

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 16, 2024-6:00pm

700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348

Zoom Virtual Meeting information

Meeting ID 88266025231 Passcode 293082

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 6:00 p.m.

Present: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker

Absent: Novotny*

Motion to excuse absent Trustee Novotny from the January 16, 2024 meeting of the Hemingford Board of Trustees by Mahony, Second by Hunter

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker

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.

Consent Calendar items included the Minutes of the December 18, 2023 Regular meeting Claims against the Village of \$35,388.79, Claims against the Utilities of \$94,423.04. December 2023 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. December 2023 Library Report. Acceptance of the resignation of Joni Jespersen from the Hemingford Redevelopment Authority (CRA).

Motion by Hunter, second by Mahony to approve the consent calendar as read.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Abstain: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department 2023 Year End Summary and member tax incentive report.

10 members met the criteria for the state income tax incentive for Volunteer Fire Department members. The department has 30 members (full roster) with no names on the waiting list. There were 21 training opportunities, 8 drills, and 25 public service opportunities. There were 11 less fire calls than in 2022 and 16 less EMS calls.

Bryner has ranked up to FFII and Pehoviack has ranked up to FFI. 2 members started EMS classes the beginning of January 2024.

New equipment for the department includes a new ambulance ordered in January of 2022, a pumper truck was received in 2023 and new power cot and chair was ordered.

The interlocal agreement between the Rural Fire Protection District, Hemingford Volunteer Fire Department and the Village of Hemingford is ready for review and approval. - Barb Keegan

Discussion and possible action: Request for service agreement renewal for the generator at the Hemingford Care Center. Quotes for semi-annual inspection and maintenance has been received from Powertech LLC in Council Bluffs Ia. for \$865.00 annually, and Cummins Sales and Service for \$2828.00 annually. Each provided comparative services, Powertech LLC has been used for the past several years by the Care Center with no concerns or issues and has always received excellent service and training when needed.

Motion by Frost second by Mahony to sign a service agreement renewal with Powertech LLC for semi-annual inspection and maintenance on the Hemingford Care Center generator in the amount of \$865.00.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Abstain: Novotny

Discussion and possible action: Discussion lead by Trustee Frost in regards to the Village purchasing an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) for the pool and possibly another location within the Village as an aid during emergencies until EMS personnel arrive on scene. Life expectancy of each unit is approximately 8 years and could cost between \$1400 and \$2800 each. Attorney Stobel believes that placement of such a device should be placed in a Village owned or controlled property. Board members felt this is a needed purchase for the Village to have at the pool during the summer and possibly the ball fields. Trustee Frost will gather more information on cost for purchase approval at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees

Discussion and possible action: Flashing school zone radar speed signs need to be replaced, one is not working at all, both are old enough and out dated that refurbishing them is not an option, parts are not available. The Hemingford School District is willing to purchase one sign if the Village would purchase the other. Radarsigns supplied the current signs and has also provided quote for two signs in the amount of \$7,883.00, of which the school district would pay half. The Village utility crew would be able to install and program the new signs when they arrived. Expected delivery would be sometime in April 2024.

Motion by Hunter, Second by Frost to purchase 2 radar speed signs for the school zone at a cost of \$7,883.00 and the school district would reimburse the Village for half the cost.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Abstain: Novotny

Discussion and Possible action: Region 23 Emergency Management Agency, Hazard Mitigation Plan Interlocal Agreement allows members to join together in applying for a grant to cover 75% of the cost of development of a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update. There are fourteen (14) members that would be responsible for the non-federal share of cost. The share for the Village of Hemingford would be \$398.52.

Motion by Frost, Second by Mahony to sign the Region 23 Emergency Management Agency, Hazard Mitigation Plan Interlocal Agreement and pay the Village of Hemingford share of cost in the amount of \$398.52

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Abstain: Novotny

Splash Pad Update: The first shipment of parts for the Hemingford Splash pad arrived today and a second shipment is expected next week. As we get closer to April Patrick at CRS will be able to give us a better time line for the construction of our project.

Street Project Phase 1 no updates at this time.

Utilities Department Report: Panhandle Public Health will be adding on to the back of their building (west side) and are concerned about the alley and water drainage, there are already businesses that gets water drainage into their buildings. Huss ask for the Board member thoughts on paving the alley with recycled millings from asphalt streets. During the bitter cold temperatures, the crew was called out to fix a water main leak near the water tower. Huss reported all Christmas decorations are down and put away for the year, crew has moved snow three times so far this year and they have started servicing the smaller equipment. Huss is wrapping up 2023-year end paper work and has started training in the office. -Kyle Huss

Huss was directed by the Board to gather information from MC Schaff regarding the engineering of the alley to the west of Panhandle Public Health and what it might cost to have the asphalt from the street project milled in order to pave that alley.

Administrators Report: Box Butte Development Corp. Executive Director Chelsie Herian has resigned; Chelsie has conducted the Village Strategic planning sessions for the last several years and is willing to do so again this year but would request that the session be moved from afternoon to evening. The session is currently planned for April 2, 2024 and will be moved to a 6pm start time. Box Butte County Sheriffs Office reports 15 calls for service that include 2 traffic stops for the month of December 2023. -Barb Straub

Code Enforcement Report: There are 20 open cases that Cotant is working on. In the month of December there were 2 inoperable or unlicensed vehicle cases that were opened then closed. - Kyla Cotant

Discussion and possible action: Nuisance Property 604 Park Ave. The Board heard from Mr. Larry Miller, attorney for Michael Blumenthal (property owner), Betty June Blood, co-owner of the property, Kyla Cotant Hemingford Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Blood told the Board she would like to take over the property and was willing to start cleaning it up as soon as possible weather permitting, that however is a problem due to ongoing disputes between the property owners. Mr. Miller explained to the Board that Mr. Blumenthal has made progress on cleaning up the property and understands that deadlines have not been met or have been extended for various reasons, but suggested that the Blumenthals are willing to sign an agreement with reasonable deadlines for the removal and correction of all Village code violations. Hemingford Code Enforcement Officer explained that there has been improvement on the property but there are still multiple violations on the property that have not been addressed. There have been several conversations and letters explaining the violations and the corrections that the Board is expecting. The Blumenthals are willing to enter into an agreement with the Village of Hemingford Board of Trustees outlining the violations on the property at 604 Park Ave, that includes a description of how each violation will be corrected and a timeline for the correction of each violation. The Board agreed that an agreement of such would benefit both the Blumenthals and the Village. Trustees Frost and Mahony will work with the Village Attorney, the Blumenthals Attorney, the Village Code Enforcement Office and the Blumenthals to create an agreement with reasonable expectations and timelines to be presented to the full Board at the

February 20, 2024 regular meeting of the Village of Hemingford Board of Trustees. Blood and Blumenthals consented to continuing the nuisance hearing originally scheduled for the November 2023 regular meeting and then continued at Blumenthal's request until this meeting to now postpone until February 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm, in the event that an agreement cannot be reached between the parties.

Public Comment: Erik Pehoviack- 500 Ogallala, commented on the closer of the office the prior week due to weather and was concerned that there could be a heating issue in the Village Office building.

Motion by Mahony, Second by Hunter to adjourn at 7:21pm.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Wacker.

Abstain: Novotny

ATTEST:

Richard Wacker, Chairman

Barb Straub, Village Clerk