The Village of Sutherland Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on July 13, 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: Scott Meyer, Dani Jorgensen, Sam Haworth, Kimberly Backer, and Frank Fleecs via Zoom. Also, present were: Village Clerk/Treasurer Melissa Wilson, Office Secretary Kensie Walters, Village Superintendent Casey Kendall, and Village Attorney Rory Roundtree. Guests present were: Rolly Kramer, Ken & Jackie Main, Roger Lathrop, Gene & Linda Tacey, Trenda Seifer, Teresa Rotert and Bobby Rego. 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.

Board of Trustees and guests rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Reading and approval of minutes for the June 23, 2022 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Discussion was held. Motion Meyer, second Haworth to approve the minutes as corrected. Voting: Yes: Jorgensen, Haworth, Backer, and Meyer. Motion carried.

Sheriff’s Report was discussed by Rolly Kramer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Agenda adjusted to Roger Lathrop for the new fire department member. Discussion held on new member Bobby Rego. Motion Haworth to accept Bobby Rego as a new fire department member, second Meyer. Voting: Yes: Haworth, Backer, Meyer, and Jorgensen. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Fire Hall/Fire Department Merger was discussed by Meyer. The contract was presented to the County Board of Commissoners and was preliminary approved and has a ten day period before the final stamp. Discussion held.

Fence on North Walnut was discussed by Kendall. There is nothing new to report. There are cows in there now and the owner will move the fence when the cows are moved out. Kendall did not think they would be in there all summer.

ARPA Funding was discussed by Backer and Wilson. Have not received the second payment yet.

Storm/Sewer Drainage was discussed by Kendall. He talked to Werblow and there has been no definite answer but is still ongoing.

Bonnie Edwards – Survey of Village Property was discussed by Meyer. He is wondering if we can move forward and get the survey done and have it completed and ready to add to the merger. Discussion held.

Fire and Rescue Resolution 2022-05-02 was discussed by Wilson. It has been given to R. Paulman to sign and we are just waiting to receive the papers back.

Equipment fund was discussed during the Budget Workshop. Transfer of the ATV funds for this year into the equipment fund was briefly discussed. Meyer talked about the budget on a new pickup. Discussion was held about getting figures together and an itemized list to discuss at the next budget meeting.

Budget workshops were discussed by Backer. There have been two meetings and they are going smoothly. Notes have been compiled for the third meeting and it will probably be a longer meeting and will need at least one more meeting after that with Bob Meyer.

Clerk hiring process was discussed by Haworth. There were three candidates and he and Meyer conducted interviews. The candidate for the new clerk is Dani Jorgensen. Backer wanted to clarify that the clerk position was advertised in The Courier Times. Motion Haworth to hire Dani Jorgensen as the Village Clerk, second Meyer. Voting: Yes: Backer, Meyer, Haworth, abstained Jorgensen. Motion carried. Haworth stated it wasn’t easy to figure out logistically how to conduct the interview legally. Meyer and Haworth met with Jorgensen individually and then got together to discuss their interviews to avoid breaking the Open Meetings Act. Meyer and Haworth discussed Jorgensen’s hire date and wages. Haworth and Meyer agreed for the starting wage to be $20 per hour for the probation period of six months. Jorgensen would like to start Monday, July 18th and health insurance would start August 1st.

Agenda adjusted to the Water Tank Bids Opening at 6:30. Three bids were received. Bids were from Pittsburg Tank and Tower Group, Maguire Iron Inc, and Viking Industrial Painting. Bids will be reviewed by Kendall and Werblow before one is accepted. Water Tank bids will be added to next meeting’s agenda and Werblow will be invited to attend.

Agenda adjusted back to the hiring process. Motion Haworth to pay Jorgensen $20 per hour to start with a six-month probation period, second Meyer. Voting: Yes: Meyer, Haworth, and Backer. Abstained Jorgensen. Motion carried. Discussion held concerning schedules and bank accounts.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Wages and benefits for the new clerk was discussed with the hiring process. Discussion held concerning pay scale.

West Central was discussed. Backer discussed the abatement of 1251 Locust St. The items included in the abatement are the shed in the back yard and only the portions of the fence that are laying on the ground or leaning against the shed. Motion Haworth to abate 1251 Locust St garage/shed for $1850, second Backer. Voting: Yes: Jorgensen, Haworth, Meyer, and Backer. Motion carried.

