

**Village of Lodgepole
Regular Meeting Agenda & Street Improvement Plan Hearing Minutes
March 5, 2024 @ Panther Activity Center (PAC)
630 Orchard Street, 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, the Village website, and published in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph.

Called to order by Chair Savely at 7 PM.

In attendance: Chair RJ Savely, Vice Chair Gwen Devie, Trustees Mark Bartling, Samuel Cheramie, Brenda Parsons, along with Jerry Ostdiek, Village attorney, Ethan Kraus, maintenance superintendent, Tanya Engel, clerk/treasurer.

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.

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

Chair opened the Street Improvement Plan Hearing at 7:04 p.m. Doug Hart, Road Superintendent, read resolution 273, a resolution adopting the One and Six-Year Improvement Plan. Devie moved to approve resolution 273. Cheramie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried. Parsons moved to close the hearing. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Chair opened the floor for community comments and informed the public that the Board could not discuss or act at this time on any matter presented. Rita Bartling spoke on the history of the PAC building and requested the memorabilia stay where it is currently located in the building. Dana Hill spoke regarding not putting memorabilia into storage and suggested volunteers be recruited to clean the rooms where the memorabilia is stored. Brett Stoll spoke about the importance of having memorabilia and his opinion that the community should have input on what happens with the memorabilia. He also expressed concerns about people wearing street shoes in the gym.

Marshall Hall, building and zoning inspector, recommended the Board approve Mark Christensen's conditional use permit for the operation of a gravel pit on his property. Devie motioned to approve the conditional use permit. Cheramie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion and action on the removal of the water tower postponed until the April 2024 meeting as Mike Trobvich, Miller & Associates, was waiting for a copy of signed amendment K.

David Welanko, PADD, spoke on the importance of and process for creating a village comprehensive plan. Last plan was created in 1975. Process begins with an income survey. He estimates it to be a 6–8 month process and would cost \$2,000–\$3,000. Last income survey was conducted in 2019. Income surveys are only good for 3 years. Second step is to apply for and receive a planning grant. Grant is \$25,000 and Village would need to supply a 10% match. Final step is to create a comprehensive plan. It is a long-range vision for the community and helps with revitalization plans.

Discussion on steps needed to reopen the green waste dump and prevent illegal dumping. Motion detection camera to be installed. Staff to investigate signage cost and language. Staff to include information in the newsletter regarding what can be dumped and where it should be dumped. And to inform residents that the Sheriff's office will be informed of illegal dumping so they can prosecute. A work party was suggested but not scheduled for March 16.

Discussion regarding needed maintenance at the community hall. Staff to include information in newsletter asking groups to remove the items they have stored at the community hall before April 30.

Parsons presented information reviving the Community Improvement Board. She proposed Lodgepole adopt a version of the Village of Potter's ordinance #530. Attorney Ostdiek to rework the Potter ordinance to make it applicable for Lodgepole.

At 8:48 PM the clerk/treasurer provided the first reading of Ordinance #269, the establishment of a recreational vehicle parks zone ordinance.

Devie moved to approve resolution #274, the resolution approving the Professional Retail Operations Agreement. Cheramie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Devie moved to approve the Pro Agreement with NPPD. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Devie moved to accept resolution #275, a resolution approving request letter and assignment agreement with WAPA and NPPD for Village's Firm Electric Service Contract. Parsons seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer presented an addendum to the contract with USG Water solutions that changed the billing frequency from annual to quarterly on the McIntosh Street tank. Devie moved to accept the addendum to go quarterly. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Devie discussed the Revitalize Rural Nebraska Grant. The grant application requesting funding to demolish the motel was sent to the grant sponsors on February 28, 2024. Notice was given to the property owners by Marshall Hall.

The employee handbook will generally reference the plan materials. Parsons moved that the Village will offer to all employees a simple IRA with Capital America Fund Group to be managed by Bill Benson of Edward Jones with a 3% match. Devie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried. Devie said that 60 days before the end of each year, it needs to be confirmed that the plan will keep happening.

Bartling discussed his meeting with Nate Fox, LARM, about proposed changes to Village's insurance. Fox will do an evaluation, generate new paperwork, and will make a presentation to the board.

