

Village of Lodgepole

Special Board Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024, at 5:30 pm @ Panther Activity Center (PAC)

630 Orchard St., Lodgepole NE 69149

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: Susan Mitchell, Chair; Eric Dana, Co-Chair; Trustees, Mark Bartling, Christina Neit, Al Runge; Cynthia Carlton, Clerk/Treasurer; Steve Bell, Utilities/Maintenance Superintendent.

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

No Community Comments

Runge moved to approve the agenda. Bartling seconded. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Mitchell, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Mitchell gave updates on process for cleaning up the old office at 814 Sheldon Street. The carpet was pulled up, walls painted and bathrooms cleaned. Bell has replaced one of the toilets and another one was purchased for the men's restroom. Pricing on flooring was provided. Suggestion was made to use the Keno Lottery fund to pay for the flooring. Dana voiced his concern that the decision was made to rip the carpet up without the Board's approval. He requested that the Board discuss items more in depth before moving forward on things. Mitchell advises that she has flooring on hand at her house and will sell to the Village for the same price Home Depot has. A conflict-of-interest form will be filled out and Mitchell will abstain from vote. Runge motioned the Village purchase the Lighthouse Oak 22 MIL from Susan Mitchell for \$1,430.94 and any supplies to level the floor not to exceed \$1,500.00. The money to come from the Lottery Fund. Seconded by Bartling. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Runge. No: none. Abstain: Mitchell. Motion carried.

Mitchell discussed the status of past due bills. The yearly LARM payment was due in August totaling \$36,696.32 and two NPPD payments bounced, these totaled \$26,408.18. Suggestion was made to take money out of the NPAIT accounts to make these payments and get the bills up to date. Bartling motioned to move the following dollar amounts from the NPAIT accounts to pay past due LARM payments and NPPD payment: \$15,000 from the Water account, \$25,000 from the Sewer account, \$15,000 from the General account, \$5,000 from the Road/Street account and \$30,000 from the Electric account. Dana seconded. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Mitchell, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Mitchell gave an update on the recodification of the ordinances done by American Legal Publishing. There is a discrepancy regarding the pay for the Board members. We cannot find the ordinance or resolution where the reimbursement rates for the Board members were changed. From notations on some of the hard copies, it looks like the change was made in September of 2006. This has been added to the January Board meeting agenda. Carlton advises that the Village has also received the updates to

the Nebraska Basic Code. She requests anyone that has those books to bring them back to the Village office so these changes can be made and the new Board can each have a copy.

Discussion was made on reimbursements for electric deposits. Carlton will put together a list of citizens that have paid a deposit and have not been delinquent. Tabled for next meeting.

Discussion on amount of time owed in PTO to prior Clerk/Treasurer Tanya Engel. PTO breakdown and timecards will be forwarded to Engel to accompany the direct deposit. Dana motioned to pay Tanya Engel the 17 hours of PTO she is owed. Runge seconded. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Mitchell, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Bell advised he received the proposal from both Snell Services and Midwest Plumbing & Mechanical Services to winterize the PAC. Discussion was made on keeping the PAC open to the public after winterizing. Bell will be contacting the State Fire Marshall to verify. It was noted that in order to keep a public building open we would be required to have a bathroom and heat. Bell will be looking into this further. Dana motioned to use Midwest Plumbing & Mechanical Services to winterize the PAC. Neit seconded. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Mitchell, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

Bell advises after fixing the trash truck and picking up trash they blew out a tire on the way to the dump in Sidney. We have received a loaner tire from Rood's Tire Center to hold us over until the new tires come in. It is schedule to be taken in on Monday December 23, 2024 to get 4 tires for the back axel replaced. Bell has received the contract for Johnson Service Company for the Sanitary Sewer maintenance scheduled for 2025 using ARPA funds. Bell has also received the quote from USA Blue Book on the flowmeter to be purchased with the remaining ARPA funds. Once the Board members sign these forms they will suffice as the ARPA funds obligation contracts.

Carlton received a renewal form for 2025 Banner Permit with the state. Discussion was made that we no longer hang banners across the highway and we will not need the permit. The Public Water System Emergency Response Plan is a year overdue. Carlton will be getting with Rob Kuhns and Steve Bell to complete as soon as possible. American Legal Publishing has offered to publish the code of ordinances and our meeting minutes online if wanted. Information given to Board members for a decision if they want to move forward. The LIHEAP performance measures report was submitted to LIHEAP on Tuesday December 17, 2024. This was originally due by October 31, 2024. Access has been granted to the NPAIT account and the final USDA loan payment is scheduled to be paid on December 28, 2024. The funds will be transferred from NPAIT to the General Fund and the payment will be made from there. Carlton will be adding Mitchell and Dana to this account as well. The annual NE Rural Water Association membership will be due by February 1, 2025. This is a \$200 fee and will be on the claims in the January consent agenda.

Bartling motioned to approve the consent agenda. Runge seconded. Yes: Bartling, Dana, Neit, Mitchell, Runge. No: none. Motion carried.

CHEYENNE COUNTY CLERK, REAL ESTATE TAXES, 37.54; NE DEPT OF LABOR, Q4/24 UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES, 54.75; NE DEPT OF REVENUE, 10/24 SALES TAX, 1349.20; NE DEPT OF REVENUE, 11/24 SALES TAX, 1472.21; USDA, WATER PROJECT LOAN #1, 28851.00; USDA, WATER PROJECT LOAN #2, 11500.00; WHEATBELT PUBLIC POWER, ELECTRICITY, 288.47; WHEATBELT PUBLIC POWER, WHEELING, 8539.66.

Mitchell gave an update on the move to the Village office on Sheldon Street. She advises while researching, she has found that the Village is paying for internet from 2 different companies at the PAC. The Village is also paying for 3 phone lines, two from Viaero and one from Highline. Transferring the internet service for Highline is scheduled to happen in the next week. Dana advised that the phone number that comes across when the Clerk texts from the Village phone is a 970 number. When he called the number, someone speaking Spanish answered. Carlton will get ahold of Viaero to see what the problem is. Mitchell discussed closing the PAC and stated she realizes it is an important building to the community and that it would be unfortunate to see it sit. She believes the Village is not financially able to keep the building open or open it again in the future. Mitchell's suggestion is to get the word out and see if anyone is interested in purchasing the building or possibly finding an organization that the building can be gifted to. Another organization may be able to get grants or loans to fix the heating issues. Mitchell's suggestion was to have the Board think about this as an option for the building.

Next regular board meeting, Tuesday January 7, 2025, 5:30pm at the Lodgepole Community Hall.

Meeting adjourned 7:24 PM

Submitted January 2, 2025

Cynthia Carlton

Clerk/Treasurer