The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on October 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Village of Sutherland Meeting Room, located: 1200 First Street, Sutherland, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given by posting notice in four public places, the designated method by the Village Board of Trustees. An agenda for this meeting was kept continuously current and available for inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk. Trustee Members present upon roll call were: Kimberly Backer, Samuel Haworth, Scott Meyer, Frank Fleecs and Derek Dempcy. Also, present were Village Clerk Danette Jorgensen, Village Superintendent Casey Kendall, and Village Attorney Rory Roundtree. Guest’s present were Jackie Main, Ken Main, Gene & Linda Tacey, and Tom Werblow. If all the names are not included, it is only by error, absence of signature or undecipherable signature in the guest book.

Chairperson Backer called for a roll call, recognized a quorum was present and called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Backer gave notice of the open meeting law poster and its location and proper procedure for guests.

The reading and approval of the minutes for October 12, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Discussion was held. Haworth motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Dempcy. Voting yes: Haworth, Dempcy, Meyer, Backer, and Fleecs. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Meyer mentioned that there wasn’t a chief’s report at this time and the chief was not in attendance. Backer said that if the chief did make it into the meeting tonight, and wanted to share his report, he would be welcome to at any time.

At this time, Backer adjusted the agenda to address Tom Werblow as the year-end Certification of City Street Superintendent for another year. Werblow accepted the position for the Village Street Superintendent. Fleecs motioned to adopt and authorize signatures for Resolution NO. 2022-10-03 regarding the Street Superintendent, second by Haworth. Voting yes: Fleecs, Haworth, Backer, Dempcy, and Meyer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Motioned by Meyer to authorize the chair to sign the Year-end Certification of City Street Superintendent, second by Dempcy. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Backer, Fleecs and Haworth. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Werblow continued discussion about Storm/Sewer Drainage. The sanitary sewer drainage ground has been sold and Werblow thinks the next step is to have attorney Roundtree send a letter stating what we are planning to do, because he hasn’t had any response. Roundtree and Werblow will work together on finalizing this issue. The storm drainage was discussed by Werblow. He met with Kendall and Fleecs earlier in the week. There is some funding that may be available that we will be checking into. Fleecs mentioned Pine St being an old water main that is 4” that could possibly be tied in with a water project for more funding.

The agenda was adjusted back to unfinished business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The owners of the fence on N Walnut received Roundtree’s letter. They seem to be confused about what needs to be done. Kendall will speak with the owner next week. Backer asked that Kendall make sure one of the kids were there when he speaks to them so that everyone is on the same page.

Fire Hall/Department/Merger. The merger contains several unfinished items that were all discussed. Fire Hall/Department/Merger was discussed by Roundtree and Meyer. We are close to being done with this. Roundtree will draft an interlocal agreement that will need to be seen by the rural. We have a list of vendors and accounts that we currently use for the fire department that will need to be changed when the merger takes place. Meyer informed the Board that there are currently grant funds for the power cots. He said they don’t need an ambulance order in place at this time for those funds, so he said to get the merger done as soon as possible and then let the new entity decide what they want to purchase after all funds are transferred. Seems to be the cleanest way to do the transfer. Backer went to the subject of Bonnie Edwards and replat of Village Property. Backer instructed Kendall to call Edwards to get the replat done. Kendall will call Edwards about this tomorrow. Then Meyer went to the subject of the pumper truck payoff. The Board would like the payoff on the claims for the November 9th meeting. Meyer motioned to get a payoff for the pumper truck for November 9, seconded by Haworth. Voting yes: Dempcy, Haworth, Meyer, Backer, and Fleecs. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

The ARPA funding has not been spent at this time. This will stay on the agenda.

There is nothing to report, at this time from WCNDD Cody Fenwick and the remaining properties.

Gene Tacey reported that the Veteran’s Memorial received a $5000 grant from Lincoln County. It is a matching grant gift. Gene asked if Kendall had heard anything from the sprinkler company. He has not so he will check with Copeland. Gene also had some issues with the balance of the Memorial fund. Jorgensen will check in with Banks to make sure this is all in order.

The Eagle Scout Project for Arellano is on hold for now. He has not reached out to Kendall.

Backer has reached out to Bob Meyer about the budget. He said he can make the changes that were made internally work. He is still looking at a date for our budget tutorial. Discussion was held.

Wage Ordinance #663 was discussed. This Ordinance covers what employees are paid throughout the Village.The first reading of Ordinance #663 was done by Jorgensen **Ordinance #663 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUTHERLAND, NEBRASKA, amending Ordinance #656 by establishing annualized salaries and wages for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023 of the Village Officers and Employees; repealing all prior conflicting ordinances and ordering the publication of this Ordinance in pamphlet form.** Discussion was held. The board decided that if they were getting paid for a special Board of Trustee meeting it would be stated in the minutes. Kendall had told his new maintenance employees their change of position would be their wage increase. The library sets the wages for their employees, so their rates are set by that board. The Superintendent, recycling, compost site attendants would get an immediate 6% raise. The other positions will get a 3% COLA increase. Up to an additional 3% (merit increase) would be discretionary at the end of employee’s probationary period. Meyer motioned that the Superintendent, recycling attendant and compost site attendants get an immediate 6% wage increase and the other employees.

