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, July 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sterling Fire Hall 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: Marissa Lempka, Spencer Pagel, Joe Pella, Sandy Weyers, Ryan Hoffman, Steve Myers, Denise Wolf, Audrey Keebler, and Leroy Riensche.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and the location on the north wall of the Fire Hall. Chairman Keizer led the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Nieveen made a motion to approve the consent agenda including allowing of the following bills from SCA Building Account: NIFCO Mechanical Systems-$4147.00, Hancock Lumber, LLC-7296.25, The Printer-$434.06, Lowe’s-$174.56, PPG Paints-$511.60, Al Wusk Electric-$5795.00, and Trauernicht and Sons Drywall-$24800.00 and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Aqua-Chem, Inc., sup.-179.10; Black Hills, heating-119.06; BMG CPA’s, accountant-50.00; Buss Pest Control, pest control-120.00; Constellation, heating-170.58; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-38.44; First National Bank-Omaha, sup.-854.74; Hamilton Equipment, rentals-171.00; Hancock Lumber, sup-375.13; Jet Stop, fuel-416.35; Kerner True Value, sup.-33.36; Kudo Lawn Care, cemetery mowing-3150.00; Melly’s Housekeeping, cleaning-100.00; NPPD, electricity-2264.01; NPHEL, samples-31.00; NR Marketing, website-375.00; NWOD, dues/fees-20.00; Payroll June, payroll-6899.83; Payroll Taxes June, taxes-1616.62; One Call Concepts, Inc., fees-26.12; Olsson, bridge engineering-1982.36; Recycling Enterprises of NE, recycle-120.00; Sargent Drilling, repairs-1551.85; Sid’s Auto Parts, sup.-338.83; SENDD, dues-548.00; Spencer Pagel, ins.-500.00; Steve Mecure, retainer-100.00; Nestor & Mecure, legal fees-5006.04; Tecumseh Chieftain, publishing-24.51; Unico, bond-100.00; Voice News, publishing-134.24; Waste Connections, refuse-4566.06; Windstream, telephone-398.21; Wusk Power, repairs-41.95; board member fees: John Keizer-1375.00, Ralph Wusk-825.00, Tom Nieveen-825.00, Andy Thies-250.00, Steve Lempka-275.00; Marissa Lemkpa, dues/fees-1050.00; Denise Horstman, dues/fees-250.00. Total: $37,272.39.

Marissa Lempka on behalf of Zach Lempka discussed possibly removing back stop and fence from practice field so that the football boys would have more room for practices. Board gave the go ahead to remove both fence and backstop. Leroy Riensche dropped off letter addressed to board regarding the vacant property registration, John reviewed this with the board.

Spencer Pagel, utility superintendent, reported on the following: paint is on order for fire hydrants/speed bumps/park shelters, working on spraying, NPPD will be coming to wire up cameras hopefully next week, ceiling fans were installed in South bay of Fire Hall, cleaned up inside of community building, need to get gas in Village’s name for community building, cleaned up tree on SE corner of SCA lot, caught someone on camera at park tearing around so turned over to sheriff’s office, Eric McDonald ordered supplies for electrical updates in the Fire Hall, discussed moving locations of cameras to include park entrance and community building, purchasing steel basket cage from Roger Huls for skid steer for $75, and Tim Norris will be coming to look at library roof and Village roof that have been leaking.

Chairman Keizer discussed task force meeting with county on corona virus updates and working with Dr. Turner on school openings. Also, Doug Schmidt is looking at purchasing old Corner Bar building so inquired about moving his towing business to town.

Marissa Lempka, zoning administrator, reported on the following: Jimmy Wenzl’s demo permit has been approved, Suzie Hestermann’s permit for a small shed has been approved, Rosie Sugden inquired about setbacks, also receiving a lot of questions when it comes to new builds pertaining to meters/fees/etc. Want to print up a document showing everything that is required with a new build along with rules and regulations, so everyone is on the same page in the future.

Samantha Gordon, village clerk, informed board of being out of town the 22nd through 26th,asked boards opinions on Becky closing off one restroom at library so she had more room for storage/sorting, and will be refunding James Wenzl for use of Fire Hall for graduation since party has been cancelled. Board agreed that it would be best to use extra space at Village Office for storage and to keep both restrooms open.

Property clean-ups were discussed with no response from letters sent out. Board agreed to have SENDD come in and help with nuisance abatement at our next board meeting.

Post prom parents inquired about using the park for a post prom event and the Fire Hall as a backup location in the event of rain. Wusk made a motion to waive fee for Post Prom parents use of Fire Hall for post prom event July 26th and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Keizer discussed CARES Act funding from FEMA and us not being eligible for librarian being off due to possible exposure because she was not temporarily replaced. HGTV town makeover was awarded to Wetumpka, AL but video got some excitement going through out the town. Keizer also clarified that the Village only pays for new water hookups to the curb stop not fifteen feet onto property.

Community Center is moving along with primer almost done inside and tile being selected, painting done in main area, looking at flooring options as stained concrete and meeting room being carpeted, Kenny Wentz will be doing some grading soon, getting gravel for concrete soon, installation of cabinets will be next, and 150-year celebration is tentatively set for September 12th and 13th. Board discussed letter from Chad Riensche’s attorney and decided to continue with fees being assessed as they are and to not dismiss case.

Chairman Keizer reviewed trash and recycling contract and reviewed rates for both a five- and ten-year contract. Wusk made a motion to select the ten-year contract for both refuse and recycling with keeping the recycling rolloff option and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. E Locust Street bridge project went out for bids need to have a special meeting scheduled for July 28th at 7:00 to select contractor and plans are at office for inspection. Lempka discussed getting the tree dump cleaned up a bit with possibly having Galen Bartels take concrete for culverts, having summer help sort asphalt from concrete, and pushing pile together a little more. Keizer discussed highway allocation bonding being for a term of twenty years and funding $550K in construction costs. Issuing of building permits per Nebraska code 150.1 was discussed for improvements over $2,500 and board agreed that there would be no fee for these permits for external repairs, but clerk would send to assessor.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. and Thies seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

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