

Village of Cortland
Minutes May 8, 2024 Meeting

The meeting of the Village of Cortland, Nebraska was held on the 8th day of May 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 Argo and 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 Goforth and seconded by Douglass to amend April meeting minutes Ordinance #2024-01, 2024-02, 2024-03, and 2024-04 TO Ordinance #2024-02, 2024-03, 2024-04, 2024-05 respectively. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

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

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett 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: Arbor-Tech \$200.00, Beatrice Humane Society \$500.00, Black Hills Energy \$495.55, BOK Financial \$111,786.25, Cortland Improvement Assn \$6,000.00, Donald R. Prentice \$90.00, Donelle Moormeier \$22.78, Gana Trucking \$536.85, Hydro Optimization & Automation Solutions \$93.19, McGee Elite Gutters 'N More \$4,700.00, Michelle German \$162.00, Midwest Lab \$564.50, Nebraska Department of Revenue \$185.06, Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab \$395.00, Norris Public Power \$2,363.73, One Call Concepts, Inc. \$7.16, Salaries \$4,724.04, Sargent Drilling \$1,275.00, Solheim Law Firm \$ 796.00, Summit Fire Protection \$942.00, U.S. Bank \$2,081.92, Verla Busboom \$40.00, Voice News \$269.00, Waste Connections \$4,499.27 Motion by Birkett and seconded by Goforth to pay all the bills presented. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Written Complaints: Robert Hegler at 244 E 1st Street has a drainage tube that runs underneath the highway on Apple Road and drains the east side of town on the easement that Village has at the back of his property. Over the years it has become progressively worse with erosion. Robert presented pictures to the board. The easement was scooped out several years ago to re-establish the flow of the water. The ditch was hydro seeded however the first time it rained it washed it out, Robert has reseeded two or three times on his own. Solution maybe a cement waterway, although that would be expensive. They have a bio-gradable seed mat that might be a solution. Robert invited the Board to come look at, no more than two at a time, so as not to violate the Open Meetings Act. Hard to mow as it is very rough, several sump pumps drain into the ditch, clean out is on his property. Possibly stone could be used to slow water

down. Birkett suggested we have Garret from Midwest Dirtworks look at it when he is in the Village in July. The board will continue to pursue a solution.

Sandy Forsgren at 120 E 4th Street appeared regarding the certified nuisance letter that was received by Mike Gates at 100 E 4th Street. She reported that all the vehicles parked were up to date on license and that there was no trash on the property and to clarify that two of the trucks were parked on her easement (not the alley). Sandy said that it was Mike's hobby to fix vehicles so that was why there were so many vehicles on the property. She questioned why others had not gotten letters for nuisance property. Board members responded that others had gotten letters previously, as had Mike, and had responded by trying to clean up their properties. Attorney Jena replied that the abatement issue would be resolved if all vehicles were licensed, and the other items listed in the letter had been corrected as Sandy indicated. Sandy also questioned why a report about a dog bite in March of 2023 was in the paper. It was in the minutes of the Village of Cortland in March 2023, and the clerk is required to publish those minutes by state statute.

Jena encouraged the board to take detailed pictures, as we have done in the past, of nuisance properties for the record.

Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025 grant request for \$25,000 and letter requesting reimbursement for fiscal year 2023/2024 grant have both been delivered to the Beatrice office by the clerk. Reimbursement for 2023/2024 will be \$15,000.00.

Only one application for the Utility Superintendent application was received. Interview of application Chris Briggs was conducted by German and Goforth. Motion by Goforth and seconded by German to go into closed session regarding candidate Briggs for Utility Superintendent at 7:39. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried. Motion by Birkett and seconded by Goforth to come out of closed session at 7:52 p.m. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried. No decisions were voted on during the closed session. Chris Briggs attended the meeting and Chairman Lisa Kohout offered him the position of Utility Superintendent with beginning salary of \$25.50 with incremental increases of \$1.00 when Wastewater license is completed and \$.50 when Pesticide license is completed. A \$500 a month stipend will be given for Briggs to purchase his own insurance. The possibility of some sort of retirement benefit will be discussed later. Vacation and Sick leave will begin after 6 months of employment. Chris indicated he already had a vacation scheduled July 2nd through the 6th and board was agreeable for him to take that as unpaid. A tentative start date of May 24th so that Briggs can give 2 weeks' notice to his current employer. If possible, he may start earlier.

