



F A R N A M

Village of Farnam
310 Main St
PO Box 7
Farnam, NE 69029
(308) 569-2355
www.farnamne.com

Village of Farnam Board Proceedings

Regular April 11, 2023

Notice of said meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Trustees and were also posted in three public places within the Village of Farnam. All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

This is an open meeting of Farnam Village Board. The Village of Farnam abides by the Open Meetings Act in the Conducting of Business. The Village Board may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by state law.

Chairman Mike Russman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Trustees answering roll call were Tracy Adkisson, Darla Lungrin, and Mike Russman. Gary Hartley arrived at 7:06p.m.

Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Lungrin, to approve the agenda for the Meeting. Roll vote showed – Yes: Lungrin, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick, Hartley; three approved, motion carried.

The floor was opened for public comment on agenda items. No one requested to address the Board.

Deputy Jacobsen was on hand to answer questions about the Dawson County Sheriff's Report. He had no other information to provide. The report has been reduced to a listing of calls per Sheriff Mark Montgomery. Motion moved by Lungrin, second by Adkisson, to approve the March Sheriff's Report. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Lungrin, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Village Attorney, Brennon Malcom provided the legal report.

He reported that the annexation is ready to be filed with Frontier County and the State of Nebraska.

He reported that he has been in contact with the property owner at 222 Lincoln St to ensure the second building on the property is properly permitted and meets all Ordinances. Property Owner, Ray Westphal was on hand to answer questions as well. Possible items of contention could include a permanent foundation, connection to municipal sewer and water and connection to electricity.

He also advised that accounts for properties located at 321 Frontier and 321 Buffalo Streets were ready for assessing.

Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Hartley, to issue Resolution 2023-12 assessing the property at 321 Frontier St. in the amount of \$1,645.03 for unpaid nuisance abatement bills that are more than 60 days past due. Roll vote showed – Yes: Lungrin, Adkisson, Hartley, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.



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Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Lungrin, to issue Resolution 2023-13 assessing the property at 321 Buffalo St. in the amount of \$1,220.32 for unpaid nuisance abatement bills that are more than 60 days past due. Roll vote showed – Yes: Adkisson, Hartley, Lungrin, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Village Attorney, Brennon Malcom, also reported that the trailer house at 109 Railroad was still on the property. It was reported that someone was looking at the property and the owner has previously indicated that she was trying to find someone to remove it. This will be followed up at the May meeting.

Resident Tom Beytien discussed the use of the International Property Maintenance Code when evaluating properties.

Motion moved by Lungrin, second by Adkisson, to approve the legal report. Roll vote showed – Yes: Adkisson, Lungrin, Hartley, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Village Utility Superintendent, Rod Klein, was on hand to report on the status of municipal utilities. He indicates that the well samples and other water samples all passed contamination tests. He reports that the wells and the sewer lagoons and pumps are functioning well. He states that he ordered four loads of gravel to spread over non-paved streets. He requests 10 additional loads to continue working on the north-south streets.

Motion moved by Hartley, second by Russman, to approve 10 loads of road gravel to be used to cover north-south non-paved streets. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Adkisson, Lungrin, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Village Utility Superintendent also reviewed potential offers to sell the current main ambulance (99) and use those funds as well as designated ARPA funds received from the State of Nebraska to purchase a new main ambulance. He also reported the opportunity to purchase a local ambulance to be used as a back-up and standby vehicle. He will work with Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, to determine a suggested course of action based on current offers, certifiability and feasibility.

Trustee Russman recused himself at 8:45 p.m. for the following discussion to avoid a conflict of interest with parts of this project. NPPD is willing to set a pole to install the siren that was removed from the 315 Main St building at no cost. The pole needs to be identified so a mount can be fabricated to hold the siren. Electricity, including the transformer, will need to be evaluated to ensure safety during use. Dimensions of the pole at 1, 2, and 3 feet from the top will be provided to Russman Welding and Fabrication to build the mount. Trustee Adkisson will get the information about the pole and pass it to the Welding and Fabrication shop. Trustee Russman rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of discussion on this agenda item, 8:48 p.m.

