

Village of Petersburg  
December 7, 2021

The Chairman and Village Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting and public hearing with reorganization meeting to follow on December 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Office. Notice of the meeting was published in the Petersburg Press on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Notices of the meeting were posted at the Village Office, Post Office and Leifeld's on November 24, 2021. Board members were given prior notice of the meeting. Chairman Stokes called the Meeting to order and stated the Open Meetings Act was posted.

Board present: Corey Stokes, Tina Henn, Steve Werner, Ashley Thieman and Mitch Koch arrived at 7:30 p.m. Staff present: Nick Prothman and Sundae Provencher. Guests present: Hank Thieman, Mary Thieman, Ted Thieman, Helen Baumgartner from Petersburg Press, Deputy Dustin Martin, and Annette Devall.

Sales Tax funds from September 2021: \$3,657.52 with \$1,089.04 Motor Vehicle Sales Tax.

Minutes from the November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings were approved with a motion by Henn seconded by Werner; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner; opposed: none; absent: Koch and Thieman; motion carried.

Treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Henn seconded by Werner; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner; opposed: none; absent: Koch and Thieman; motion carried.

Bills presented for payment:

Wages: 5,128.96

EFTPS, payroll taxes: 1,878.47

Village Regular Account, transfer funds to pay loan #3029: 1,000.06

Village Regular Account, transfer Motor Vehicle Taxes: 1,089.04

Boone County Treasurer, Police protection: 1,375.00

Boone County Treasurer, Zoning fee: 100.00

Neil Baumgartner, service fire equipment: 120.00

Tracy Paulson, cleaning: 93.00

Great Plains State Bank, loan #3029 payment: 1,000.06

Great Plains State Bank, UV sewer loan payment: 1,562.96

Great Plains Communications, service: 426.07

Loup Power District, service at Shelters: 45.20

Loup Power District, service at Ballfields: 71.07

Loup Power District, service: 1,871.15

Applied Connective, Tech Support: 127.50

Municipal Supply, supplies: 320.52

NDEE-Public Water Operator, license renewal: 115.00

Bud's Sanitary Service, trash service: 2,727.00

Arbor View Farms, 12 Spruce Trees: 900.00

Appeara, service: 71.85

K&T Central Plains Plumbing, supplies : 214.02

NE Public Health Environment Lab : 287.00  
MNPP Energy, 2022 Value Support Plan: 2,013.00  
Bomgaars, supplies: 17.49  
Island Supply, service: 28.80  
One Call Concept, service: 6.15  
Leifeld's, November supplies: 75.93  
Yosten Law, legal fees for Oct. & Nov.: 143.00  
Albion News/Boone County Tribune, advertising: 133.99  
Municipal Supply, supplies: 76.15  
Midwest Labs, service: 122.55  
Schroeter Tree Transplanting, service: 3,606.70  
NE Department of Revenue, sales tax paid: 884.72  
Midwest Labs, service: 270.05  
Black Hills Energy, service: 310.32  
Leifeld's, October supplies: 137.28  
1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Omaha, service: 8.05  
1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Omaha, service: 225.75  
Verizon, service: 73.07

A motion was made by Werner to pay the bills and those not in yet, seconded by Stokes; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner, Thieman; Abstained: Henn; absent: Koch; motion carried.

Police reported 47.83 hours of patrol time with zero activity.

Zoning: One permit was approved by the Zoning Administration. Solar Energy Regulations were discussed. The board discussed the proposed regulations, and they seem to cover decommissioning. The board forwarded Solar Energy regulations to a future meeting to have time to review the easements.

Ted Thieman came to the meeting to discuss the recent Campylobacter Illnesses throughout the past few months. Ted Thieman feels the whole situation has caused a controversy between the residents and the board. Ted Thieman stated the last regular meeting when the board went into closed session to protect the public interest, was too broad of a term for a closed session and caused a lot of assumptions and rumors. The board assured Thieman that the closed session was not over the recent water tests and agrees the timing of the closed session was not ideal. The board was never trying to hide anything about the water tests or the Campylobacter illnesses. Village Council discusses a lot of matters, most of which are public but at the time of closed session the topic being discussed was not yet public knowledge.

