

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
April 18, 2023-6:00pm  
700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting information**  
**Meeting ID 883 8117 6468 Passcode 308097**

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer by – Jake Frost

Public Open Meeting Act poster location was pointed out on the north wall of Council Chambers located at the Village office.

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Present: Novotny, Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker

**Consent Calendar** items included the minutes of the March 21, 2023 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$37,434.95, Claims against the Utilities of \$113,654.01. Claims against the Hemingford Community Care Center of \$3,360.10. March 2023 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. March 2023 Library Report. Appointment of Diana Smith to the Hemingford Housing Authority Board.

**Motion** by Frost, second by Novotny to approve the consent calendar as read.

**Voting Aye:** Novotny, Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

**Discussion and possible action:** Resident P. Manning spoke to the Board regarding the condition of property near her home. The property located on Park Ave. is an unsightly trailer park, that is over grown with weeds, tenants are dumping trash in the weeds rather than in a dumpster. There are four or five trailers in total disrepair, there are no windows so wild animals could be living there, there are toilets setting out side. She believes these need to be demolished and removed. Village Code Enforcement Officer, explained that she has spoken with the property owner and has created a possible path with them for the cleanup of the property. Ms. Manning also complained about the conditions at other properties within the Village limits. Village Code Enforcement Officer will continue to work with the property owners to resolve issues.

**Discussion and possible action:** Chelsie Herian presented the Strategic Plan for the Village as discussed at the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 strategic planning session. Items on the Village of Hemingford Strategic plan include, Sidewalk grant promotion, possible walking trail, ongoing code enforcement of nuisance properties, possible use of the school sign for a “tip of the week” during the summer months and possibly through the rest of the year. Future goals include resurfacing Box Butte Ave., upgrading the electric system amperage and voltage, completing a water system lead and copper inventory and preparing for future State guidelines regarding the new water lead and copper rulings.

**Motion** by Novotny Second by Hunter to approve the 2023 Strategic Plan for the Village of Hemingford as presented.

**Voting Aye:** Novotny, Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

**Discussion and possible action:** Patrick and Margaret Hartman spoke to the Board about organizing a Tree Board for the Village of Hemingford. Patrick explained the benefits of having a Tree Board, which is necessary in order to become a member of the Tree City USA organization. A Tree Board would make recommendations to the Village regarding planting and removal of trees as needed and there is apparently \$50 million dollars in grant funds available for use on both public and private properties for tree planting, removal, stump grinding and several other activities such as education, and promotion. Patrick provided contact information at NRD.

The Hemingford Village Board of Trustees directed the Administrator to research and gather further information on forming a Tree Board in the Village and report back at a future Board meeting.

**Discussion and possible action:** The Sandhills State Bank CD matured on 4/5/2023, the Administrator cashed this out to avoid penalties and automatic redeposit until the Village Board could make a decision regarding the best use of the funds. Total amount of the cash out was \$52,858.14. Options before the Board are redepositing the funds in the Nebraska Bank as a CD at an interest rate of 4.5% for 12 months or use the funds to pay down the principal on the Village Line of Credit, which presently carries a higher interest rate.

**Motion** by Novotny, Second by Mahony to use the Sandhills State Bank cashed out CD funds to pay down the Village of Hemingford line of credit principal in the amount of \$52,858.14, that is currently held at the Nebraska Bank.

**Voting Aye:** Novotny, Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

**Utilities Department Report:** Kyle Huss reported that he is working on filling summer positions and will start the search for a full-time utilities' employee. All winter equipment has been serviced and put away for the season and summer equipment is being serviced. The water lead service line survey was sent to Village residents and several have already been returned, and data is being logged as responses come into the office. Staff is working on catching up on early spring chores that were interrupted by snow. - Kyle Huss

**Administrators Report:** Barb Straub reported that the Hemingford Rural Fire Protection Board has not yet met and had the opportunity to review the interlocal agreement prepared by Barb Keegan and the Village Attorney. Box Butte County Sheriffs Office reports 21 calls for service and 8 traffic stops during the month of March. The pool is in need of some tile replacement, a professional was contacted but to date there is no response to the request for an estimate, so Pool Manager Ammie Frost and Jake plan to make the repairs themselves in order to open the pool on time. – Barb Straub

**Code Enforcement Report:** Kyla Cotant suggested that Ordinance 793 regarding the operation of ATVs within the Village might need a revision pertaining to passenger restrictions. At this time the Board felt that the Ordinance was not in need of revision, but could explore that at a later date if needed. Kyla would also like the Board to consider creating a no parking zone on the west side of Ogallala Street between Niobrara and Custer in order to reduce congestion during school events and allowing free movement of traffic during such events. The Board directed Village Attorney, Libby Stobel to create such an ordinance for review at a future meeting of the Board. Based on voiced concerns, the Board may also further discuss parking restrictions on Sidney between Niobrara and Custer at a future meeting.

Currently code enforcement is working on 28 open code violation files and has closed 2, and is also exploring the possibility of creating a yard beautification program, such as yard of the Month and will present more detail at the next meeting of the Village Board meeting.

**Public Comment:** There were no comments from the audience.

**Motion:** by Hunter Second by Mahony to adjourn at 7:35pm

**Voting Aye:** Novotny, Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

ATTEST:

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Barb Straub, Village Clerk

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Richard Wacker, Chairman