon, insurance-500.00; Spencer Pagel, Insurance-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Tecumseh Chieftain, pub.-117.39; USPS, sup.-174.00; Voice News, pub.-39.14; Waste Connections, refuse-5157.95; Windstream, telephone-335.56; Wusk Repair, maint.-63.95. Total: $23,109.38.

Denise Horstman, representing the Sterling Cemetery Board discussed purchasing a galvanized steel sign to be installed between the two gates for approximately $14-$15K but needed to get the concept approved by the Village board. Fundraising efforts will begin after the project is approved. Nieveen made a motion to approve for the Sterling Cemetery Board to move forward with purchasing and placing a sign at the Sterling cemetery and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote yeas: all. Motion carried. Vane Rengstorf reminded the board that he requested a couple trashcans be added at the cemetery two months ago that haven’t been added yet. Nieveen apologized and said he would get cans to Spencer to put out at the cemetery and make sure existing cans are emptied prior to Memorial Day.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reported that summer help has started, SCA lots and park has been sprayed, Big Red was in town to install cameras and will be back in town tomorrow to finish up. Gary Kuhl will be coming to install the new valve at the apartments. Cemetery graves will be filled and leveled off later this week and going to put up signs for the E. Locust St. bridge. Also, going to fill in ditch with dirt and seed grass at Pellas. Need to approach Chris Nielsen about fixing the approach on the Broadway St. bridge. Addition on small shed at the park is damaged so going to remove since it’s currently only used for a hose reel and beyond repairing. Erics going to work on score board and shelter panel at the park. Moss’s still need to bury the ash pile at the dump. Also, brought up the idea of using the privacy fence that was used around the rural dumpsters to line the refuse site along the street to spruce up the entrance. Lempka mentioned that we should see about possibly getting stumps ground at the cemetery particularly by the flagpole but stone that is close by was a concern.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, clerk training coming up in June for $350 plus hotel expenses for two nights for continued education hours, approved the liquor license for Scotts Place for the Sterling picnic, and discussed some changes that were needed to the zoning map to correct it and get up to date. Fraley made a motion to approve the June League conference fee of $350 along with hotel and food costs and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Spencer discussed with the new generator coming for the well that we will most likely need to acquire some land or an easement from Ralph Wusk. Mecure recommended a lease agreement with Ralph for use of a portion of his property for placement of a generator and fence.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board, reminded the board that he would be out of town in August.

Property clean-ups were discussed with Mecure sending out seven more letters and one on conditions of a structure. Board directed him to file complaints from letters sent out in February that haven’t responded. One house is listed for sale and being cleaned up and adding another property to the list.

The SCA roof has been mostly replaced but still working on masonry and finishing up on tacking down the edges. Working on getting a bid from Lincoln Restoration to replace carpet, ceiling tiles, and some needed light fixtures for water damages from the roof.

Vacant properties were discussed and letters will be sent out. Spencer talked to Al Rogman and he asked for a list of property owners and addresses for downtown sidewalks.

John spoke with Darla Zink about the possibility of a reading room in memory of Shirley Zink but after checking into things the vault in the village office goes back to bathrooms, offered to dedicate the library to Shirley and install new carpet and paint to give a face lift, only option is to build onto the back of the library but was going to cost more than budgeted.

John discussed that Ralph, Sam, and himself sat down and spoke to Scott Grof about a simple IRA retirement plan through Edward Jones for full time employees for a matching contribution of up to three percent. Lempka made a motion to offer full-time employees a simple IRA plan through Edward Jones as a retirement benefit and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Nieveen made a motion for the Village to match up to three percent of employee contributions for the simple IRA retirement plans through Edward Jones and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Lempka made a motion to approve the closure of Broadway Street from Washington Street to Lincoln Street on June 4th, 2022 for the Sterling picnic and on June 5th, 2022 for the SVFD water fights and Wusk seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Spencer discussed quote from American Playground Company out of South Dakota for replacing rubber mulch under the park equipment and placing in border to keep material contained. The Village would also be eligible to apply for a DEQ scrap tire grant that is a 50% match with a mid-August deadline that we are more likely to receive if the work is already complete. Lempka made a motion to use keno funding for the villages 50% match for rubber mulch and border from American Playground Company and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Chairman Keizer introduced resolution 2022-01 for establishing fees for zoning changes, conditional use permits, lot splits, special use permits, and variances. Nieveen made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2022-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLING, NEBRASKA, REVISING AND ESTABLISHING FEES FOR APPLICANTS FOR ZONING CHANGES, CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS, LOT SPLITS, SPECIAL USE PERMITS, AND VARINACES UNDER THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF STERLINGand Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. and Fraley seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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