

Village of Petersburg
March 1st, 2022

The Chairman and Village Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting in the Village Office on March 1st, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Notices of the meeting were posted in the Village office, Leifeld's and Petersburg Post Office on February 16th and published in the Petersburg Press on February 23rd, 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, and Mitch Koch. Absent: Tina Henn and Ashley Thieman. Staff: Nick Prothman and Sundae Provencher. Guests: Helen Baumgartner from Petersburg Press, Joe Stump from AMGL, Deputy Hayden Niewohner and Mary Thieman.

Sales Tax funds from December 2021: \$7,108.82 with \$628.56 Motor vehicle sales tax.

Werner made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Koch. Stokes noticed a spelling error on the last page, O'Silka should be O'Cilka. Roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Thieman and Henn.

The treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Stokes, seconded by Werner. Roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Thieman and Henn.

Bills presented for payment:

Wages: 5,148.94

EFTPS, payroll taxes: 1,461.48

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

Village Regular Account, transfer motor vehicle taxes: 628.56

Boone County Treasurer, police protection: 1,375.00

Boone County Treasurer, zoning: 100.00

Neil Baumgartner, service fire equipment: 120.00

Great Plains Communications, telephone and internet: 417.13

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

Great Plains State Bank, loan #84400 payment (UV Sewer loan): 1,562.86

Loup Power, electricity: 2,207.27

Applied Connective, IT services: 75.00

Mueller & Honcik, P.C., filing 1099's and 1096: 50.00

Boone Central Schools, 3 tobacco license fees collected: 30.00

AMGL, annual audit: 7,900.00

City of St. Edward, annual dog kennel service: 87.50

Speed Services, vacuum line by new bank: 300.00

NE Rural Water Association, annual conference: 395.00

Cedar Valley Insurance Agency, FirePak insurance: 5,200.50

NE Public Health Environmental Lab, service: 354.00

Bomgaars, supplies: 27.98

Bud's Sanitary, trash service February (197): 2,659.50

Gary Stokes, water deposit return: 100.00

Jesse Ritterbush, water deposit return: 100.00

Zabka, fuel: 221.78

Yosten Law, LLC, legal fees from February: 572.00

Appearara, laundry service: 71.70

One Call Concept, service (February) : 1.60

Verizon, cellphone service: 74.72
Island Supply, service: 26.88
Midwest Labs, service: 109.55
One Call Concept, service (January): 2.78
Island Supply, service (January): 270.05
Midwest Labs, service (January): 270.05
NE Department of Revenue, sales tax collected in January: 750.94
Black Hills Energy, natural gas (January): 939.89
Rae Valley Market, January Supplies: 23.92
1st National Bank of Omaha, service: 257.89
1st National Bank of Omaha, service: 693.22
Charles Schwab, Nick's retirement: 265.58
Charles Schwab, Sundae's retirement: 140.08

Bills were approved for payment with a motion by Stokes, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman.

Police reported 65.58 hours of patrol time.

One building permit was approved by zoning. Solar Energy Regulations were discussed. Boone County is going to adopt the proposed regulations for the entire county within the next month. The regulations contain lots of language relating to decommissioning not working units.

Joe Stump went over the annual audit. He stated that the board is a key part of internal controls and looking through the bills and the treasurer's report is crucial for catching fraud acts. Stump stated they like to see three months' worth of funds in the accounts and the Village hits that mark with around \$50,000 of cash on hand. The street fund cannot hold more than five years of highway allocation money. The Village doesn't have near that amount, but the state will stop sending it if it is not getting spent to improve the streets. The sales tax money is restricted for economic development and infrastructure, it is best to use sales tax funds when applicable before using any other funds. The Village brought in around \$64,000 and spent \$41,000 with is good. The Village should use sales tax funds when applicable before using any other funds.

Joe Stump discussed the Enterprise funds, water, sewer and trash. These funds are self-sustaining, they have to cover themselves. The board stated that they have agreed as a board to raise the rates slowly overtime to avoid getting behind in those funds. Stump agreed with continuing to raise prices. Stump mentioned the big water expense that the Village just incurred. He stated that there is a difference between a taxpayer and a water rate payer. The Village would not want to raise property taxes to cover any water issues, you would raise the water rate. Stump said the Villages accounts are in a good position and to keep working in the right direction to keep it up.

Community Improvement discussion was held on Armor coating streets. The Village Board annually rotates armor coating streets to keep them in decent shape. Two bids were submitted this year. Top Kote's bid was \$26,880 if we use all 6,000 gallons. H&L Asphalt's bid for armor coating was \$21,500 for 9 blocks, last year they did a good job. Gardner street needs a lot of work to be in the same condition as Lincoln Street. The company asked to not have the road graded first, they will do prep work and repack it. Prothman said the board needs to make a decision to lock in the price of oil as it continues to rise. H&L Asphalt also submitted a bid for crack sealing the 2 main street blocks. The board asked Prothman to get a quote to include from the Firehall down to Highway 14. Gravel from Emme was priced at \$19.05 a ton, totaling roughly \$1,715.00.

