

Village of Petersburg
January 4th, 2022

The Chairman and Village Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting and safety meeting on January 4th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Village Office, Petersburg Post Office and Leifeld's on December 22, 2021 and published in the Petersburg Press on December 29th, 2022. 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, Steve Werner, Ashley Thieman, Mitch Koch, and Tina Henn. Staff: Nick Prothman and Sundae Provencher. Guests: Dave Jundt from NDEE, Brandi Yosten from Yosten Law, LLC, Helen Baumgartner from Petersburg Press, Deputy Martin, Doug Koch, Mary Thieman, Ted Thieman, and Kenny Henn.

Sales Tax Funds from October 2021: \$3,933.36 with \$966.38 Motor Vehicle Sales Tax.

Henn made a motion to approve the December 7th minutes, seconded by Thieman; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

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

Bills presented for payment:

Wages: 5,149.04

EFTPS, payroll taxed: 1,432.30

Village Reg. Account, transfer loan payment: 1000.06

Village Reg. Account, transfer Motor Vehicle sales tax: 966.38

Boone County Treasurer, police: 1,375.00

Boone County Treasurer, zoning: 100.00

Neil Baumgartner, service fire eq.: 120.00

Great Plains State Bank, loan 3029: 1,000.06

Loup Power Dist., service: 1,868.93

NE Public Health Env. Lab, service: 15.00

Great Plains Communications, service : 426.07

Dave Remmereid, service : 600.00

Boone Central School, Class C Liquor license fee: 300.00

Johnson Service, service: 6,094.45

Power & Packaging, service: 500.00

Bud's Sanitary Service, service: 2,713.50

Applied Connective, service: 127.50

Mike's Auto Repair, service: 763.00

Schmeits, Muller & Martinsen, service: 2,050.00

Traveler's RMD, workman's comp: 1,668.00

Island Supply, service: 29.76

One Call Concept, service: 2.69
Albion News/Boone County Tribune, advertising: 664.45
Appera, service: 71.70
Zabka, fuel: 527.86
Leifeld's, supplies: 52.58
NE Dept. of Revenue, state payroll taxes: 648.52
Yosten Law, LLC, legal fees for Dec.: 481.00
NE Dept. of Revenue, sales tax collected: 254.96
Black Hills Energy, service: 492.09
1st National Bank of Omaha, service: 192.41
1st National Bank of Omaha, service: 1.16
Kayton, bobcat lease: 2,824.00
Verizon, service: 72.11

Stokes made a motion to pay the bills and those not in yet, seconded by Koch, roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman, opposed: none; motion carried.

Police reported 55 hours of patrol time.

Zoning, Solar Energy Regulations were forwarded to next month.

Community improvement: Quotes for trash totes were presented to the board. Totes could be acquired for \$1.50 more per pick up and \$3.00 for an additional tote. The board asked the Clerk to see if everyone had to get one to proceed with it or if it could be optional for each customer.

Discussion was held on the water tower repairs. Maguire Iron inspected the water tower and found no direct evidence of contamination but found that the gaps in the sidewall to roof connection are separating. Also, the lapped and riveted roof seams are starting to separate a bit where rainwater might be able to rinse in contaminates from the roof. Water Towers were originally designed this way to allow venting however this tower has separated more over time. They recommended to seal weld the roof to sidewall connection around the tank and seal all lapped roof seams to prevent any possible further contamination. The sealing of roof seams is with a sika flex caulking and will need to be checked every 5 years and replaced as needed. Estimated cost of the repairs would be \$35,000. The repairs will take 3 to 4 days to complete. Other water towers are starting these same types of repairs. Rural Water suggested not doing this in the winter. Painting would need to be redone which would require warmer weather. Before the repairs could be done Nick Prothman would need 2 days to empty the tower and to get the wells online and running.

Mary Thieman was present and stated that Lindsay has a new water tower. She has been talking with the clerk there who is willing to come explain the process they went through. A new water tower is estimated at 1.6 million dollars. Mary Thieman says we need safe water, and we need to take Petersburg into the future. With the new Bank building and all the recent new homes Petersburg needs a new tower. She mentioned grants and taking the money from the splash pad. Mary said no one would want their kids playing in water that isn't safe. The board stated that the water is being chlorinated so it is safe. The

board would like to seal up the water tower we currently have. The process of getting a new water tower could take a year and a half to two years. A new water tower could be discussed later.

Ted Thieman asked why we haven't tested the water directly out of the water tower. Jundt stated that it was very difficult to test water directly out of the tower. When taking a water sample out of the tower you don't know where the water is coming from, making it difficult to get a representative sample. Water tests are typically taken from the 'point of use' (houses) after the water hits the lines. Some towers have a sample point where tests can be taken. Nick could tie a sample tap into that line on the water tower after the water tower is repaired if desired.

Mary Thieman stated the December minutes did not contain the public commentary and discussion regarding the signage posting.

The board mentioned again that this is a learning experience for everyone involved. Mistakes were made, addressed and learned from. Let's continue to move forward.

Discussion was held on an article in News Channel Nebraska. The article was not factual and was very negative. It is evident the author didn't do any background investigating. There should be a retraction. Ted and Mary Thieman interviewed for the article and stated they were satisfied with how they were quoted.

A motion to approve the new volunteer fireman Chase Priester was made by Werner and seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-1 Special Designated License approval process was introduced by Stokes seconded by Henn; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried. A motion was made by Stokes to suspend the statutory rule requiring three readings; seconded by Henn; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch and Thieman; opposed none; motion carried. Ordinance 2022-1 was read by title. A motion was made by Stokes that Ordinance 2022-1 was passed and adopted and will be published, seconded by Henn; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Henn, Werner, Koch, and Thieman; opposed: none; motion carried.

Safety meeting, board stated to always use caution and be safe in this weather with the wind, snow and ice.

Dog licenses will be renewed for the year in March. Recently there has been 2 dogs running at large.

Prothman reported looking into a security grant for water to put in sample site locations above the water mains. The grant covers 80-90% up to \$10,000. Nick plans on putting in 5 new sample site locations. The air pump at the treatment plant was recently redone for \$500. Prothman plans on taking the third one down to get overhauled as well. On his way to get the pump the pick-up started having problems. Prothman took it into the shop and had 7 spark plugs replaced. He also installed windows from the school building into the waste-water treatment plant. Maguire Iron will call Monday to schedule the water tower repairs.

Provencher asked the board if they were interested in offering credit/debit card payments for utility bills. It was looked into and would cost the Village nothing other than

the purchase of the card swiper. Although, there would be a small processing fee for the customer to use it. The board is in favor of offering this form of payment. It would be good to have more options for customers and to offer online payments. Provencher submitted an application to the Boone County Young Leader's Academy, waiting acceptance.

Koch mentioned the firemen will have controlled burns in town for training, 2 of the vacant properties are scheduled to be burned then. Werner reported that over the past year the fire department hasn't used that much water. On June 3rd there was a small ditch fire, little water was used; September 24th there was a farm fire; and October 16th there was a tractor fire. They will start flushing lines more often to avoid it from being stagnant for so long. Werner asked Prothman about draining Hydrants. Prothman stated he would rather have full responsibility of flushing hydrants so he can keep track of them.

Discussion was held on the micro-surfacing of the streets. Some of it is wearing off and the Village doesn't want to lose the red rock underneath. An Engineer will be contacted regarding this issue.

Thieman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Werner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Corey Stokes, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Sundae Provencher, Clerk/Treasurer