Brian will be around to help train Briggs and will be paid an hourly rate for helping. The board also offered to continue with Argo's water license training to be backup for the Village of Cortland. Brian has done an excellent job and the Board appreciates all his efforts.

Briggs reported that the tornado sirens were tested and only worked once it will be approximately a week before those will be fixed. Briggs also reported that the garage door openers have been installed on the fire department doors. It may be possible to retrofit those to

the maintenance shed, otherwise there would be an option to sell them as they are industrial door openers.

The board is interested in putting out Engineer proposals. The Clerk had included examples from another Village's. The Board will review the request for proposal and the qualifications and postpone any decisions until the June meeting.

The Clerk had a call regarding a peddler's license for this summer. Ordinance 2014-02 provides for an application fee of \$20 to obtain a license. The clerk gave examples to the Board of an application form. Douglass suggested that the Clerk also notify the residents that anyone coming to the door selling items should have a valid peddler's license to show them. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the application for peddler license produced by the clerk. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Jamie Cerny sent a message to Goforth regarding Jake Hegler dogs got out; Dustin McGee had also reported that one of his dogs were bitten by the Hegler dogs. The Sheriff was called. Hegler will be sent a letter referring to Code 90.30 Running at Large. Hegler has licensed his dogs.

The Village office will be closed June 3, 5, 2024 while Village Clerk is on vacation.

Miscellaneous Committee reports:

The clerk reported that the Museum is continuing to be open on the first Saturday of every month. They have received grant funds from Monolith for ceiling tiles and molding for Library Room/Kitchen/Hallway. They will also take part in the Garage Sales June 7th & 8th and will be located at the Community Center.

Goforth reported that there is a Trails and Parks grant opening up that could potentially be used for the Ball Park lighting and score board for the little field and possibly concession stand. A bid is needed for the lighting and score board.

Douglass reported Brad Hogan is willing to oversee the painting of the pickle ball court on the tennis court and the tape striping on the gym floor, material has been purchased just need the okay to do the project. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Goforth to approve the painting of the tennis court and taping of gym floor for pickle ball use. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

The Fire Department sign has been approved as suggested at last meeting. Different colors were requested for the Community Center Sign. Kohout and Birkett will go to Sign Pro and look at different colors and fonts. Possibly able to get a grant for both.

The clerk reported the TNR program monies are available at the Beatrice Humane Society, there were \$600 donated besides the \$500 the Village donated. Concerns by the Board that we make sure we are using those monies for the Village of Cortland cats only. Goforth will reach out to Cindy Chapman.

Discussion regarding the Pavers bid and if the streets they bid on were the most needed for overlay. Also consider crack sealing in the fall. It is .90 cents a foot. Suggested that the Board and Mike look at the streets again to which are in the most need of asphalt overlay or patching. Decision postponed until June meeting.

Brian still has not heard back from Atlas regarding the Control system upgrade bid. Suggested that Commonwealth look at the wiring to make sure that everything communicates together.

There has been no response from JK Electric regarding the lights that have been blown out from the wind at the Community Center and the Concession stand. Brian will try to contact him again and if he gets no response will let Attorney Jena know.

Clerk was to let Niemeier's know that Jurgens had been contacted regarding cement. Gates are helping at the burn pile although it is difficult when the wind is blowing to get both gates together to relock. Suggested that a 6' rope be put on one of them. New keys/lock will need to be ordered in June in order to get ready for new lock on August 1st. Residents can return their old key and get a new key for \$15.00, if old key is not return new one will be \$20.00. Zip Code 68331 outside the Village when returning key will get new key for \$40.00.

Question to Attorney Jena about paying German for helping with town leak since he is a board member. She will research the question.

The tournament at the ballpark last weekend brought in \$1300 at the concession stand. They are utilizing Schro Bros pizza for food and went through 19. Games are scheduled every night during the next week. A men's game is scheduled on June 15th, the evening of Cortland in the Park. They are waiting on the poles to put up the netting on the little field.

Town clean up went well except that metal was put in with the landfill items. A separate trailer should be available at the fall cleanup on the first Saturday in October for metal. Birkett indicated he would contact the gentleman that does the metal trailer.

Cortland Improvement Association holding garage sales June 7-8. June 15th is Cortland in the Park with afternoon and evening events such as a corn hole tournament, men's ball game, ballon clown, and Fireworks.

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the 25% highway allocation match of \$1688.00. Roll Call Yes: German, Goforth, Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Correspondence from HTM Sales as representative for water/wastewater equipment. German indicated this is the company the Village utilizes.

Motion by Goforth and seconded by Birkett to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 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.