Haworth motioned to suspend the 3 readings of the ordinance. Second by Meyer. Voting yes: Haworth, Meyer, Dempcy, Fleecs, and Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Haworth motioned to adopt Ordinance #663 and start with the current pay period. Fleecs seconded. Voting yes: Haworth, Fleecs, Dempcy, Meyer, and Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. Fleecs mentioned “In the future, the wage ordinance needs to be part of the budget processing and done earlier.”

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Haworth motioned to approve Renner’s fowl permit at 1021 Locust St. seconded by Meyer. Discussion was held. Voting yes: Haworth, Meyer, Dempcy, Fleecs, Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried. The fowl permit for 620 Linden St was put on hold until the property owner sends in a letter and signs the permit. Backer directed Roundtree to remove 4-H from the title of the permit. This needs to coincide with Ordinance #604.

Meyer discussed the insurance coverage that we carry for the library and the contents. We will check with our agent and make sure everything is covered.

Kendall had found a generator on an online auction that he had been looking for to operate the wells or sewer in an emergency. He determined he didn’t have purchasing authority. Fleecs motioned to extend Kendall’s purchasing authority to purchase a generator up to $15,000, second by Dempcy. Voting yes Fleecs, Dempcy, Meyer, Backer, and Haworth. Voting no none. Motion carried.

Jorgensen would like to go into executive session for addressing the hiring for the part-time office employee.

Motioned to have Frank Fleecs, Derek Dempcy, Scott Meyer, Kimberly Backer, and Samuel Haworth as authorized signers on the Economic Development account that will be built at Adams Bank & Trust by Haworth, second by Fleecs. Voting yes: Haworth, Fleecs, Backer, Meyer, and Dempcy. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Motioned to have Frank Fleecs, Derek Dempcy, Scott Meyer, Kimberly Backer, and Samuel Haworth as authorized signers on the Infrastructure account that will be built at Adams Bank & Trust by Haworth, second by Fleecs. Voting yes: Haworth, Fleecs, Dempcy, Meyer, and Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Kendall informed the board about rural water doing a survey on our water system. This will help us get future grants and money for water projects.

The transfer of accounts will be discussed further and in more depth as the merger gets closer to finalizing.

WCNDD had 2 properties that they had previously presented as a nuisance that they were rescinding. Meyer motion to adopt Resolution No 2022-10-01 2022 SUT 025 – 110 S Vine Street, second by Haworth. Voting yes: Meyer, Haworth, Fleecs, Dempcy, and Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Haworth motioned to adopt Resolution No 2022-10-02 2022 SUT 029 – 125 S Vine Street, second by Meyer. Voting yes: Haworth, Meyer, Dempcy, Fleecs, and Backer. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

**OTHER:**

The complaints were discussed by the board.

The claims were motioned to be approved as presented for $96,360.07 by Dempcy. Meyer seconded. Voting yes: Dempcy, Meyer, Backer, Haworth, and Fleecs. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

The payroll report, comp time, income statement, balance of accounts and the profit and loss statements were all reviewed.

**Reports:**

Superintendent Kendall reported that the roll-off is now fixed and back in service. We have been having some issues with some cats in the community. The citizens have been contacted and told that they will need to file a complaint form. We also need to let the owner know of the policy. Meyer thanked Kendall’s crew for the work on the parks. They look very nice still this late in the season.

Clerk/Treasurer Jorgensen reported about what it will cost to update the library’s security. Meyer had talked to the library board about what the Board had discussed for adding to the library’s security. This was something they would be on board with. It will be on the next agenda. We received a press release from emergency services as to what they will be using for the hazard sirens.

**Trustees Reports:**

Haworth had nothing to report.

Meyer said the library board meeting went well. He shared with the board a yearly report to keep in the office.

Dempcy had nothing.

Fleecs: met with Kendall and Werblow to discuss the storm drainage. Elm St., Walnut, and Pine St. have been done in the past. Werblow said that had been presented before but had been dropped so it will be included on the 1-6-year road plan.

Backer: Attended several meetings last week. The gas station on the west of town can use some paint. The Christmas decorations for the highway are ready to be treated and painted and supports built so they can be placed along the highway. The planning commission still has a permit that needs to be approved but it hasn’t been marked. The Chamber of Commerce meeting went well. They will have a development meeting at the school on November 16th that everyone is encouraged to attend. The Chamber has a $4000 donation that needs to be spent in city limits. They have assigned a committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Meyer motioned to go into executive session for reasons of personnel, second by Dempcy. Voting yes: Meyer, Dempcy, Fleecs, Backer, and Haworth. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Kendall was excused from executive session. Went into executive session at 8:05 P.M. for the discussion of personnel.

Came out of Executive session at 8:24 P.M. The last item on the agenda was the hiring of the part-time office assistant. Motioned by Dempcy, second by Meyer to hire Cindy Crosby as the part-time office assistant at $16.31 per hour. This job was listed on Facebook, NeWorks, and in the newspaper. Voting yes: Dempcy, Meyer, Backer, Haworth and Fleecs. Voting no: none. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

These minutes are set to be approved at the next regular meeting on November 9, 2022.

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Kimberly Backer Chairperson

Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

[Seal] Danette Jorgensen, Village Clerk/Treasurer

Village of Sutherland

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