

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, 2026, at 7:05 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 the Village Office. Chairman John Keizer called the meeting to order. Trustees answering roll call: Steve Lempka, Ralph Wusk, and Tom Nieveen. Others present: Dennis Heusman, Steve Weiss, Carolyn O'Brien, Adelynn Gordon, Zoey Vaudrin, Steve Eickhoff, Steve Mercure, Vane Rengstorf, Doug Schmidt, Ezra Gordon, Jake Bridges, Chuck Wingert, Mike Shea, Jeff Shea, Alicia Ramos Gordin, and Darius Tenopir.

Chairman Keizer acknowledged the Open Meetings Act and location on the wall with copies available to the public. Wusk made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve the April bills with the addition of Olsson in the amount of \$114.15 for street superintendent services and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

These bills were approved for payment: Black Hills Energy-heating \$800.11; Black Hills Energy-heating \$443.61; BMG CPA's-payroll fee \$300.00; BOK Financial-interest and fee \$4731.25; Colonial Life-insurance \$46.71; Constellation-heating \$1157.09; Doris Behrens-fee \$48.00; Edward Jones-employee benefit \$269.74; Farmers' Cooperative-supplies \$197.50; First National Bank of Omaha-supplies \$1170.58; Greenwade Tree Service-fee \$5500.00; High Tide Technologies-fee \$480.00; Hometown Leasing-lease \$62.92; Jeff Bessey-repairs \$295.00; Jet Stop, Inc.-fuel \$172.67; Kerner Ace Hardware-supplies \$283.99; Nemaha Valley Observer-publishing \$13.14; NPPD-electricity \$2456.93; Nebraska Department of Revenue-taxes \$334.22; Olsson-fee \$114.15; One Call Concepts, Inc.-fee \$26.98; Payroll \$8455.17; Payroll Taxes \$1750.99; US Bank Equipment Finance-fee \$149.00; Samantha Gordon-insurance \$700.00; Darius Tenopir-insurance \$500.00; Steve Mercure-fee \$100.00; Verizon-supplies \$108.66; Village of Sterling-utilities \$397.05; Waymire Well Drilling, Inc.-supplies \$36.55; Windstream-telephone \$372.33; USPS-S&W supplies \$234.00; Waste Connections-S&W fee \$6776.79. Total: \$38,485.13.

Jake Bridges, Hausman, discussed the schools addition project with final bidding happening the end of the month or first of May, doesn't have a final building footprint yet, construction equipment will be on Main Street so shouldn't affect property owners driveways, may also use the teacher parking lot behind the school for supplies, streets will only be affected for utility disconnects otherwise will stay as is and will not be closing the whole street. Still working out "The Hanger" which is the existing elementary and keeping access to the gym. Lempka questioned whether drainage concerns would be addressed with the construction project on both Illinois Street and the alley behind the school. Jake wasn't aware of drainage concerns but would check with REGA Engineering and make sure they are addressed. Chairman Keizer mentioned that we still need survey and request to vacate a portion of Illinois Street. Adelynn Gordon and Zoey Vaudrin, Girl Scout Troop #28971, presented the board with a slideshow of their proposed project of fixing a bench at the park as part of their bronze award. Nieveen made a motion to approve the Girl Scouts Troop #28971 bronze award project of fixing a park bench and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Becky Kennedy, librarian, did not have anything to report on at this time.

Darius Tenopir, utility superintendent, is currently discharging the lagoons, sprayed the park and community building, started weed eating, called on pricing for renting equipment for crack sealing, would like Doug Schmidt to help with street sealing. Nieveen would like swings checked at the park, the toddler swing is getting weather checked. Wusk mentioned the school has some students needing community service hours in May if Darius could assist them with finding something to do. Darius would like to have crack sealing done before the Sterling Picnic. Lempka asked that he fill in spots in front of mailboxes where needed and fix the ditch where the water main was replaced. Nieveen mentioned that by the

Lutheran Church parsonage there's clay tile sticking out on the south side of the street so would like to see a post put in to keep someone from falling into it and Dean Otto still plans to get concrete pile from the dump. There are a couple clothesline posts that will need the concrete broke off and removed.

Samantha Gordon, clerk/treasurer/zoning administrator, is working on a new resident packet, working with the NE Dept. of Revenue to add the development to the sales tax map, emailed out the review from LARM for recommendations, attended the Johnson County Tabletop Exercise, and planning an Arbor Day tree planting event.

John Keizer, board chairman, signed a proclamation for Wear Purple Day along with the Tecumseh Mayor and County official and informed the public of Samantha's Clerk of the Year award. Lempka made a motion to accept John Keizer's resignation effective after the May 12th meeting and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: Nieveen, Wusk, and Lempka. Abstain: Keizer. Motion carried.

Samantha gave the board copies of the safety policies and forms as provided by LARM for the board's review and approval. Wusk made a motion to approve the Injury Prevention Manual, Safe Driving and Equipment Operations Policy, Lockout-Tagout (LOTO) Policy, and Near Miss/Safety Suggestion Reporting Form and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Property clean-ups were discussed and Mercure will send out letters.

Wusk made a motion to approve Option #1 for standard keying from Big Red Communications in the amount of \$1626.00 for front door security at the village office and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Wusk made a motion to approve the Class C Retail Liquor License application from Alicia R. Ramos Gordin, GZ FAM LLC dba Shea's Place located at 175 Broadway Street Sterling, NE and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried. Chairman Keizer interviewed the interested candidates for the board member vacancy. Carolyn O'Brien would like to be more invested in town and contribute to the community, is retired so can assist with security and staff training if needed and likes Sterling because it's quiet and slower paced. Chuck Wingert was requested to put his name in and was a prior board member. Dennis Heusman was asked to put his name in the hat and previously served for twenty years, retired and out in public, and was on the village board when the fire hall was built and picnic shelters were added at the park. Steve Weiss was asked to put his name in for the vacancy and was an ex-board member and previous chairman of the board and helped do good things including the library, sewer system, well, and water mains, and has been around to know what's going on in town. Steve Eickhoff threw his name in to help the town out and would try his best in doing so. Chairman Keizer nominated Dennis Heusman to fill the vacant board member position ending December 2028. Vote: nay: Lempka, Nieveen, and Wusk. Motion failed. Mercure advised that the vacancies will have to be published and Chairman Keizer will have to make two nominations for the two vacancies at next months meeting. Chairman Keizer asked the board if we need one or two summer help employees. Lempka likes to give the job to high school kids when possible. Nieveen made a motion to hire Doug Schmidt and Ridge Bredthauer as needed for summer help and Lempka seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

Lempka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. and Nieveen seconded the motion. Vote: yeas: all. Motion carried.

John Keizer, Chairman of the Board
Clerk

Samantha Gordon, Village