

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 17, 2023-6:00pm
700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348
Zoom Virtual Meeting information
Meeting ID 832 1784 7070 Passcode 634672

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer by – Jake Frost

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

Present: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Novotny, Wacker

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

Consent Calendar items included the minutes of the December 27, 2022 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$354,027.86, Claims against the Utilities of \$97,993.51, Claims against the Hemingford Community Care Center of \$76,896.56. December 2022 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. December 2022 Library Report. Resignation of Joni Frahm from the Hemingford Library Board.

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

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

Discussion and possible action: Hemingford Fire Department year-end update and approval of the Income Tax Incentive or Volunteer Fire Department members. Barb Keegan reported the 2022-2023 Volunteer Fire Department Roster is full with 30 members for a combined 395 + years' experience. There is no one on the waiting list to join the department, 1 member retired and 3 members resigned. There were 31 fire calls, 126 EMS calls, 24 training opportunities and 11 drills in Hemingford and 17 public service opportunities. 12 members attended at least 10% of a combination of calls, with 10 of the 12 being eligible for the tax incentive Volunteer Fire Department members. 2021 saw 2 less fire calls than 2020 and 10 more EMS calls than 2020, Dr Ott continues as the department medical director.

Discussion and possible action: Addition and removal of signers on all of the Nebraska Bank Village of Hemingford and Hemingford Utilities accounts.

Motion by Novotny Second by Hunter to remove John Annen and Brigette Jespersen as signers on all Village of Hemingford and Hemingford Utilities accounts and add Will Mahony and Cheryl Kaman to all Village of Hemingford and Hemingford Utilities accounts.

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

Discussion and possible action: Approval of Ordinance #815 and proclamation making Ordinance #815 effective immediately.

Ordinance 815-- **AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF THE HEMINGFORD CARE CENTER'S SOUTH WING HVAC FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF \$105,727.70, AND THE EMERGENCY**

REPLACEMENT OF THE HEMINGFORD CARE CENTER'S NORTH WING HVAC FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF \$102,727.70

Motion by Frost, Second by Mahony to waive all readings of Ordinance #815 with the suggested typographical corrections.

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Novotny, and Wacker

Motion by Hunter, Second by Frost to approve and publish Ordinance #815 with the suggested typographical corrections.

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

Discussion and possible action: Correspondence from Senex of Hemingford regarding the non-functioning Dry Fire Safety Sprinkler System and the need for repair of that system at Hemingford Care Center. As this is part of the building systems owned by the Village it is the responsibility of the Village to maintain in good working order. Nebraska Safety and Fire Equipment submitted a proposal for replacement of the existing valve in the amount of \$6,847. Presently, there are no fire sprinklers working on the Assisted Living side of the facility. Senex of Hemingford received the proposal on the 1/3/23 and informed the Village on 1/10/23 of the need. The need for more timely communication between Senex and the Village will be addressed later.

Motion by Frost, Second by Hunter to accept the proposal by Nebraska Fire and Safety Equipment to remove the existing Victaulic dry valve and install a new Tyco pretrimmed dry valve at a cost of \$6,847 and schedule the work to be done at the Hemingford Care Center.

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

Discussion and possible action: Request to purchase a Breaker (jackhammer) attachment for the Village owned bobcat using a portion of the sinking fund intended for the update of equipment. Superintendent Huss explained the time saving benefit of this purchase. Using current equipment, breaking concrete is incredibly difficult, turning a one-hour job in to a three-hour job, as evidenced during a recent water main break. The balance in the sinking fund is \$63,679, the quote from Sandberg Implement Inc in Gering Nebraska is in the amount of \$12,315. The attachment is in stock at Sandberg and would be ready for immediate pick up. There was also a breaker available from Bobcat in Chadron but it wouldn't be available immediately. There was discussion that breaks often occur during the spring thawing and freezing process, and waiting months for this breaker to become available may not serve the Village's needs.

Motion Frost, Second by Novotny to purchase a Bobcat HB980 Breaker from Sandberg Implement Inc. in Gering Nebraska for a cost of not more than \$12,315.

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

Utilities Department Report: Cold weather and snow removal have been the issues the past month, there was a water main break on Friday before Christmas, a temporary fix left Mobius and Valor General Store without water overnight, on Christmas eve the crew was in early and had the main fixed by early afternoon. The below freezing temperatures caused the well 3 water tower (non-potable water) froze causing the truck fill not to work, this has been thawed out and seems to be working at this point. – Kyle Huss

Discussion and possible action: Action allowing the Code Enforcement Officer to sign towing liability waivers with RPR towing in Alliance for the removal of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles from public right of ways or property owned or controlled by the Village of Hemingford as needed. All towing fees would be the responsibility of the vehicle owner. The Code Enforcement officer currently tags vehicles that need to be moved asking the owner to comply within 8-10 days. Prior to towing owners would be notified of the date and time of towing if the vehicle is not removed by the owner. Chairman Wacker told the Board that the Code Enforcement Officer needs to be given the tools to do the job that the Board has ask her to do.

Motion by Novotny, Second by Mahony to authorize the Code Enforcement Office to call the towing company and sign liability waivers as needed.

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

Code Enforcement Report: There are currently 18 open violations, 4 closed, and 3 pending, arrangements to come into compliance have been made. Most residents that have been contacted regarding code violations have made arrangements to come into compliance within a week. A proposed fee schedule was given to Board members for their review and feedback for discussion at a future meeting.

Administrators Report: Have not spoken with the Box Butte County Sheriff at this time, CRA (Community Redevelopment Authority) Round 4 Storefront Improvement Grants are being accepted until Friday January 27, 2023. Hemingford will not be attending the annual Clerk School in March this year due to training in the office. Barb will be using some vacation time the 23rd through the 27th of March - Barb Straub

Public Comment: Erik Pehoviack, 500 Ogallala, expressed concern regarding the enforcement of Village Codes saying that the codes are subjective and depending on interpretation how will they be enforced. Attorney Stobel suggested that these be reviewed in conjunction with the proposed fee schedule and that she would look into this.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 by Hunter, Second by Frost

Voting Aye: Frost, Hunter, Mahony, Novotny, and Wacker

ATTEST:

Richard Wacker, Chairman

Barb Straub, Village Clerk