

Village of Lodgepole

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

November 5, 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; Mark Bartling, Co-Chair; Trustees Eric Dana, Christina Neit; Jerry Ostdiek, Village Attorney; Cynthia Carlton, Clerk/Treasurer; Steve Bell, Utilities/Maintenance Superintendent

Bartling presented the findings of the Air Compliance Evaluation done on September 10, 2024. There were no concerns. Savely discussed recent Facebook comments, he advised he is waiting on a repair report from Verizon regarding his call log and due diligence. The information, when available, will be at the Village office for reference.

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.

Community Comments: Susan Mitchell, 532 Sheldon St, Lodgepole, spoke on the open board position. It was supposed to be posted and filled but wasn't. She suggests this be left for the incoming board to deal with. Gwen Devie, 631 Latham Lodgepole, spoke on the fact that the minutes from October stated that Tanya Engel was no longer an employee and all of her access to bank accounts and the computer should have been terminated. That hasn't happened yet. Questions on how payroll was processed for November. A picture of the minutes from the paper was presented to the board members for reference.

Bartling moved to approve the agenda with the correction to the numbering for #19. It will read #19a and #19b. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

Dana moved to enter into closed session with the Village attorney to discuss citizen action requests. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried. Closed session began at 5:39pm and ended at 5:48pm. No action taken at this time.

Cindy Oliverius with the Pleasant View Cemetery reported that the outhouse has been torn down and the hole filled in. Nebraska Legislature passed Statute 257 in March regarding reclamation of burial plots that have not been used in over 30 years. Oliverius advises the cemetery has 25 empty lots we can sell and recover, which needs Board approval. Discussion was made regarding regulations on notifying families/descendants. Discussion tabled to the December meeting. The annual financial payment of \$3,500 was requested in writing by Tom Weber, Committee Chairman. Dana motioned the \$3,500 be paid to the Pleasant View Cemetery Committee. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

Bartling provided an update on the PAC boiler. Two separate leaks were fixed but they were only able to get part of the building working. The south side pump seized when they turned it back on. For \$2000 we will be able to get that pump working again. We passed our inspection done by the State Fire Marshal. Certification on the boiler will be sent as soon as payment is made. Suggestion was made that we look for alternative heat sources, like room units or rooftop units. Bartling was concerned about the locker rooms downstairs. Gwen Devie from the Lodgepole Community Foundation advised that once the Fire Marshal approved the boiler, we will have to contact Buckley on what was fixed and they will evaluate on how much of a grant they will issue and if we need to pay the initial \$10,000 back. Bartling will get with Midwest Plumbing & Mechanical Services regarding a quote to fix the pump. The Board postponed further discussion until the December meeting.

Bell explained that the street lights were possibly purchased with a grant and we might not be able to sell them or give them to NPPD. The light system does not work with NPPD's system so they are going to replace all of them. The current lights were purchased approximately 3 years ago and it is unknown if there were provisions in the grant regarding what can and cannot be done with them. Bell currently does not have a place to store them. There was discussion on possible locations to put them until further clarification can be made on what to do with them.

Bell received a call from USC, they would like to know if the Village would like to do a minimal outside maintenance plan for the old water tower. The cost would depend on what type of maintenance we would receive. Dana made a motion to stop maintenance on the outside of the water tower. Bartling seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

No changes made to the LARM quote. Bartling made a motion to accept the new property and auto quote and to have Savely sign it. Dana seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion was made regarding the RJ Meyer & Associates audit. The Village has received a letter from the State Auditor and they have accepted the audit done by RJ Meyer & Associates. A request was made that we have a representative from RJ Meyer or Julie Peetz, Village Accountant attend the next board meeting to go over the audit and answer questions. Bartling made a motion to accept the audit from RJ Meyer & Associates for the year ending September 30, 2023. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion was made on the boundary between Village land and the parcel if it is sold to Mark Christensen. Payment for the fence will still be needed whether it is sold or not. Dana made a motion to not sell parcel ID 170013685 to Mark Christensen. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Dana, Neit. No: Bartling. Motion carried.

