

**MINUTE RECORD
VILLAGE OF FIRTH
REGULAR MEETING**

April 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the Chairman and Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Firth, Nebraska was convened in open and public session on the **6th day of April 2021** at the Firth Community Center. Normal notification procedures were observed. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00pm and the following members were present: Dave Hobelman, Craig Middle, Jason Cooper, Amanda Eisenhauer and Kami Beaty. Chairman Hobelman presided, and the Village Clerk recorded the minutes. The Clerk noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available on a table on the counter in the room for review. Social distancing was observed.

A motion was made by Amanda Eisenhauer, seconded by Kami Beaty, to approve the meeting agenda. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

The minutes of the March 2, 2021 regular meeting were declared approved as presented.

It was moved by Kami Beaty, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve the **March** financial report. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

It was moved by Craig Middle, seconded by Jason Cooper, to approve payment of current bills as presented. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

The prior month paid bills are as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Salaries | 7,255.23 |
| Payroll Taxes | 589.71 |
| All Roads Barricades | 22.80 |
| Black Hills Energy | 140.63 |
| Capital City Refuse | 4,051.50 |
| Farmers & Merchants Bank | 25.00 |
| Farmers' Cooperative | 746.66 |
| Firespring | 100.00 |
| First National Bank | 309.50 |
| Lancaster County Sheriff's Office | 1,121.99 |
| League Association of Risk Management LARM | 13,378.00 |
| McNally Law Office | 390.00 |
| Microsoft Office 365 | 8.70 |
| NDEE-Fiscal Services | 150.00 |
| Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab | 0.00 |
| Norris Public Power | 2,066.73 |
| Olsson | 1,371.00 |
| One Call Concepts, Inc. | 1.92 |
| Sam's Club | 604.50 |
| TCA Outdoor Power | 499.98 |
| Voice News | 116.14 |
| Windstream | 279.14 |
| FACET Expense | 60.61 |
| Total | \$33,289.74 |

At 7:12pm Dave Hobelman closed the regular meeting and opened a public hearing.

The public hearing was for the purpose of hearing public comment and answering public questions regarding the pending construction of a new well and other drinking water projects for Firth. The Village is seeking a State Revolving Fund loan for these projects. Loan terms are 0% interest, 0% administrative fees, 25% loan forgiveness. Owen Killham gave an overview of the need for a new well due to the newest Firth well being placed on emergency use only status because of rising selenium levels. The other drinking water projects being considered for the loan are: replacement and installation of all Village water meters, replacement of 4 blocks of 4" water main, replacement of 30-35 fire hydrants, and construction of a 6" dedicated raw water main from the 2009 well to the new well site for blending purposes.

There was no public comment.

Dave Hobelman closed the public hearing at 7:20pm and the regular meeting was reconvened.

Dave Hansmeyer gave the monthly maintenance report. Items of note:

- The I&I issue in the sewer system has gotten worse with the rain in the last week. It tends to rise dramatically and quickly

after a weather event. However, the levels go down much slower. The Village plans to work with Olsson to place some flow meters in the sewer system to measure for infiltration and try to pinpoint where the I&I issue is occurring.

- The crack sealing of certain designated streets is partially complete. This was approved at the March meeting.

Gary and Peg Hartgerink were present to request a permit to sell fireworks for the 2021 fireworks season which runs from June 25 through July 4. It was moved by Amanda Eisenhauer, seconded by Kami Beaty, to approve the permit. (The fee is \$50.00). Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

Clint Simmons from LARM presented the new valuations for Village property for insurance purposes. The board agreed with all valuations presented but declined to add coverage for the flagpole at the community center.

