

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 21, 2023-6:00pm

700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348

Zoom Virtual Meeting information

Meeting ID 891 8421 1466 Passcode 372001

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 6:03 p.m.

Present: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Absent: Novotny.

Motion by Frost, Second by Mahony to excuse Trustee Novotny from the February 21, 2023 regular meeting of the Village of Hemingford Board of Trustees Meeting.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Consent Calendar items included the minutes of the January 17, 2023 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$51,37734, Claims against the Utilities of \$123,143.80. January 2023 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. January 2023 Library Report.

Motion by Frost, second by Hunter to approve the consent calendar correcting the year of the Village Financials and Bank reconciliations to 2023 from 2022.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Discussion and possible action: Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department ambulance update. Barb Keegan reported that the department received \$75,000 in ARPA grant funds, they applied for and were hoping for \$150,000. With only receiving half the requested amount the department will have to regroup and decide the best use of the funds, toward the ambulance, or on equipment, either way the department will continue towards raising funds to cover the cost of a new ambulance. The Hemingford Rural Fire District has also committed to helping with the purchase of the ambulance. Libby Stobel and Barb Keegan are working on the interlocal agreement between the Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department and the Village of Hemingford, should have a copy ready for approval at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Discussion and possible action: There were two bids for replacement of the back door at the library. At the February meeting of the Library Board the bids were reviewed and it is their recommendation that the bid from Trickler Construction and Electric in the amount of \$1050. be accepted.

Motion by Frost Second by Mahony to accept the bid for replacement of the back door on the library from Trickler Construction and Electric in the amount of \$1050.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Discussion and possible action: It is time for the annual renewal of employee health insurance. The new rate from the current provider was an increase of 10.34% Straub researched and requested a quote from LIGHT. LIGHT is the League Insurance Government Health Team. This is a program put together by the Nebraska League of Municipalities. Allowing municipalities to join the group creating significant savings by being a part of a larger group plan. The Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage is nearly identical to the current coverage, with the primary difference being an increase in the deductibles, \$500 more for individuals and \$1000 more for a family. Opting to become members of the LIGHT group could save the Village significantly. The quoted rates for the Village employees would only be effective from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 when the entire LIGHT group renews its policy. At this time the rates could increase 10-12%. Savings to the Village would still be \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year depending on the amount of the increase. Currently the village pays 80% of the family premium and 90% of the family deductible, and 90% of both the premium and deductible for individuals.

Motion by Frost Second by Hunter to purchase employee health insurance benefits via the (LIGHT) League Insurance Government Health Team. Choosing Blue Cross Blue Shield option QHDHP option 2, with the Village continuing to fund 80% of family premiums and 90% of individual premiums as well as 100% of the deductible for both families and individuals.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Discussion and possible action: Approval of Resolution 2023-02 to authorize membership in the League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT), also authorizing the Clerk of the Village of Hemingford to execute such documents and take such action as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the Municipalities membership in LIGHT and obtain coverage for Municipal employees through the LIGHT Member Health Plan.

Motion by Frost, Second by Hunter to approve Resolution 2023-02

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Discussion and possible action: Approval of Resolution 2023-01; Employee handbook and policy changes as follows. Compensatory time carry over will be limited to 100 hours. Excess hours over and above that as of the first pay period of November will be evaluated and either used before the end of the calendar year or paid out equally over the last four pay periods of the calendar year. Changing the carry over dates from anniversary date to calendar date. And, adding the additionally approved paid holidays to the Handbook, (Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve. All of which were previously approved by motion at the April 19, 2022 regular meeting.

Motion by Frost Second by Hunter to approve Resolution 2023-01

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Discussion and possible action: Approval of Proclamation stating March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Proclamation read and posted in the Village Office.

Motion: by Hunter Second by Mahony to approve the Proclamation stating March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Utilities Department Report: Added three newer brighter streetlights across from the school. Now all streetlights from Niobrara Ave & Ogallala Ave. to Niobrara Ave & Donald Ave. have brighter streetlights. Have been working on updating and constructing new electrical services for two residences. Moved Snow once since the last board meeting. Have also been trying to keep gutter lines and drain lines open and free of ice buildup. Will be mailing out pamphlets asking residents to try and identify what type of material their water service is made of. In most cases they will have to look at where the water line enters the residence to do this. This is part of a new Lead and Copper ruling that will be passed in 2024 that requires municipalities to identify all lead service lines in their water system. All the details on this new law are not known at this time. – Kyle Huss

Administrators Report: The resident letter that board members received has been taken care of and the issue was resolved, Strategic Planning Session will be on Tuesday March 7th 2023 at the American Legion Side Hall from 11am to 1:30 pm, Box Butte Sheriff's Office had 19 service calls in January and no traffic stops.

Public Comment: Erik Pehoviack, 500 Ogallala, suggested that when replacing the door at the library that dirt work be done to create a 3-5% grade declining from the building to the ally. Barb Keegan County Department of Roads, reminded the board of the Tire Amnesty event happening March 2023 in Alliance for all of Box Butte County.

Motion: by Hunter Second by Frost to adjourn at 6:56pm

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

ATTEST:

Barb Straub, Village Clerk

Richard Wacker, Chairman