Discussion was held on the notices that came in from DHHS and CDC. Some residents feel those notices were not shared effectively. Residents questioned why some notices were on Facebook and not in the paper. They want fair unbiased access to the information. The board stated Facebook is just one channel of communication and it got the information out faster. The board explained that this is a situation they have never dealt with before and these notices come with no guidelines or guidance. The board did not agree with the words in the letter from DHHS, the report had to many "could be" and "possible"

phrases in it that they thought it would cause more worry than necessary. The report from CDC the board had to get permission to publish, and it will be published in the Petersburg Press on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Guest Mary Thieman asked what happened to the very first notice that was put out warning citizens that there could be a contamination of water. She stated that notice was great, information of a possible problem was put out there but then it disappeared. She asked Prothman why he pulled them down. Prothman stated that the reason he pulled the notices down was because he was not informed of them and at the time there was no sign of contamination in the water. He said there was no evidence that it could have been a water issue. The water tests he had done 10 days prior to that were negative. Samples after that time were also negative. They had proper evidence to deny that it was the water. It was mentioned by Dave Jundt from the Drinking water division of the Department of Environment and Energy stated at a meeting with the Village Board that they should only give citizens factual information.

The board explained to the residents present that when these illnesses first started, 10 days prior the regular water sample tests were all negative. Water tests after the illnesses started were also negative. There appeared to be no signs of contamination in the water. Throughout this entire outbreak there has only been one positive water test which came from the Fire Hall. That sample was sent to Georgia to get tested for *Campylobacter* and they found that the source of contamination could be from birds. The inside of the water tower is scheduled to be inspected on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This particular incident is like working backwards with no guidelines. The board stated that this has been a learning experience and they admit they have probably made some mistakes along the way. The board will continue to be open and communicative with citizens.

Letter of Intent was reviewed for a lot split in the Convent Subdivision. A motion was made by Stokes to approve the letter of intent, seconded by Thieman; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-4 lot split in the Convent Subdivision was read by title. A motion was made by Stokes to suspend the rules seconded by Henn; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

A motion was made by Stokes to suspend the statutory rules requiring 3 separate readings, seconded by Thieman; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-4 lot split in the Convent Subdivision was read by title for the second and third time. A motion was made by Stokes to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-4, lot split in the Convent Subdivision, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

Chairman Stokes declared Ordinance No. 2021-4 passed and adopted. Roll call vote taken, votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed none; motion carried. Ordinance No 2021-4 is officially passed and adopted.

Resolution 2021-5 authorizing Chairman Stokes authority to sign the Year-End Certificate for Certified Street Superintendent was introduced with a motion by Thieman seconded by Werner. Roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman;

opposed: none; motion carried. Resolution 2021-5 adopted. Chairman Stokes signed the Year End Certificate for the Certified Street Superintendent.

Werner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-6 participation in the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, seconded by Koch. Roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried. Resolution 2021-6 adopted.

Clerk Provencher presented the board with sample Resolutions and Ordinances from other towns in Nebraska granting the clerk authority to approve Special Designated Licenses. Provencher stated she would still prefer the board to approve them at regular meeting but would like to have this Resolution in place in case an SDL comes in too late to get put on the agenda. The board agreed that would be okay for instances when the board didn't have time to approve them. Clerk can have the Attorney make one up for the Village.

Nick reported he received a quote for concrete in the shop building. He plans to install a drain in the shop as well. Thieman made a motion to approve the bid to install concrete in the shop building, seconded by Werner. Roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed none: motion carried.

Provencher informed the board that the Clerk's Institute would be in person in Grand Island this year and she would need to get a hotel room for the week.

Backflow prevention surveys were mentioned. We almost got all of them back, missing around 40. Reminders and new surveys were mailed out.

Short discussion was held on the tree pile. Someone put plastic over there and the sign clearly states no plastic. The board decided a reminder notice of the rules for the Tree Pile, White good site and the recycling bins should be put in the paper reminding citizens of the rules for these drop off sites.

A motion was made by Henn to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Thieman. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

A reorganization meeting was held after the regular meeting. Resolution 2021-7 was introduced by Stokes, seconded by Thieman. Resolution was approved with a motion by Thieman, seconded by Koch. Koch made a motion to adjourn the reorganization meeting seconded by Henn. Reorganization meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

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Corey Stokes, Chairman

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