The Board agreed to not renew the Village's lottery license as no business in the Village currently offers lottery or Keno.

The discussion and action on fees and a fee book was postponed until the April 2024 meeting.

Devie and Parsons suggested the Board Policy subcommittee's proposals be considered and failed experiment and be tabled indefinitely and could be revisited at a later date.

Clerk/Treasurer provided first reading of ordinance #270, an ordinance to amend and harmonize the Village code regarding Village Board organization.

Maintenance provided an update. Board members wondered if ARPA funds could be used to pay for PAC boiler repairs. Devie motioned to have staff identify and shut off unnecessary phone lines. Cheramie seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer provided an update and suggested the Board consider moving the start time of regularly scheduled meetings from 7 PM to 5:30 PM. The Board agreed. Attorney Ostdiek will prepare an ordinance to be read at the April 2024 meeting.

AFLAC, 86.32, INSURANCE; AMAZON, 44.99, PAPER; AMAZON, 58.51, MEMORY CARDS; AMAZON, 66.24, BOOKS; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, 3,336.50, UTILITIES; CHAPPELL LUMBER, 12.60, FINANCE CHARGE; CITY OF SIDNEY, 737.40, LANDFILL; CNA SURETY, 260.00, BOND #71250661; CREDIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC, 652.53, WITHHOLDINGS; DEARBORN LIFE, 75.68, FD LIFE INSURANCE; DOUGLAS KELLY OSTDIEK ET AL, 4,542.70, ATTORNEY FEES; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY, 30,632.04, 226 WATER METERS; DUTTON-LAINSON COMPANY, 6,817.17, SUPPLIES; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS, 341.10, OFFICE SUPPLIES; FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOP, 587.05, GAS CARD CHARGES; GWORKS, 7,434.00, SUBSCRIPTION; HIGHLINE, 275.27, PHONES; HOMETOWN LEASING, 166.28, PRINTER LEASE; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, 2.78, SALES TAX; LARM, 59.03, WORKER COMP AUDIT; LODGEPOLE LIONS CLUB, 50.00, LIBRARY LIONS CALENDAR AD; MILLER & ASSOCIATES, 3,285.00, CONSTRUCTION ADMIN SERVICES; NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE, 839.21, QTR PAYROLL W/H; NEBRASKA DEPT OF REVENUE, 5.55, FEES; NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH, 15.00, WATER SAMPLES; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER, 11,909.60, POWER & TRANSMISSION STATEMENT; PLEASANTVIEW CEMETERY, 300.00, SALE 3 LOTS; PROTEX CENTRAL, 370.00, HID PROXCARDS II; RAUNER & ASSOCIATES, 80.87, PREPARATION/FILING W2; SIDNEY SUN-

TELEGRAPH, INC, 633.22, LEGAL NOTICES/PROCEEDINGS; USPS, 4.40, CERTIFIED MAIL; USPS, 10.00, MAILBOX KEYS; UTILITY SERVICE, 5,964.63, MAINTENANCE; VIAERO, 96.10, TABLET WIFI; WAPA, 803.84, ELECTRIC SERVICE; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, 125.53, SEWER; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, 301.27, WELL; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, 5,447.49, SEWER; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, 4,065.88, WHEELING; 3/1/24 PAYROLL, 7,594.23; TOTAL, 98,461.76.

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

Savely motioned to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Devie, Bartling, Cheramie, Parsons. No: none. Motion carried. Executive session entered at 10:12 p.m.

Out of executive session at 10:34 p.m.

The Chair did not have additional comments.

Devie commented on the need to change sewer ordinance language back to original ordinance so that sewer fees are calculated for each resident on the average of their January, February, and March usage. Clerk to send language to attorney for new ordinance. Devie said the rural fire district has 2 engines and therefore can have up to 50 volunteers. Clerk to make sure current volunteers are covered by workers compensation plan. Devie requested staff purchase an Alexa device with a screen to be used in connection with the Blink cameras whenever the funds were available.

Savely adjourned the meeting at 10:40 PM.

Next regular board meeting, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 7 PM at the PAC.

Submitted March 27, 2024, Tanya Engel, Village Clerk/Treasurer.