

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 16, 2023-6:00pm
700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford, NE. 69348
Zoom Virtual Meeting information
Meeting ID 821 7894 0653 Passcode 512456

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 April 18, 2023 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$25,557.70, Claims against the Utilities of \$85,070.56. Claims against the Hemingford Community Care Center of \$1,827.00. April 2023 Village Financial Statements and Bank Reconciliations reports. April 2023 Library Report.

Motion by Frost, second by Hunter to approve the consent calendar with corrections to the total claims amount against the Village in the amount of \$11,000.00, representing monthly payment to the Box Butte County Sheriff's Office for police services making the total \$36,557.70 and corrections to the total claims against the Utilities in the amount of \$6,901.03 representing monthly sales tax payment to the Nebraska Department of Revenue making the total \$91,971.59.

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

Discussion and possible action: First reading of Ordinance #816

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO ESTABLISH A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE WEST SIDE OF OGALLALA AVENUE, BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS OF CUSTER STREET AND HIGHWAY 2 a/k/a NIOBRARRA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING ANY EXISTING ORDINANCES OR OTHER PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Motion to amend the ordinance to read the EAST side of Ogallala Ave. by Frost second by Novotny.

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

The Ordinance as amended will move to the second reading at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Hemingford Board of Trustees.

Discussion and possible action: Edward Planansky ask the Board to forgive all or part of his last water bill totaling \$4250.70. There was a water leak at his property that went unnoticed until several thousands of gallons of water had been pumped into the basement of the vacant property. Utility Superintendent had noticed that well had been pumping a significant amount of water and expected that a leak would be

found on the Village side of the water service, this was not the case the leak was on the residential side of the service and as such is the residents responsibility. Mr. Planansky explained that this water service also provides water to his campground business. This bill is more than he earns during an entire season, hosting, custom harvesters at the campground, which would force him to close. After much discussion the Board suggested a compromise, not wanting to see a business that brings people to town, who then patronize other Hemingford businesses close, the Board offered to forgive half of the \$4250.70 water bill. Mr. Planansky indicated that this was acceptable to him and appreciated the help of the Board.

Motion by Novotny, second by Hunter to forgive one half of the water bill owe by Mr. Planansky in the amount of \$2,125.35 with Planansky paying the remaining balance.

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

Discussion and possible action: Administrator Straub ask Board members to prioritize the streets in Hemingford needing repair and maintenance. Board members need to create a wish list of 1-3 street projects that need to be completed so that Engineers and Bonding agents can create funding options to be reviewed by the Board. Each Board member was asked to independently share their priority lists with the Administrator. No further action taken at this time.

Utilities Department Report: The pool is ready to go for the season, sprinklers at the park, ballfields and islands are working. Summer help has been hired and started working in town and at the cemetery. The crew is getting into the spring/summertime routines - Kyle Huss

Administrators Report: Thank you for all the support and time off over the last two weeks. Box Butte County Sheriffs Office reports 19 calls for service and 2 traffic stops during the month of April 2023. The funds from the Sandhills State Bank CD have been applied to the Village Lind of Credit held at the Nebraska Bank. The Village will be receiving \$76,741.59 in CPE funds for the final year of operation of the Hemingford Community Care Center as a part of the Village of Hemingford. Research on creating a tree board for the Village continues and will hopefully have better information at the next board meeting. I will be taking vacation days May 18,19 and 22. I will be attending the Accounting and Finance Conference in Lincoln June 21-23. This conference will give me all my continuing education hours needed to fulfill the State Auditors requirements of Municipal Treasurers. – Barb Straub

Code Enforcement Report: 1 case has been closed with the property being cleaned up and looking great. There has been no improvement to trailer park to the west side of the City Park, Code Enforcement will forward all documents on to the Village Attorney for further action prior to entering into the abatement process. The question of shipping containers in town was brought up at the April Board meeting so Kyla ask for direction from the Board regarding a potential ordinance for future use of containers. – Kyla Cotant

The Village Board directed Code Enforcement to work with the Planning Commission and the Village Administrator to determine the need for such an ordinance.

Discussion and possible action: Code Enforcement Kyla Cotant has put together a “Yard of the Month” program using personal donations as well as donations by area businesses. Any resident can nominate their own yard or another resident’s yard for “Yard of the Month” Each property may win an award only

once in a calendar year. Awards will be made the first week of each month and winners will have a “Yard of the Month” sign placed in their yard and have photos taken for the paper. There was no action taken, the Board did Thank Kyla for creating this opportunity for the Hemingford community to beautify and maintain their properties.

Public Comment: Ed Planansky suggested that we look at the no parking area at the corner of Sidney and Niobrara, there are at times vehicles parked so close to the corner that it is impossible to see oncoming traffic from the west in front of the school.

Motion: by Mahony Second by Novotny to adjourn at 7:11pm

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

ATTEST:

Richard Wacker, Chairman

Barb Straub, Village Clerk