

Village of Lodgepole

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2024 @ Panther Activity Center (PAC)

630 Orchard St., Lodgepole NE 69249

Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting at the Village Office (PAC), Lodgepole Post Office, the Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library, and the Village website.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present: RJ Savely, Chair; Gwen Devie, Vice-chair; Trustees Mark Bartling, Brenda Parsons, Al Runge; Jerry Ostdiek, Village attorney; Tanya Engel, Clerk/Treasurer; Steve Bell Utilities/Maintenance Supervisor

Chair informed the public of the location of the posted Open Meetings Act and the Board's right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

Savely commented that the markings in the street were from Highline's fiber project.

Community Comments: Dana Hill asked the Board to reconsider the demolition of the old water tower.

Devie moved to approve the agenda. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Representatives from D.A.R. described DAR and the constitution week proclamation. They asked the Board to post copies of the signed resolution in three locations including the library. Runge moved to approve Resolution 279: Proclamation of September 17-24 as Constitution Week. Devie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Nate Fox explained Resolution 280: League of Association of Risk Management 24-25 renewal resolution. Devie motion to approve resolution 280 with a three-year commitment. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Fox presented the updated property evaluation spreadsheet. Devie asked if the poles and lights at the ballfield are still the Village's responsibility to insure after NPPD takes over the electrical grid. Clerk to confirm with NPPD regarding light poles, power poles, and substation. Fox proposed the insurance coverage for the cemetery be increased to \$75,000; to remove the coverage on the outhouse at the cemetery; and to increase the coverage of tools and related to \$50,000. He recommended a video inventory of the tools and related. Devie motioned to approve the property valuations as discussed with Nate Fox. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Fox explained the insurance endorsements for Old Settlers Days would be \$75 for tractor pull, \$50 for animals, and \$500 for the bounce house.

Devie motioned to approve the SDL for the Saturday night magic show at the community hall and the Sunday evening street dance beer garden. Runge seconded. Yes: Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: Savely. Motion carried.

Bartling described his meeting with Brandy Stone, Cheyenne County Economic Development. She said if any of the grants which open after January 1 are applicable for Lodgepole, she would let him know. He described his meeting with Larry Rutt. Switching to electric heat is not a practical solution and would significantly increase the electric usage in the PAC. Parsons read Snell's letter and quote so the audience would know what Snell's said about the boiler project. Kacey Huff suggested the Village also contact Rasmussen Mechanical and Simon Contractors. Ostdiek said it would be appropriate to have multiple bids. Maintenance will contact other companies for their bids. Devie asked about shutting off the water to the locker rooms. Bartling described how the water would need to be cut off and replumbed to reroute the water. Further discussion to be held at the September meeting.

Ostdiek explained the process of selling property to Mark Christensen: Christensen to provide a survey, the board and Christensen need to come to an agreement on sales price, and the Board will pass a resolution, publish notice, have a remonstrance period during which if 30% of registered voters disagree with sale it can't happen, pass an ordinance, and then move to closing. Christensen said the property he proposes purchasing involves two parcels. Runge moved to have Christensen survey the property and for the board to move ahead with the intent to sell the property. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: Devie. Motion carried.

The board discussed with Kurt Huff his use of the pasture. He is willing to increase his rent to \$750 but will not continue his lease if part of the pasture is sold to Mark Christensen. The board postponed further discussion until the September meeting.

The board discussed how to handle municipal code violations. If it is something the sheriff can handle, then Village residents should call the sheriff's office. The examples used were dangerous dogs and noise violations. If it is not a sheriff issue, then the Village needs to issue citations with the assistance of an attorney. Ostdiek will investigate options and filing costs for the Village. PADD can do it or possibly the Morrill County attorney. The money from citations would not go to the Village so the program would not pay for itself. Parsons mentioned that knowing this information will help as the Village implements the abandoned and nuisance properties program.

Runge moved to enter into closed session with the Village attorney and employees to discuss current code violations. Devie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried. Closed session began 7:04 p.m. and ended at 7:36 p.m.

Runge provided an update on the installation of the water meter transmitters for the Temetra reader. Gehring, North Platte, and Curtis use the same transmitter and readers. The transmitter can be installed inside the water meter pit without cutting into anything. Transmitters need to be wired to wherever the resident's water meter is. The transmitters can be read through the water pit's lid and from inside homes. Dutton-Lainson will provide training on the Temetra software. Clerk and Maintenance Supervisor need to coordinate with Mitch at gWorks and Adam at Dutton-Lainson on getting the software set up. The serial numbers for each meter need to be entered into gWorks.

Devie asked the audience for community input on the demolition of the old water tower. Kacey Huff, Kurt Huff, and Cindy Bondegard asked for further clarification. Parsons explained how Oshkosh sold their old water tower to a nonprofit group. The Clerk presented the costs associated with keeping the tower in use and keeping it as a landmark. Parsons clarified if the water tower were capped off, it could be uncapped and put back into service if ever needed. Devie moved to use the existing USDA funds to demolish the old water tower. Runge seconded. Yes: Devie, Runge. No: Savely, Bartling. Abstain: Parson. Motion failed.

