

Village of Lodgepole
PO Box 266 • 630 Orchard St.
Lodgepole, NE 69149
308-483-5353

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2024, Panther Activity Center (PAC)
630 Orchard Street Lodgepole, NE

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Present: RJ Savely, Chair; Brenda Parsons, trustee; Jerry Ostdiek, Village Attorney; Diana Bruns, interim Clerk; Steve Bell Utilities/Maintenance Supervisor. Absent: Mark Bartling.

Chair informed the public of the locations of the posted Open Meetings Act. The Board reserved 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: Gwen Devie voiced her concern with the finances of the Village and the direction it is taking.

Al Runge also expressed his concern on the way the Village is headed financially as his reason for resigning, and is running for board position in November elections.

Susan Mitchell stated her request again to be on the Village Board stating she had sent Letters of Interest more than once. She has had no response and is concerned why.

Brenda Parsons made motion to approve the agenda, R J Savely seconded. Yes: RJ Savely, Brenda Parsons. Yes. No: none. Motion carried.

Savely brought two names to the board for vote on the Board: Eric Dana and Susan Ommen. Motion made by Savely to accept them on the board; Due to lack of second, motion failed. Request was made to vote on them separately. Savely made motion to accept Eric Dana to board, Parsons seconded. Savely yes, Parsons yes. Motion passed. Parsons expressed her concern of family ties of Susan Ommen to Utilities/Maintenance Supervisor. Attorney Ostdiek explained. Motion made by Savely to elect Susan Ommen to board, due to lack of second, motion died.

Attorney Ostdiek administered the oath of office to Eric Dana. He will now be a trustee of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lodgepole.

Discussion held on needing to vote in a vice-chair. Motion was made by Savely to elect Mark Bartling as vice chair adding his signature of authorization on all accounts with Adams Bank, NPAIT, UBT, etc. Parsons seconded. Yes: Parsons, Savely, Dana. Motion carried. Mark Bartling will go to bank and get signature on file.

Citizen action request by Gwen Devie requested certain financial and board records. Reports include Village financial reports, Trial balance 10-1-23-9-02-24,10-1-18 to 9-30-19,10-1-19 to 9-30-20,10-1-2020 to 9-30-21.24 General History Detail for 10-1-23 to 9-02-24. Copy of Board packet and board report as well as claims reports. Attorney Ostdiek stated that if they are readily available, she may pick them up.

A copy of our contract with Ideal has been requested and was to be discussed with their representative. No representative present, tabled to next meeting

Mark Christensen wishing to purchase parcel ID 170013685 presented to the board the cost of fencing from one fence company. Cost of fencing will run about \$12,600 our cost would be half of that. The survey cost \$ 3500.00. Needs commitment from board before he proceeds. No one is sure of the amount of acreage involved 30--40 acres? Board will table until next meeting allowing all board members opportunity to view land. Sale subject to lease that Kurt Huff has on it also.

No action was taken to rent Kurt Huff pasture as he was not at meeting to discuss. Tabled until next meeting.

Discussion on Resolution 282: Municipal Annual Certification of Program Compliance NDOT was tabled until next meeting. Board needs to invite County Road superintendent can clarify. Due 10/31.

Parsons made a motion to support the Nebraska Lincoln Highway Historic Byway, Savely seconded. Yes: Dana, Savely, Parsons. No; none Motion passed.

Action regarding PAC boiler. Brandy Stone with the City of Sidney Cheyenne County Economic Development Partnership stated she is working with Mark Bartling but no grants are available until after December 31, 2024. Need to re-address this matter in January. We have received only one estimate on the boiler, need to see if we can get others. Any company coming to check out boiler will charge milage and hours. Tabled until Mark Bartling is here.

Discussion was held on spending of the remaining \$15,000 ARPA funds. Discussion was to spend remaining ARPA funds finding out problem in sewer system on South side. Stephen Bell, Utilities Superintendent will check into this. Plan must be in place as to how to spend money. Money must be spent by October 1, 2025. We need to know exactly what the problem and what all charges will be.