It was moved by Kami Beaty, seconded by Craig Middle, to approve Work Order #1 to the annual Olsson Master Agreement. The work order sets fees relating to all work done on the new proposed well discussion, exploration, and testing. Once the Village moves forward with a new well, a project agreement will be approved for the design and construction of the well. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding the SRF loan. Owen Killam suggested possibly adding a well pump replacement for the ballfield well to the loan. It was moved by Amanda Eisenhauer, seconded by Jason Cooper to give Chairperson Dave Hobelman the authority to sign the loan application. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

Dave Hansmeyer presented a bid from MacQueen Equipment for a Verisight Pro Plus 330' push camera for videoing sewer mains. The bid was for \$11,850.00. The camera would allow the Village to save time and cost in the event of a sewer main backup or break. And would also help to document what locations need attention, and where I&I issues are happening. The Board asked to see several additional bids for the May meeting.

It was agreed to contact Rob Mierau (Firth plumbing inspector) regarding sump pump inspections throughout the Village.

It was moved by Jason Cooper, seconded by Kami Beaty, to accept Paul Ebbers bid for the mowing of the Nemaha ditch, as needed, for the 2021 mowing season. The bid is \$875.00 per mowing. Paul Ebbers carries liability insurance and will submit a copy for the Village files. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the extra grading and seeding required for the park sidewalk project. No quote was presented for extra charges. Olsson will be asked for a bid for additional charges including a scope of work.

Dave Hobelman read Ordinance 04-2021-1 in its entirety. It adds to the current snow removal policy.

ORDINANCE NO. 04-2021-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF FIRTH, LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SNOW PROCEDURES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

It was moved by Craig Middle, seconded by Kami Beaty, to waive the customary 3 readings of the ordinance. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the ordinance and several business owners voiced their concern with the current wording. There were two items of discussion.

- Section 5-301B - The ordinance changes the time for the business district to clean their sidewalks to 6:30am (if it snows during the night) so Village Maintenance has time to clear the snow deposited from the sidewalks, off the street prior to customers coming and parking. Business owners disagreed with the 6:30am time saying they would need to pay someone overtime to come into work early. The board will revisit the 6:30am time and the wording of this section will be reconsidered.
- Section 2-126A – Several business owners disagreed with “unlawful for any person to push, move or deposit snow from private property onto or upon any public sidewalk, street, avenue, alley or other village-owned property.” The board agreed that this could be reworded to better reflect the spirit of the regulation. The board wants to ensure that no snow from private property is deposited onto the streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

It was moved by Craig Middle, seconded by Amanda Eisenhauer, to NOT adopt Ordinance #04-2021-1 in its current form. The Ordinance will be amended and brought back for more discussion at a later time. Roll call vote: 5 Yeas, no Nays. Motion carried.

Industrial Business Regulation Enforcement was on the agenda. An incident occurred during the week of March 20-27, where an industrial business, neighboring the downtown district and the residential district, was working on a project that caused excess noise, discharge of smoke and fumes into the air, and discharge of water/fluid onto the ground. The project continued over the course of a week, with two of the days running late into the evening. The Board intended to discuss how to regulate this sort of situation in the future.

Kevin DeValkenaere and John Schwab from Farabee Mechanical, Inc (FMI) stood up and passed out packets of information to each board member and stated why they believe FMI has the right to do a project that causes excess noise and discharge of emissions. There was discussion regarding the noise and smoke. Industrial Business zoning regulations were also discussed. Mr. DeValkenaere and Mr. Schwab stated that nothing done during the weeklong project was outside OSHA standards. The Board stated that the Village had received complaints about the noise and smoke and the Village was not notified prior to the project starting. The only

communication with FMI came after the Village contacted FMI several days into the project.

Several business owners stated that the noise and smoke from the FMI project did not affect their businesses.

At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that FMI should request a special permit from the Village prior to any future projects that are outside the scope of the Industrial Business regulations.

Dave Hobelman stated that due to the current well situation (with the Village water system running on only the two older wells,) the splash pad will not be in operation this summer. The Village needs to preserve both wells and ensure that there is quantity and quality water for Village residents.

OPEN FORUM

Committee reports were given.

Adjourn

David L. Hobelman, Board Chairman

Jill A. Hoefler, Village Clerk