

Village of Cortland  
Minutes June 12, 2024 Meeting

The meeting of the Village of Cortland, Nebraska was held on the 12th day of June 2024 at 100 S. Sherman Ave at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Kohout, German, Goforth, Douglass, Birkett, Attorney Mahin, Clerk Moormeier, Utility Superintendent Briggs and 27 members of the public.

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to receive and place on file all notices and material having any bearing on the meeting. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Motion by Birkett and seconded by Douglass to approve the Treasurer's report. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

The following bills were presented for payment: American Legal Publishing \$500.00; Black Hills Energy \$240.06; Blue Valley Door Co., Inc. \$4,470.00; BOK Financial \$20,850.00; CHI Health Company Care \$39.00; Christopher Briggs \$90.50; Diode Technologies \$120.00; Donald R. Prentice \$90.00; EZ Stop \$347.03; Hier's Plumbing \$346.78; Menards \$133.20; Mueller Systems \$1,271.23; Nebraska Department of Revenue \$147.19; Nebraska Landscape Solutions \$327.76; Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab \$64.00; NIFCO Mechanical Systems, LLC \$350.00; Norris Public Power \$2,229.31; Olsson \$445.00; One Call Concepts, Inc. Salaries \$8,791.18; Sapp Brothers \$888.38; Solheim Law Firm \$750.00; US Bank \$1,130.45; Verla Busboom \$40.00; Voice News \$164.69; Waste Connections \$6,060.24.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Birkett to pay all the bills presented. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Building permits – Fence at 320 W 5<sup>th</sup> St. owned by Branch & Marilynn DeVries. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the building permit for a fence at 320 W 5<sup>th</sup> St. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Chairperson Kohout read the Village Code regarding Weapons Offenses §133.60 Discharge of Firearms and §133.61 Slingshot, Air Guns, BB Guns prior to Carra Thompson addressing her Written Complaint regarding an incident on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 that concerned the firing of an air soft gun by Roy Wayne Schroeder that resulted in the death of Ms. Thompson's dog. Ms. Thompson had previously had a protection order against Mr. Schroeder and has now filed again for a protection order. Since 2020 threats and harassment have escalated to weapons and she does not allow her children to play in their backyard. From her home surveillance footage there were other innocent people at risk, a woman walking her infant in a stroller, a neighbor gardening, families driving in their golf cars at the time the incident happened. Ms. Thompson fears that another innocent person or animal may be harmed. Board member German verified that Ms. Thompson's dog passed away right in front of him during the incident. Attorney Mahin commented that there are several Village Ordinances that were most likely

violated as she has been provided the reports of the incident from the Gage County Sheriff. She is unable to discuss it because of an ongoing investigation but with the consent of the board she would proceed with formal charges. Mahin has also discussed the potential charges with the County Attorney. A motion by German and seconded by Birkett for Attorney Mahin to move forward with filing of Village formal charges, prosecution, and fines. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried. Mahin will keep Thompson apprised of actions taken. Thompson has contacted the Senator regarding pellet guns not being defined as deadly weapons in the State Statues.

Written complaint by Goff regarding ditch that has not been mowed at 300 S. Sherman Street. Mahin was asked to write a letter regarding the grass threshold on properties. Douglass indicated that the ditch is steep as a result of the correction of drainage last year.

The Barta property had reached the grass threshold and Utility Superintendent Briggs has mowed twice now. Clerk will send the before and after pictures to Attorney Mahin so that she can send a letter to Barta.

Greg Meyer at 301 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street reported that hydro seed done late last fall after the ditch work did not come up. Meyer was not in attendance, postponed until July meeting.

Notice for request for proposals for engineer postponed until July

Clerk had a request from Rod Rose regarding replacement of the flooring in the Legion Room at the Community center. The cost for vinyl plank flooring, waterproof, 22 mil wear layer, 20 year commercial warranty for material only \$1581.45. Rod indicated that the Legion would install the flooring. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the payment for the materials for new flooring in the Legion room at the Community Center. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