A motion was made by Werner to go with H&L Asphalt for armor coating, and to get a quote for 2 more blocks of crack sealing on main street, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Thieman and Henn.

Koch mentioned to the board that the Steering Committee would like to do another community survey. Doing a community survey would help better understand what the community's needs are. If a daycare is in huge demand, it would take a lot of time and effort to meet state regulations. The steering committee will come up with some questions to be added to the survey that was done in 2018. Werner made a motion to proceed with a new community survey with added questions sent to residents of Petersburg for uses of the new building, Stokes seconded; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman.

Trash totes were discussed. Provencher reported that Bud's Sanitary called the other day asking if the board was wanting to proceed with getting totes for the town. They said if the Village wanted to lease the totes for an additional \$1.50 per pick-up it would have to be the entire town, picking and choosing which customers wanted a tote and which ones didn't, would make billing difficult. If a customer wanted to buy a tote, they could buy them from Bud's for around \$90. However, with leasing, the totes would get repaired by Bud's if broken with no extra charges. Werner thought that would be a good question to ask on the survey. Get residents opinions if they are interested in trash totes or not.

A special designated liquor license for the Alumni Event was approved with a motion by Stokes, seconded by Werner; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Thieman and Henn.

The Interlocal Agreement with the city of St. Edward was discussed. Stokes had contacted St. Edward to see if a paragraph could be added requiring proof of vaccination before releasing the dogs back to the owner, St. Edward did not want to change anything. Stokes said maybe we could change something in Petersburg's dog Ordinance, Werner said the Rabies Vaccination is already a requirement in the Ordinance. Some people just choose not to get their dogs vaccinated or registered. Werner made a motion to stay with St. Edward for a dog kennel, and next month look over the Dog Ordinance, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman.

Ordinance 2022-2, establishing a speed limit on State Highway No. 14 and State Highway No. 32 was introduced with a motion by Werner, seconded by Stokes; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman. Stokes stated that the Nebraska Department of Transportation requested a new Ordinance. There were no changes to the speed limit, just changes in wording. Ordinance 2022-2 was read by title by the clerk. Werner made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Stokes; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Koch and Werner; absent: Thieman and Henn. Stokes made a motion to suspend the statutory rule requiring reading of Ordinance on three separate days, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman. Werner made a motion to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2022-2, seconded by Koch. Chairman Stokes asked shall Ordinance 2022-2 be passed and adopted, clerk took roll call, votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Thieman and Henn. Chairman Stokes declared Ordinance 2022-2 duly passed and adopted.

Water and Sewer rates were discussed. The board has agreed to raise rates to keep the funds in a good balance. Last year the board did not raise rates. Stokes made a motion to raise both water base rate, usage rate, and sewer rate 3%, seconded by Koch; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman. A question was asked about raising the trash rate. The

Village hasn't raised the trash rate since 2018 when Bud's Sanitary raised their rates. If Bud's Sanitary were to raise their rate Petersburg would then raise the trash rate.

Lottery License renewal was forwarded to the next meeting due to not yet having received the renewal forms.

An application for a cleaning person was reviewed. Werner made a motion to hire her pending a reference check, seconded by Stokes; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent: Henn and Thieman.

Stokes informed Mary Thieman that he had contacted Maguire Iron, they do not have the inspection report from 2018. They did however have an invoice from the 2018 inspection. We are still actively looking for one but are not having any luck. Electronic communication doesn't go back that far. Mary Thieman said it is good to know that one took place, she was starting to think it hadn't been done. Mary Thieman asked if the state receives the reports after they are done, Stokes said he can contact them and find out.

Prothman said that the culvert on A street is really smashed up and in bad shape. He would like to replace it before the new bank is built. A thicker one might be necessary to avoid it crushing again. A street will probably get used a lot more with the new bank going in there. The board asked when that street is due for repairs. Prothman stated he would check into it. Zwingman will be contacted to see his thoughts regarding the culvert.

Provencher reported that the Office building was inspected in February and the report was available. Stokes has contacted someone to get a price on fixing the wall that has been bowing out. It is going to be an expensive repair, the beams holding the wall will need replaced. The entire wall will need to be torn down and replaced. Stokes talked to the building inspector from History Nebraska and this building is not registered as a historical building. The Village is not legally bound to stay in the building and can sell if they want. Just have to let History Nebraska know who the new owner will be.

Stokes made a motion to go into closed session at 8:30 for the prevention of needless injury of a person's reputation regarding a complaint letter, and for the protection of public interest to discuss the 501c3 property, Werner seconded; roll call votes in favor: Stokes, Werner and Koch; absent Henn and Thieman.

Stokes made a motion to come out of closed session seconded by Koch. Werner made a motion to adjourn seconded by Koch. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Corey Stokes, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Sundae Provencher, Clerk/Treasurer