

MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HEMINGFORD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2020 6:00pm
700 Box Butte Ave. Hemingford NE. 69348
308.487.3465

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer by John Annen

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

Present: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen

Public Open Meeting Act poster location was pointed out on the front panel of Chamber Council located at the Village office.

Consent Calendar items included the minutes of the September 15, 2020 regular meeting. Claims against the Village of \$41,172.56, Claims against the Utilities of \$120,141.41, Claims against the Hemingford Community Care Center of \$201,271.89. September 2020 Village Financial Statements and bank reconciliation reports. September 2020 Library Report. Appointment of Tresa Goss to the Village of Hemingford Library Board. Appointment of Joni Frahm to the Village of Hemingford Library Board. Acceptance of resignation of Marley Pehoviack as Hemingford Library Director. Payment of \$1000.00 to CRA grant recipient – Bubba’s Bar and Grill.

Motion by Wacker, second by Thomas to approve the consent calendar as read.

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Thomas, Annen.

Voting Nay: Planansky

Hemingford Community Care Center Report: Lori Dannar and Cathy Snyder were unable to attend due to Covid related issues at the care facility. The following written report was submitted to the village board of trustees. Census is 8 on the assisted living side and 24 on the nursing home side. There has been advertising for open rooms on the assisted living side. Covid-19 lock down remains in effect with continued video meetings with weekly updates. Staffing continues to be a battle, advertising for LPN’s and night staff continues in an effort to reduce agency staffing cost. The insurance company has agreed the roof damage is weather related, repair should be under the deductible, Wood Construction will be in to prepare a quote. There is a potential need for a new call light system on the assisted living side, the system is out dated and we are unable to locate parts for repairs. Thank you all for your continued support. – **Lori Dannar**

Discussion and possible action: New CoVid-19 Exposure and Return to Work Policy. Due to the current pandemic and the rise of Covid-19 cases in Box Butte County village employees are requesting a policy that would require an employee exposed to or quarantined due to Covid – 19 that a negative test result be required prior to returning to work. Policy written by Simmons Olsen Law Firm.

Motion by Novotny, Second by Planansky to approve the COVID-19 Exposure and Return to Work Policy.

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen.

Discussion and possible action: Proposed change in office hours and utility crew work hours. Flexibility to adjust employee hours to accommodate emergent, weather related, or needs of the village is being requested by Department head staff. Village attorney will help prepare correct verbiage the employee handbook policies to reflect the need changes. Approval of handbook policy changes will be addressed at the November 17, 2020 regular board meeting.
NO BOARD ACTION TAKEN AT THIS TIME.

Discussion and possible action: Potential request for street paving on Roland Street. Buchheit Precision and Tim Kumpf would like to have the first 100 ft of Roland Street to the north of the highway paved to cut down the dust generated by semi-trucks entering Farmers COOP. Even though this is a village owned street, because this is an entrance to Farmers COOP they have typically maintained the road. Steve Baker approached the village asking about dust control on the

street, in particular Mag. Chloride, similar to ice melt. Application consists of wetting the street surface applying the Mag Chloride and rewetting the surface. This would create a crust and would need two to three applications during the dry seasons. This is what Box Butte County Roads uses for the same purposes. A single application would cost approximately \$2500 to \$3000, for the 100 feet of street that is a problem for the two businesses. Other options for dust control would be to create a paving district. That would mean that the village upgrade the street however the board determines is the best and most cost efficient. The village would be responsible for the resurfacing cost; however, this cost would then be passed on to the businesses requesting the upgrade in the form of a special assessment against the property. This was information of a potential upcoming request from the property owners, Straub will inform them of the options for resolution to the problem of dust blowing from the street into the businesses. THIS WAS NON -ACTION INFORMATION ONLY.

Discussion and possible action: Johnna Wood would like to open a gift shop and tea lounge called LOCAL at 621 Niobrara Ave. They will carry gifts for all ages, all holidays and a tribute to Hemingford with an exclusive total gift line. Serving 3 Little Birds Teas in the Tea Lounge. The Boutique name LOCAL says it all for the type of business. They will be working with youth and community in job opportunities, local talent in craftsmanship, and products that represent our area of Nebraska and USA made. The property is currently in a residential zoned area. Johnna would like a special use permit to operate a commercial business in a residential area. The \$50 application fee has been made to the village, application and property owners in a 300 ft radius of the property have been contacted, with the proposed use of the property explained. Johnna supplied the planning commission with a petition of support from neighbors. Planning commission member Kyle Huss reported to the Village board of Trustees that is was the recommendation of the Planning Commission that Johnna Wood be granted a special use permit for the property located at 621 Niobrara Ave. to operate the commercial business LOCAL gift shop and Tea Lounge and that the permit be valid for the life of this business.

Motion by Planansky, Second by Novotny to approve the special use permit as recommended by the village of Hemingford Planning Commission to Johnna Wood for operation of a commercial business, gift shop and tea lounge, in a residentially zoned area located at 621 Niobrara Ave. Hemingford NE. with the permit being valid for the life time of the specific business.

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen.

Discussion and possible action: Rezoning of property on the south side of Niobrara across the street from the school, formally known as Bob Cat Pit Stop. 816 Niobrara Ave. was purchased by the Hemingford Public School District and would like to have the property as well as the parking lot owned by the school rezoned from commercial to school zone. Planning commission member Kyle Huss reported to the village board of Trustees that it is the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the property owned by the Hemingford Public School District on the south side of Niobrara Ave. located at 816 Niobrara be rezoned from commercial to school.

Motion by Wacker Second by Thomas to approve the rezoning of commercial property located at 816 Niobrara to school zone.

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen.

Hemingford Police Department Report discussion and possible action: The search for a second officer continues. We have had one certified candidate express interest and one non certified. Also have spoken to a candidate certified in another state. Chief Bryner reported that it might be time to seriously consider hiring a non-certified candidate. The cost of the academy is just over \$8000. A non-certified candidate would be required to do field training with Chief and would as such be unable to take call or be on duty without the chief, and would potentially be able to attend the academy in Grand Island in May of 2021. The one non-certified candidate was highly recommended by the Box Butte County Sheriff. As the expense of hiring a non-certified officer is quite large, Chief Bryner is asking approval of the board should a non-certified candidate be the best fit for the Village. - **Chief Bryner**

Motion by Novotny Second by Planansky, to allow the Chief of Police and Village Administrator to hire a non-certified officer candidate knowing there will be substantial extra expense of training for this candidate.

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen.

Utilities Department Report: The exercising of water valves has been completed all sprinklers and building have been winterized. Snow removal equipment has been serviced and any repairs needed have are done. The siren repair parts for the south end of town are in just need to complete the repairs. Cheryl is done for the season and I would like to say a big thank you to her the cemetery was very well taken care of this summer and as a result the full-time crew was allowed to continue to work on bigger utility and village projects. - **Kyle Huss**

Administrators Report: MFO arrears update; the balance of funds due to the Hemingford Rural Fire Protection District in December of 2018 was \$99,444.26 currently the balance is \$49721.89, all funds generated through property taxes after December 2018 are current. Potentially the board could look at budgeting a payoff in the next fiscal year and will be discussed at that time. Clerk school is scheduled for Grand Island March 15-19 in person, Barb will be attending and unsure about Amanda at this time. Splash Pad fundraising continues with the Hemingford Swim Team selling soup. The amount raised to date is \$9759.00. – **Barb Straub**

Motion to adjourn at 7:02 by Wacker, second by Novotny

Voting Aye: Novotny, Wacker, Planansky, Thomas, and Annen

John Annen, Chairman

ATTEST:

Barb Straub, Village Clerk