

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 28, 2021-6:00pm

700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348

Zoom Virtual Meeting information

Meeting ID 831 5740 8215 **Passcode** 176410

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer by -Jake Frost

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen.

Zoom: Novotny* Note: Novotny appeared virtually by Zoom out of matter of convenience, not pursuant to an emergency declaration as anticipated by Neb.Fev.Stat.81-1411(7)(a), and therefore, Novotny abstained from voting throughout the meeting.

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

Reorganization of the Village Board of Trustees: This reorganization meeting of the Village Board of Trustees begins with the election of a board Chairman, the position currently held by John Annen.

Annen was nominated by Wacker to continue as Board Chairman, nomination seconded by Hunter

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost,

Abstaining: Novotny, Annen

Election of the Village Board of Trustees Vice Chairman the position currently held by Richard Wacker.

Wacker was nominated by Hunter to continue as Board Vice Chairman, nomination seconded by Frost

Voting Aye: Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny, Wacker

Consent Calendar items included the minutes of the November 19, 2021 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$44,271.95, Claims against the Utilities of \$88,999.48, Claims against the Hemingford Community Care Center of \$163,340.16. November 2021 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. November 2021 Library Report.

Appointment of Village of Hemingford Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Barb Straub.

Appointment of Village of Hemingford Marshall- Dusty Bryner.

Appointment of Village of Hemingford Attorney – Simmons, Olsen Law Firm, P.C.- Libby Stobel.

Appointment of Village of Hemingford Engineer- MC Schaff & Associates.

Reappointment of the Hemingford Library Board, Sue Hemmings, Joni Frahm, Linda Petersen, Robyn Armenta, and Deb Finley.

Reappointment of the Hemingford Board of Health to consist of: Village of Hemingford Chief of Police Village Board of Trustees Chairman, and the Director of Nursing at the Hemingford Community Care Center.

Resolution 2021-14 appointing Farmers State Bank as the Village Depository.

Resolution 2021-15 for the Appointment of Jeff Wolfe of MC Schaff & Associates as Street Superintendent.

Resolution 2021-16 appointing a representative to the Solid Waste Agency of Northwest Nebraska Board of Directors.

Resolution 2021-17 appointing a representative and alternate to the Public Alliance for Community Board of Directors.

Resolution 2021-18 appointing a representative and alternate to the Members Council of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP).

Resolution 2021-19 appointing a representative and alternate to the Box Butte Development Corporation Board of Directors (BBDC).

Resolution 2021-20 appointing a representative and alternate to the Panhandle Area Development District (PADD).

Resolution 2021-21 appointing a representative and alternate to Nebraska Public Power District Board of Directors (NPPD).

Resolution 2021-22 appointing a representative and alternate to the League Association of Risk Management (LARM).

Resolution 2021-23 appointing a representative and alternate to the Box Butte County E-911 Emergency Communication Advisory Board.

Resolution 2021-24 Year End Certification of Village Street Superintendent 2021

Motion by Frost second by Wacker to approve the consent calendar as read and approve representatives and alternates as presented in each resolution.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Motion by Wacker, Second by Frost to Move agenda item 6 to position 3 on the agenda.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Approval of the written Net Metering Policy as amended requiring Customer-generators to provide proof of existing insurance coverage prior to interconnection and shall maintain the liability insurance coverage for the duration of the interconnection with the Village of Hemingford's primary voltage distribution system.

Motion by Hunter, Second by Frost to approve the new wording in the net metering policy for the village of Hemingford.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Second Reading of Ordinance #812

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD, NEBRASKA ADOPTING AN ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION POLICY, PROCEDURES, CHARGES, AGREEMENTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion by Wacker, Second by Hunter to pass and publish Ordinance #812 an ordinance of the village of Hemingford, Nebraska adopting an electrical interconnection policy, procedures, charges, agreements and providing for an effective date.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Electric Utility billing error. The auditors, during their field work found that there was an error in billing for the summer months of 2021, June-September, summer rates for the usage second tier rates were not changed for the commercial class customers. This affects commercial customers that used more than 1000 kWh. This error resulted in an underbilling. While we are unsure at this time the total amount of this error and which customers are directly affected it is estimated to be a \$20,000-\$30,000 billing deficit. Auditors, in order to proceed with the village audit are requesting a management response to this finding.

Motion by Wacker, Second by Hunter to get exact amounts and the customer list of those underbilled, then create a supplemental billing to recoup these funds, with potentially offering a payment plan if necessary.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Adoption of Seasonal Electric Rate Change Policy, the policy is intended to eliminate the possibility of billing errors due to unchanged or incorrect rates. The policy provides methods to ensure rates are changes

at the appropriate time of year and will be added to the job descriptions of the Utility Billing Clerk and the Village Administrator.

Motion by Frost, Second by Hunter to approve the Seasonal Electric Rate Change Policy adding it to the job descriptions of the Utility Billing Clerk and the Village Administrator.

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

Administrators Report: The Hemingford Library received a \$4000 donation from a private donor for the handicap accessible door and \$100 from the Mission Store grant for new head sets for the computers. The Believe tree lighting event was a huge success Brigette did a wonderful job putting it together. There were 200 bowls of soup served and funds raised to purchase two new street ornaments. The village received the Leadership Community Recertification. The Christmas Utility Giveaway had 122 entries and 4 customers won to receive \$100 credit on their January utility bill. We are working with engineers to find ways to recycle water used by the splash pad that will allow us to license both the pool and the splash pad together through the state.

Police Department report: no report.

Utilities Department Report: Written report regarding Electric Power Factor and water sampling with a Level 1 assessment.

Hemingford Community Care Center Report: Census at the care center is 21 on the nursing home side and 9 on assisted living. The facility received \$52,000 in provider relief funds to be used for Covid-related expenses, Bland and Associates have been engaged to do the cost report for the facility and potentially the audit. Medicaid has increased the reimbursement by \$20 per day for January 2022 to June30, 2022. The facility is being selective on referrals and admissions due to staffing shortages.

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 by Wacker, second by Hunter

Voting Aye: Wacker, Hunter, Frost, Annen

Abstaining: Novotny

ATTEST:

John Annen, Chairman

Barb Straub, Village Clerk