German asked the clerk to contact Randy Hellbusch to have a water and sewer rate study done. The clerk indicated she would do it as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous items: Holidays coming up are Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> (Juneteenth) office will be closed and Utility Superintendent will be off, also Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> Village Office will be closed in observance of July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. The utility Superintendent will be off on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The clerk reported that museum made over \$1500 at the garage sales and approximately \$400 in donations. Continue to apply for grants and working on research room and kitchen. Goforth reported that T-Mobile again rejected our grant for ADA doors and concrete in front of the Community Center. At this point it needs to be done so that we can move voting back to the Community Center. Goforth will get new bids for all three front doors with options for locks and the concrete so the Village can review. Goforth had not heard anything back regarding the grant for the scoreboard and lighting for the small field. Douglass reported there was no progress yet on the pickle ball court. Birkett asked if the Cortland Improvement Association had submitted grant for the Community Center Sign. Douglass and Moormeier reported they had not but would put it on the next CIA agenda. Trap and Release – two cats have been fixed according to Chapman. Carlee from the Beatrice Human Society indicated they do spay and neutering on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday so if trapping should let them know and if they are

going to be very busy they may ask us to wait and trap on a different day. Fire Captain Briggs gave an annual report from April 2023 to April 2024 regarding EMS calls. Kohout read the report. Cortland responded to 125 EMS calls, which were 14 more compared to the previous year. Cortland's current squad consists of 16 members. Of these, 9 members serve as Firefighters, 11 are EMT's (four of them being nurses) and two EMR's. Seven of the responders can act as an EMT/EMR as well as a Firefighter. In addition, they currently have 8 Explorers. Average response time within Cortland's District was 6.98 minutes.

Maintenance Report by Utility Superintendent Briggs – A plumber was called to fix the faucet in the women's bathroom at the Ball park, Briggs also installed fire extinguisher in concession stand. Would like to have a sign out to not spit sunflower seeds on the ground. A new water meter was installed at 450 W 6<sup>th</sup>. The toilet was replaced at the shop and the roof is leaking so there is some ceiling damage. Would like to get some cabinets from the State Surplus. Diode fixed the cameras at Ball Park, also fixed the IP address that would change on Briggs phone. The screen on tower overflow was too small, plugged up and back pressure blew a pipe. Replaced with correct size of screen. The John Deere needs some new tires. Motion by Goforth and seconded by Birkett to purchase tires at TREDZ. Briggs asked for t-shirts that indicated he was the Utility Superintendent. Kohout will have her daughter make them. He would like to have business cards made. Would like to have a sign for the dumpster at the shop that it is just for maintenance shop and the ball park, it is not for personal use. He has security cameras that he can review and some of the garbage can be identified. Briggs will speak with those people. Brush pile has been burned, it was much smaller and it has been determined that the locking of the dump has helped this situation. Briggs was asked to drive around and identify the areas that need the asphalt overlay. Pavers proposal and any additional streets will be addressed at the July meeting. Douglass mentioned the area between Ray's Auto and Midway Welding should be looked at and possibly added to the list. German wants to speak with Atlas directly regarding the quote on the Update to the SCADA system. Douglass wanted to make sure that when we do the upgrade that we make sure it is Included on our insurance and whether the coverage includes surges. Briggs will reach out to Brian regarding the lights at the community center and the concession stand being repaired. A water class will be in Sutton on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> that Briggs will attend. The class is free. The Grade IV water operator class will be December 3-5 in Grand Island.

Ball Park – Kohout reported that there are a lot of games going on and everything is going well. She plans to pick up rest of supplies for the Cortlandfest at the Ball Park on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The concession stand will be open during the corn hole tournament as well as the game. The netting and poles are available just waiting on someone to put them up, reminded to call 811 before digging. A couple trees were damaged during a storm so they will need to be trimmed.

CIA Report – Douglass reported there were 40 garage sales. Firth and Hallam were having their garage sales the same days. Douglass asked for an additional \$1,000 for Fireworks as the cost has gone up 40%. Kohout asked Attorney whether the ball park could donate \$250

since they would make money at the concession stand? Mahin indicated she saw no reason why they could not. Douglass made a motion and Birkett seconded it that the Village donate \$750 and the Ball park donate \$250 to the Cortland Improvement Association for the additional cost of Fireworks. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried. The Beatrice Cornhole League would be accepting signups on their website or facebook page. You can also register at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, \$30 a team.

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Goforth to approve the 25% highway allocation match of \$1758.00. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Douglass to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

I, Donelle Moormeier, Village Clerk do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the Village Board of Cortland, NE to the best of my knowledge.