The radar speed signs that were purchased last summer will be installed by the end of the month. Discussion was held regarding reducing the speed limit on the west side of town due to low visibility on a hill and the potential for stopped or slowed semis turning onto Carson St to go to the elevator.

Motion moved by Lungrin, second by Adkisson, to accept the Village Utility Report. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Lungrin, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.



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Discussion was held regarding findings on the ownership and responsibility of the bridge on the south segment of Main St. Village Attorney, Brennon Malcom, interprets the law as indicating ownership belonging to Dawson County. Inquiries with the legal representatives of the League of Nebraska Municipalities support this interpretation. Previous attempts at cost-sharing responsibilities with the Dawson County Commissioners was not well received, and with no new information, he indicates that it will be futile to attempt another round of talks. The Village will watch annual inspections for major damage and, if necessary, blockade the bridge from use when it becomes unsafe.

Discussions about the cost to customers for replacing and repairing meters will be addressed at the Planning Meeting.

Correspondence from other LARM members about their renewal intentions was shared with the Board.

Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, reported that the State Auditor of Public Accounts has returned our audit waiver request as approved.

A bid from Nebraska Generator for a generator to place at the north pump house was received in the amount of \$72,925.00. Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, and Village Utility Superintendent, Rod Klein, will continue looking into this and report back at the Planning Meeting.

Carroll Holl wrote a letter to the Board concerning a tree that he began working on last autumn. With the written permission of the Board, he will continue removing the dead tree in the park. Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, will send a letter to Mr. Holl regarding the cost of tree removal as well as options for stump removal.

Correspondence from Jan Widick indicates that she will be willing to continue serving on the Village of Farnam Board of Health.

Bids received for the eight identified street projects were reviewed. Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, will attempt to reach out to other contractors for more bids on the projects.

Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, reported that currently \$8,542.43 has been spent on the property at 504 Main St. She will look into collecting bids for renovating the house and potential sale options.

Discussion was had about the need for codifying and developing a published Ordinance book. By approving the revised book as a whole, the Ordinances will be considered codified and can be kept in the necessary physical and digital forms in the Clerk's Office.

Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, requests that account 767327 (VoF LIHWAP) be closed. It was opened to prevent issues with the LIHWAP funds sent by the State of Nebraska. After working with the program over the last two years, she indicates that the separate checking account is unnecessary and creates a potential risk of mistakes in reconciliation and reporting.

Motion moved by Hartley, second by Lungrin, to close account 767327 (VoF LIHWAP). Roll vote showed – Yes: Adkisson, Lungrin, Hartley, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.



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She also presented a preliminary interlocal agreement for communities to aid each other with maintenance tasks and equipment. She will invite Trustees from neighboring communities to the Planning Meeting to begin discussing this possibility with other municipalities.