Brenda read a letter from Sara Pierce regarding the \$67,276.00 water funds. Pierce agreed to extend to October 15, 2024. A conversation needs to be held with Ms. Pierce concerning some of our concerns. Eric Dana made motion to cap old water tower contingent on USDA fund availability. Parsons seconded motion. Yes: Savely, Dana, and Parsons. No: none Motion passed.

Consent Agenda: Highline bill needs to be extracted for lack of one invoice. We have three out of the four invoices. Parsons made motion to accept amended claims with the one exception being Highline. Seconded by Savely. Yes: Parsons, Savely. Dana Abstained. No: none Motion passed. Parsons made motion to pay Highline when 4th invoice is produced. Seconded by Savely. Yes: Savely, Dana, Parsons. No: none Motion passed.

AMAZON, COPIER PAPER, 48.99; AMAZON, LIBRARY BOOKS, 129.95; AMAZON, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES, 75.62; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, GAS, 220.81; BOMGAARS, BATTERIES, 33.68; CHAPPELL REGISTER, SUBSCRIPTION, 54.00; CITY OF SIDNEY, LANDFILL, 786.60; DEARBORN LIFE, INSURANCE, 79.12; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS, COPIER USAGE, 283.80; EFTPS, FEDERAL WITHHOLDING, 6,622.18; FOX INSURANCE, INSURANCE, 525.00; FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOP, FUEL, 2,076.87; HIGHLINE, PHONE/INTERNET, 318.64; HOMETOWN LEASING, COPIER PRINTER LEASE, 340.87; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, SALON A/C, 325.91; LARM, INSURANCE, 500.00; LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL, DUES, 400.00; MOE'S HEATING & AIR, REPAIRS, 118.00; NEBRASKA LINCOLN HWY BYWAY, DUES, 35.00; NEBRASKA DEPT OF LABOR NETWORKS, TAX/WAGE REPORT, 43.58; NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER SAMPLES, 518.00; NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS, WATER REPAIR SUPPLIES, 274.84; PREMIER AUTO PARTS, TRASH TRUCK REPAIRS, 62.54; ROBERT KUHNS, INTERIM WATER OPERATOR, 500.00; SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH, INC, LEGAL NOTICES/PROCEEDINGS, 257.24; USA BLUE BOOK, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES, 462.38; USPS, POSTAGE, 254.40; VIAERO, TABLET, 3.06; BOARD STIPEND/PAYROLL, , 9,836.52; TOTAL 25,187.60.

Stephen Bell presented his verbal report on maintenance issues. He will get formal report to board members.

Motion made by Savely to go into executive session to discuss clerk/treasure position. Seconded by Parsons. Yes: Dana, Savely, Parsons No: none. Motion carried. Closed session began at 6:53. Closed session closed at 7:10.

Parsons made motion to offer Diana Bruns temporary position as Village Clerk at \$12.00 an hour, no more than 30 hours a week. Dana seconded. Yes: Savely, Parsons, Dana. No: none Motion passed.

Parsons made motion for Tanya Engel to reconcile our accounts with auditor and Audit be done by October 1 at \$24 per hour with no benefits. Savely seconded motion. Yes: Dana, Parsons, Savely. No: none Motion passed.

Motion made by Parsons to advertise Clerk and or Treasure position. Seconded by Dana. Yes: Parsons, Savely, Dana. No: none. Motion carries.

Motion made by Savely to accept Brenda Parsons resignation with regret Seconded by Dana. Yes: Parsons abstains, Savely yes, Dana yes. Motion carries.

Stephen Bell mentioned to board that he had not been paid. Computer problem fixed. Will be in bank on the 4th.

Savely announced that we will have a budget meeting sometime this month when Julie Peetz from Rauner and Associates is ready.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 1, at 5:30 at the PAC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Submitted September 9, 2024

Diana Bruns, Interim Clerk