

Village of Petersburg Minutes  
August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The Petersburg Village Board met for a special meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Office. Purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Rural Board and discuss upcoming fire expenses over the next fiscal year. Meeting was previously posted at the Village Office, Post Office and Leifeld's Store on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Board was given prior notice of the meeting.

Board present: Ashley Thieman, Tina Henn, Corey Stokes, Mitch Koch, and Steve Werner. Staff present: Sundae Provencher. Guests present: Dan Knust, Bob Heying, and Steve Lodge from the Rural Fire Board, Neil Baumgartner the fire chief, and Helen Baumgartner from Petersburg Press. Chairman Stokes called the meeting to order and stated the Open Meetings Act was posted.

The two boards reviewed the interlocal agreement that was created in 2004, and the current cost split put in place. Baumgartner explained to the board the planned purchases for the upcoming year. The plan includes acquiring a new stand-alone generator that runs on natural gas. The generator will assure the Fire Hall stays powered in the case of an event such as extreme weather. Keeping the Fire Hall powered is necessary to assure the radios remain operating and the building stays warm for shelter. The cost of the generator is \$12,000.

Baumgartner explained to the board he plans to put up a new Siren East of town. It is a three-phase siren, which he has. A location has been determined already. The Siren will need wiring done. There is no cost for that at this time.

Rural Fire Board plans to get a new Tanker Truck this year. The rural board stated that would not be a Village expense, strictly Rural. Air Packs will be put off another year.

A communications tower was brought up. The current tower is vastly rusting and needs to be replaced as it is increasingly difficult to get someone to climb it for maintenance. The radios are currently on Helena's tower. When a new tower gets put up all radios will be relocated to the new tower. Some concrete work will be required. Estimated total cost of this tower would be around \$3,000.

The boards discussed how costs would be divided. The generator will be used for in town so the Village will budget to cover the cost of the generator. The Village will budget a few extra thousand for the communications tower. Rural stated they could cover some expenses as well, they just wanted to inform the Village of their plans.

The Village board discussed Ordinance 394(2014) pertaining to Unsafe Structures. Some board members have been receiving ongoing complaints of a few structures in town so it was decided to address this Ordinance. The board has been reviewing the Vacant Property Ordinance but that is just for homes. This Ordinance

covers any type of structures that seem unsafe to the community. The board felt this Ordinance has never been enforced. In an effort to keep the town cleaned up and welcoming the board will be sending Ord. 394(2014) to a few residents currently in violation.

The board discussed a house that was recently assessed a fee for being on the Vacant Property registration for a year. The house has switched ownership and the new owner wasn't aware of Ordinance 2020-1. She stated her house was in the process of getting burned down. This was looked into it and the gas lines have been marked off already, and she has been in contact with the Firemen to get it burned. The board decided it might be counterproductive to charge a fee if she is showing effort of taking care of the property. It was decided to give her six months to get the house burned down.

The board reviewed the Membership Agreement and Disbursement Agreement from BCDA. Boone County Development Agency is raising the cost of participation this year to \$4,500.00. It has been 5 years since they increased the costs. The cost increase is for a Salary increase so they can hire another person. This figure was put into the budget. Werner made a motion to approve the \$4,500.00 cost increase and enter the agreement again, seconded by Henn. Roll call vote taken; votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none, motion carried.

Bills presented for payment, due prior to regular meeting:  
Verizon, cell phone service: 80.67  
First Bankcard, certified postage for KENO and vacant prop: 17.20  
First National Bank of Omaha, shed for WWTP, Stamps, meter read notes: 1021.07

Thieman made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Werner. Roll call vote taken; votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed none: motion carried.

Budget was discussed with the members unable to attend the workshop.

Stokes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Thieman.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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Corey Stokes, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sundae Provencher, Clerk/Treasurer