The board discussed the costs and process for patching McCall St. Kacey Huff recommended patching happen after the corn harvest. Huff will help coordinate volunteers to apply the patching materials. Clerk suggested the Board make a motion approving up to a specific amount be allowed to be spent on patching materials. Bartling moved the Village spend up to \$1000 on patching materials for McCall St. Devie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

The board discussed how to use the remaining ARPA funds. The Clerk stated \$15,365.95 remains. Maintenance Supervisor said work needs to be done on the lift station pumps. Devie thought that the sewer reserve money could be used for this but that the Village would need to confirm that with Sarah Pierce, USDA. Maintenance recommended the pumps be on a service plan. Devie thought they are currently on a service plan but that needs to be confirmed by Maintenance. Parsons provided copies of the three estimates received in February 2024 for scoping the south side sewers. Maintenance to get new quotes.

The Clerk presented a plan to switch the Village office phones and internet from the Highline to Viaero and replace the landline with cell phones. Bartling moved the plan be adopted. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Devie motioned to approve Resolution 281 APPROVING REQUEST LETTER AND ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION AND NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT FOR ASSIGNMENT OF THE

VILLAGE OF LODGEPOLE'S FIRM ELECTRIC SERVICE ALLOCATION which replaces Resolution 275. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

The Chair of the Village Board is the official spokesperson for the Village.

Bartling moved the consent agenda be approved. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Maintenance provided an update which included a plan to for obtaining a CDL. The board agreed with the plan and the \$1300 expense. The Board agreed to replace the A/C unit in the salon.

The Clerk provided an update.

Parsons moved the Board moved into closed session to discuss a personnel annual review whereby the Board would meet first and then invite the Clerk to participate. Devie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Parsons, Runge. No: none. Motion carried. Closed session began 9:28 p.m. Closed session ended 11:19 p.m.

Chair comments: The board should try for shorter meetings.

Board comments: Parsons announced her intention to resign and the September meeting would be her last one.

CLAIMS: ADAMS BANK, FEES, 20.00; KAITLIN TAYLOR, LIBRARY INTERN GRANT, 400.00; AMAZON, LIBRARY BOOKS, 92.95; AMAZON, BINDER CEMETERY DEEDS, 11.36; AMAZON, COPY PAPER, 39.99; AMAZON, LIBRARY CLEANING SUPPLIES, 13.20; AMAZON, LIBRARY CLEANING SUPPLIES, 38.90; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, UTILITIES, 270.02; CHAPPELL REGISTER, SUBSCRIPTION, 27.00; CHAPPELL SUPER FOODS, FOOD OLD SETTLERS' DAYS, 500.00; CHEYENNE CO SHERIFF DEPT, SERVE LETTER PREPAY, 50.00; CITY OF SIDNEY, LANDFILL, 1,022.99; DANA HILL, REIMBURSE SUMMER READING, 53.08; DANA HILL, MILEAGE TO/FROM LIBRARY CONF, 122.61; DEARBORN LIFE, FD LIFE INSURANCE, 89.44; DEMCO, LIBRARY SUPPLIES, 299.63; DOUGLAS KELLY OSTDIEK ET AL, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, 5,233.79; EFTPS, WITHHOLDING, 6,622.18; FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOP, FUEL, 417.59; HAMILTON BOOK, BOOKS, 21.85; HIGHLINE, PHONE/INTERNET, 432.37; ITRON INC, SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION, 3,498.00; KC TECH SUPPORT, EQUIP/LABOR, 1,770.48; LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL, LONM 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP DUES, 796.00; NEBRASKA POWER REVIEW BOARD, ASSESSMENTS, 31.83; NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE, SALES TAX REMIT, 6,028.44; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER, ELECTRIC SERVICE, 12,588.02; NEBRASKA SAFETY AND FIRE, INSPECTIONS, 565.00; PADD, MEMBERSHIP, 274.56; PREMIER AUTO PARTS, BRUSH HOG REPAIR PARTS, 16.72; PROTEX CENTRAL, FIX SECURITY SYSTEM, 1,137.00; ROBERT KUHNS, INTERIM WATER OPERATOR, 500.00; ROODS TIRE CENTER LLC, REPAIR FLAT, 427.88; SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH, INC, LEGAL NOTICES/PROCEEDINGS, 267.55; SNELL SERVICES, PAC CONSULT, 287.50; STOLL SPRINKLER CO., SPRINKLER HEADS, 69.25; TANYA ENGEL, MILEAGE + GARBAGE BAGS, 93.75; TODD'S WELDING, SPRINKLER TIRE, 68.39; THE CHAPPELL REGISTER, SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY, 27.00; USA BLUE BOOK, UTILITY MARKING SUPPLIES, 616.13; USPS, WATER SAMPLES, 33.40; USPS, STAMPS, 136.00; USPS, CERTIFIED MAIL, 9.68; UTILITY SERVICE CO INC, 150,000 TANK QTR JULY-SEP 2024, 6,340.92; WAPA, ELECTRIC SERVICE, 1,478.26; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, WHEELING, 5,640.13; PAYROLL, 8,750.66

Next regular board meeting, Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the PAC

Meeting adjourned 11:21 p.m.

Submitted August 12, 2024

Tanya Engel

Clerk/Treasurer