

The Village of Nehawka Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at the Nehawka Community Building. Chairman June Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noted the Open Meetings Act displayed for public viewing, roll call of the board. In attendance: Bob Sorenson, June Bennett, Tim Dineen, Jason Jackson, and Ian Begemann. Other attendees: Attorneys, Tom Prickett; Matt Anson, Ryan Adams, Jim Nichols, Kim Stone, Nick Rayer, Teara Adams, Gene Monroe, Darlene Thorne, John Winters, Chad Krueger, John Henderson, Jill Jackson, Jamie Hohenfield, Sue Svanda, Shane Adams, Adam Hamilton, Jeff Ray, and Duane Murdoch.

Consent Agenda: The August 9, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes were reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed, and Claims were presented and reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes, treasurer's report, and claims by Begemann, seconded by Jackson. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Maintenance: Jim Nichols reported nothing new with water. The water meters at 524 Elm and 608 Washington are old meters, unable to read and need to be replaced. We are going to have to get the water sample bottles from a new vendor. Everything going well at Sewer plant, have had several tests this month. The brakes on the truck are acting up and need to be replaced. Thanked everyone for helping with the mowing in town.

Zoning and Planning Committee – Gene reported that they held a meeting on September 22, 2023, and approved one building permit for Chad Krueger for a variance and front porch addition. The Committee also rewrote the fence ordinance and presented that to the board via email.

Rescue: Kason reported going well, making calls. The squad is running well. They have signed a purchase agreement for a second squad. Kason also announced that he is now the new President of the Rescue.

Public Comment, Concerns, and Input: Darlene Thorne raised concern about the bridge on Elm St and the shape of the bridge and road.

Discuss/Approve Increase of Restricted Funds by 1%. There was a motion made by Begemann to increase the restricted funds by 1%, seconded by Dineen. Motion carried.

Request/Approve Audit Waiver for State Audit. There was a motion made by Sorenson to waive the state audit, seconded by Begemann. Motion carried.

JEO – speak on Slums & Blight study – Jeff Ray did a presentation on Slums and Blight, left copies of the presentation, which can be found and reviewed in the village office. A study would be required and cost approximately 5 to 10 thousand. Tax increment financing was explained. We could apply for grants, but a redevelopment board would be needed and there is also a hearing process needed after the study is completed.

Chad Krueger building permit and variance was approved by the zoning committee. A motion to approve the permit and variance was made by Begemann, seconded by Dineen. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve James Burton final payment for road repairs per contract. Ian spoke that the roads were not milled, and work not completed per contract. No other discussion. A motion was made by Sorenson to release the final payment to Burton, seconded by Jackson. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve 1- & 6-Year Road and Street Plan - JEO prepared. The board reviewed the report and marked several road repairs be removed and updated the report with new repairs. The changes will be made to the report and sent to JEO to update.

Discuss/Approve Budget Resolution 2023-3. Bennett read the resolution and then asked for public discussion or questions regarding the budget the village is adopting. No discussions. Motion was made by Begemann to approve the resolution, seconded by Sorenson. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Ordinance 2023-3 to Adopt Budget. Bennett read the ordinance. A motion was made to waive the three readings by Begemann, seconded by Dineen. Motion carried. Then a motion was made to approve the ordinance adopting the budget by Dineen, seconded by Sorenson. Motion carried.

History encampment update by Bennett. They are expecting 6 to 10 tents, this is a trial. The dates are September 23rd and 24th.

Discussion on lawn mower, and to either approve/disapprove buying a new/used one. The current mower is a 2004/2005 and is estimated to be between 2 to 3 thousand and John Deere is not sure they can obtain the parts. John Deere has a new mower for around thirteen thousand, Ty's has a hustler mower between fifteen and seventeen thousand. There was discussion on size of deck, zero turn, to get an entry level or commercial. It was decided more information is needed, In the meantime, the village will rent a mower, if the cost is less than \$600/week. A motion to rent a mower was made by Begemann, seconded by Dineen, Sorenson voted no, motion carried. Table to next month.

Discuss/Approve Fence Ordinance from Zoning Committee. The board is going to move forward with the fence ordinance and adopt next month. The attorney will write up the ordinance (2023-4) and it can be read and approved next month.

Discussion of property at 504 North St. The village is going to clean up from the sidewalk to the road on Monday, September 18th at 6pm.

Discussion on ditch south side of Washington by Coop station to the creek. The culvert pipe is blocked and needs to be blown out; it is sitting too high to drain properly. We will either have Tri State come out or Dineen said he would like to look at it first to see if it is something the village can do to save money.

Discussion approve/disapprove Interlocal Agreement. The attorney reported that the letter of intent was sent to both Union and Lake Waconda. Union has responded and are on board, have not heard anything from Lake Waconda.

Correct on Dog Permit, need to remove the 3 miles from the permit application.

Discussion on cat rules. Bennett read that cats are allowed to free roam and may not be caught or removed.

Discussion on tax interest and penalties was presented to the board for the open quarters. The payoff for the interest and penalties is good through September 25, 2023. A motion was made to pay the interest and penalties to the IRS via ACH by Sorenson, seconded by Dineen. Motion carried.

Executive Session – Personnel Matters. A motion was made by Jackson to go into close session, seconded by Dineen. Attorney wanted it noted reason – needless injury and evaluate job performance. Begemann voted no, Motion carried. Executive session started at 9pm.

Meeting back in Session – Regular meeting was called to order at 9:27pm, roll call completed of board members, Bennett, Jackson, Sorenson, Dineen and Begemann.

Approve/Disapprove release of some planning committee members. Board came out of executive session and a motion was made by Bennett, seconded by Begemann to remove Nick Rayer from the Zoning and Planning Committee. Discussion was asked why by Nick Rayer, Bennett responded with sue town, overbearing and wanting to vacate alleys. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Approve/Disapprove 3 new members and an alternate to planning committee. Bennett made a motion to approve Kim Stone as a regular member of the committee, moving from the alternate, seconded by Sorenson, Begemann voted no, motion carried. Bennett submitted Sydney Brown's name as a regular member, after discussion, a motion was made to make Sydney Brown as an alternate to the planning committee by Sorenson, seconded by Jackson, motion carried. Bennett submitted Kathy Knabe name as a regular member, motion to approve Kathy Knabe as a regular member to the planning committee was made by Sorenson, seconded by Dineen, motion carried. Dineen and Begemann submitted Matt Anson's name for regular member to planning committee, motion was made to approve Matt Anson as a regular member to the planning committee by Sorenson, seconded by Dineen, motion carried.

Discovery documents regarding Gregg Case #CI 23-170. Attorney reported that they have already responded to the request and have the photos needed as well.

Volunteers needed for library – Dineen is wanting to open the library again and needs volunteers. We will insert a flyer into the water bills.

Dineen would like to turn the Tball field into Community Garden. Other village residents would like to see a splash pad. Further discussion later. Research will need to be done for different options for the space.

Discuss grant received for water plant repairs – Dineen stated that the grant is for security issues, we need to get pricing for the fence around plant and security cameras if money left from the grant.

Deposits need to be considered into the Keno and Library accounts to avoid going under minimum, board wants to hold off for now.

Any other business pertinent to Village Operation - Discussion to purchase a Jeter head to fit on the fire hose to jet lines was approved to purchase for \$1000 or less. Motion to purchase the Jeter head was made by Begemann, seconded by Sorenson, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Begemann, seconded by Dineen to adjourn at 10:07 pm, motion carried.

Attest: Christine Lowther, Village Clerk/Treasurer