Minutes from the October 18, 2024 meeting need to be amended, the description of the claims were not listed. The following items need to be extracted from the claims report on the October 18, 2024 meeting:

1. LARM Ins. Changes made check voided, need check for new amount.
2. Ne. Public Health-called office and we only owed \$30.00 which was paid under Ne Dept. of Environment

3. John Deere Financial Check we only owed \$303.00

4. Fox Insurance-check voided as already paid.

5. Ne. Dept of Revenue check voided as needs to be paid on line

Bartling made a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Dana seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

AFLAC, INSURANCE, 115.05; AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING, RECODIFICATION, 595.00; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, UTILITIES, 411.18; CITY OF SIDNEY, LANDFILL, 825.60; DEEVER TIRE COMPANY, BACKHOE TIRE REPAIR, 25.00; DEPT ENERGY WESTERN AREA POWER, ELECTRICITY, 1541.03; DOUGLAS KELLY OSTDIEK ET AL, LEGAL FEES, 1380.70; IRS, FEDERAL WITHHOLDING, 7176.40; PEGGY COOPER, DEPOSIT REFUND, 147.18, MIKE & DIANA ALDRICH, DEPOSIT REFUND, 86.75; WILLIAM & JOY BREITHAUPT, DEPOSIT REFUND, 30.15; ARNOLD & JENNIFER WELLER, DEPOSIT REFUND, 36.91, DESMOND & STEFANIE DOLES, DEPOSIT REFUND, 104.06; FVC, FUEL, 405.05; FRONT RANGE RAYNOR, TROLLEY CHAIN FOR GARAGE DOOR, 100.00; HIGHLINE, PHONE/INTERNET, 469.60; HOMETOWN LEASING, COPIER, 332.56; DEPT OF TREASURY, FEDERAL WITHHOLDING PENALTIES, 356.11; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, M18 BATTERY, 928.95; MELISSA GORSUCH, ACCOUNTING/BOOKKEEPING, 2044.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE, NE SALES TAX, 3931.21; NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION, OVERDRIVE ANNUAL PARTICIPATION, 500.00; NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER, ELECTRICITY, 26,408.18; NE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, ANNUAL BOILER CERTIFICATION, 81.00; NE WASTE WATER REDUCTION & RECYCLING, NE WRR FEE – FORM 94, 25.00; RJ MEYER & ASSOCIATES, ACCOUNTING & AUDIT, 7250.00; ROBERT KUHNS, MONTHLY SERVICE FEE, 1000.00; SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH, LEGAL NOTICES/PROCEEDINGS, 448.03; STOREY KENWORTHY, PRINTING, 635.33; USPS, WATER SAMPLES, 69.00; UTILITY SERVICE CO, WATER TANK MAINT, 6340.92; VIAERO, CELL PHONES, 168.00; WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER, ELECTRICITY, 4755.91; PAYROLL, 5396.72.

Bartling made a motion to add Cynthia Carlton to the Cheyenne County Clerk's Office and the following bank accounts for the Village of Lodgepole: Adams Bank and Trust (ABT) Checking, ABT Debt, ABT Nancy Fawcett Memorial, ABT Vol Fire Dept #9843, ABT Visions, ABT DDA General, ABT DDA Construction, ABT Lottery, ABT Vol Fire Dept #3954, ABT Fire Scholarship, ABT Fire Equipment, ABT Wieggers/Fawcett Mem #4091, ABT Wieggers/Fawcett Mem #8158, UBT STFIT, ABT Remodeling, ABT Summer Ball Savings, ABT General Savings, ABT Sewer Rd Rsv Asset, ABT Sewer Rd Rsv Emergency, ABT Vol Fire Card, Edward Jones Wieggers Memorial, LPL Financial, NPAIT, ABT Weiger/Fawcett Memorial CD, ABT Electric CD, ABT Vol Fire Dept CDs, PWB Vol Fire Dept CDs, ABT ARPA 2799, ABT DDA ARPA 5500, ABT Emerg Res, ABT Short-lived Asset. Also to remove Tanya Engel from above accounts as well. Neit seconded. Yes: Savely, Bartling, Dana, Neit. No: none. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding Maintenance report. Bell advises the changeover to NPPD started on November 1, 2024. There were several meters that were never entered to our system; therefore, the process has taken longer than expected. The trash truck heater is not working, unknown what the problem is at this time. All parks were winterized and closed for the season. The west well has been winterized and shut off, if someone needs to get water they will need to contact the Village. The application for Exempt Status for non-discharge lagoon system needs to be signed by the Chair person and sent back to the state with the \$100 application fee. Conducted pressure tests at 340 Bates Blvd per customer request. The house system was at 40 PSI. Repaired four water service lines, two curb valves and one curb stop pipe. Per Aaron Hogg with the State Fire Marshal's office, once the payment for the

boiler inspection has been made, they will release the certificate. The State of Nebraska is mandating that the Village send out notifications to all galvanized and unknown water lines listed in our Lead and Copper report by the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Bell has extreme concern regarding someone who is not an employee doing payroll and would like to know who gave Tanya Engel authorization to access his personnel information from her personal computer at home. Ostdiek suggests Savely and Carlton investigate Engel's access.

Neit issued her resignation for the end of November 2024.

Next regular board meeting, Tuesday December 3, 2024, 5:30pm at the PAC

Meeting adjourned 7:36pm

Submitted November 13, 2024

Cynthia Carlton

Clerk/Treasurer