Motion moved by Hartley, second by Lungrin, to accept the Village Clerk Report. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Lungrin, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Widick, to approve the bills with the addition of Dawson County Court (garnishment) in the amount of \$216.71. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Adkisson, Lungrin, Widick; Absent: Russman; four approved, motion carried. Bills are as follows: Dawson County Treasurer (Law Enforcement) \$608.34, Rod Klein (Insurance) \$1375.00, Rod Klein (Cell Phone) \$35.00, Schaben Sanitation (Solid Waste Collection) \$2,215.44, One Call Concepts (Digger's Hotline) \$4.76, Great Plains Tire (Fuel) \$347.88, Malcom, Nelson & Windrum (Legal) \$450.00, Camas Publishing (Newspaper) \$62.42, American Ag Lab (Water Test) \$56.00, ATC Communications (Phone/Internet) \$136.88, Black Hills Energy (Natural Gas) \$527.78, Dearborn National (Firemen's Insurance) \$96.32, DPPD (Electricity) \$1,788.83, First State Bank (Credit Card) \$1,464.76, Payroll \$3325.18, First State Bank (Streets Loan) \$934.25, NE Public Health Environment Lab (Water Testing) \$32.00, Darcy Gurule (mileage) \$46.61, Schaben Sanitation (Roll Off) \$434.09, Fox Insurance (Trustee Bonds) \$100.00, Oak Creek Engineering (Bridge Inspection) \$625.00, Country Partners Coop (TIF) \$912.57, John Deere Financial (Tractor Maintenance) \$168.50, Paulsen, Inc. (Road Gravel) \$790.14, 3E Electrical Distributor (Light Pole Connections) \$723.10, US Dept of Treasury (Federal Withholding) \$2,147.58, NE Dept of Revenue (State Withholding) \$196.32, NE Dept of Revenue (Sales/Use Tax) \$379.83, Dawson County Court (Garnishment) \$24.64.

It was found that the interest rate on CD 5156 that was opened in March is not correct as compared to the rate that was quoted and requested. Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, will discuss this with the bank.

Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Hartley, to request a \$10,000 at the rate of 5% APY for 5 months to match the current offer from First State Bank in Gothenburg. Roll vote showed – Yes: Adkisson, Hartley, Lungrin, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

Motion moved by Lungrin, second by Adkisson, to approve the meeting minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting. Roll vote showed – Yes: Lungrin, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick; Abstain: Hartley; three approved, motion carried.

Motion moved by Hartley, second by Lungrin, to approve the meeting minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting. Roll vote showed – Adkisson, Hartley, Lungrin; Absent: Widick; Abstain: Russman; three approved, motion carried.

The meeting minutes from the March 28, 2023 meeting were not approved as not enough attending members were available to vote.

The next Planning Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



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Motion moved by Adkisson, second by Hartley, to recess the meeting at 10:14 p.m. until Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Farnam Public Library and Offices Building. Roll vote showed – Yes: Lungrin, Hartley, Adkisson, Russman; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

At 7:06 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, Chairman Mike Russman resumed the meeting at the Village Library and Offices Building. Trustees answering roll call were: Mike Russman, Tracy Adkisson, Darla Lungrin and Gary Hartley.

Village Clerk, Darcy Gurule, advised the Board that she had spoken to 1st State Bank regarding the CD interest rate question and was told that the difference in the offered APY and the interest rate recorded on the Certificate of Deposit is due to the shortened term of the deposit.

Motion moved by Russman, second by Hartley, to approve the claim for Chad Walker (Deposit Refund) in the amount of \$41.93. Roll vote showed – Yes: Lungrin, Hartley, Russman; No: Adkisson; Absent: Widick; three approved, motion carried.

It is the recommendation of multiple Farnam EMTs to keep our current primary unit (99A) and focus on a backup unit using the \$75,000 ARPA grant funds.

Motion moved by Russman to proceed with the sale of unit 99A and use those funds as well as the ARPA grant funds to purchase a 2024 ambulance. Motion died for lack of second.

Motion moved by Russman, second by Hartley, to recess the meeting at 7:40p.m. until Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the shop of Russman Welding and Fabrication. Roll vote showed – Yes: Hartley, Lungrin, Russman, Adkisson; Absent: Widick; four approved, motion carried.

At 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, Chairman Mike Russman resumed the meeting at the shop of Russman Welding and Fabrication. Trustees answering roll call were: Mike Russman, Tracy Adkisson, and Darla Lungrin.

The current primary ambulance, Unit 99A, was presented for inspection by the representative from Palisade Fire and Rescue. A bill of sale was drafted and presented to Palisade for approval. The representative from Palisade will contact the Village with their response in the next week.

Chairman of the Board, Mike Russman, seeing no further business adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.