Wilson went back to wages and benefits. Last meeting executive session and in the minutes was initiated to discuss Walters’ wages and benefits. Backer also stated that she thought that was why Haworth had wages and benefits on the agenda. Discussion held. Motion Haworth to raise Walters’ wages to $15.84 per hour backed dated to July 5th, second Meyer. Voting: Yes: Haworth, Backer, Meyer, abstained Jorgensen. Motion carried.

Sales Tax Ordinance 660 was discussed by Backer. She asked Wilson to do the first reading of Ordinance 660: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUTHERLAND, NEBRASKA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 658 RELATED TO THE ADOPTION AND IMPOSITION OF A SALES AND USE TAX OF ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) UPON THE SAME TRANSACTIONS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF SUTHERLAND, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEBRASKA, ON WHICH THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IS AUTHORIZIED TO IMPOSE A TAX; TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS, OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS ON THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE MADE A PART OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUTHERLAND; AND TO PROVIDE THE DATE THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT. Discussion held by Backer. Ordinance had to be sent in to the state 120 days prior to take of effect date and it didn’t meet that position. The Tax Ordinance will take effect January 1, 2023. Motion Backer, second Meyer to waive the three readings. Voting: Yes: Backer, Meyer, Jorgensen, and Haworth. Motion carried. Motion Meyer, second Haworth to approve Sales Tax Ordinance 660 and authorize chairperson to sign. Voting: Yes: Meyer, Jorgensen, Haworth, and Backer. Motion carried.

LARM 2022-23 Renewal Proposal. Discussion held. Wilson stated it isn’t due until August 15, 2022 but she received an email and just wanted things to move forward so we don’t lapse.

LARM Resolution 2022-07-01 was discussed. Roundtree stated that our last one lapsed July 1st and they stepped in and said this new one will run from July 1st to October 1 and will put everything on the same cycle.

Resolution 2022-07-02 Amending Fees was discussed by Roundtree. Motion Haworth, second Meyer, to approve Resolution 2022-07-02. Voting: Yes: Meyer, Jorgensen, Haworth, and Backer. Motion carried.

**OTHER:**

Claims for July 13, 2022 were presented in the amount of $101,366.31. Discussion was held. Motion Haworth, second Meyer to approve the claims as presented. Voting: Yes: Jorgensen, Haworth, Backer and Meyer. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

Superintendent Kendall: Had a gentleman came out to the Sewer Lagoon and Well Fields to get bids on two generators. Talked to Shelco this week and showed them Walnut Street and he is going to get a couple proposals to get an idea of what it would cost to redo it with concrete or what it would cost if we milled the outside edges with asphalt. Fourth of July went off pretty good with really no issues other than being hot.

Clerk/Treasurer Wilson: Nothing

Secretary Walters: Nothing

**Trustees Reports:**

Haworth: Went to the Tree Board Meeting on the July 7. He and Linda Tacey drove over by the park and looked at a couple trees. He wanted to extend his thanks to Linda for everything she does for the town.

Meyer: Nothing

Jorgensen: Attended the Growth Committee meeting on Monday and they are looking at having more center island decorations for Christmas and flowers made. The Lee Brother’s have the patterns and decor just waiting for a bid. Talked a little more about the Economic Development Committee. City wide garage sale will be July 30th. The Growth Committee has applied for a grant for the Memorial Fund. Jorgensen presented her resignation letter effective immediately so the Board can start looking to fill her vacancy on the Board and she can accept her new position as the Village Clerk.

Backer:

Board Member Resignation. Motion Haworth, second Meyer to accept Dani Jorgensen’s resignation from the Village Board. Voting: Yes: Haworth, Backer, and Meyer. Jorgensen not allowed to vote. Motion carried.

**Executive Session:**

Motion Backer, second Meyer to enter into Executive Session for reason of discussion of personnel at 7:47 p.m. Voting: Yes: Haworth, Backer, Meyer. Motion carried. Executive Session was entered into for the reason of discussion of personnel at 7:47 p.m. No action will be taken.

The Board of Trustees came out of Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

These minutes are set to be approved at the next regular meeting on July 27, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kimberly Backer, Chairperson

Board of Trustees, Village of Sutherland

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Wilson, Village Clerk/Treasurer

Village of Sutherland

[Seal] Kensie Walters, Village Secretary

Village of Sutherland

