

Village of Cortland
October 9, 2024, Minutes

The meeting of the Village of Cortland, Nebraska was held on the 9th day of October 2024 at 100 S. Sherman Ave at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Birkett and seconded by Douglass to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024 regular meeting and September 30, 2024 Special meeting. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

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

The following bills were presented for approval. Black Hills Energy \$184.07, Cortland Fire Department \$3,000, Lincoln Winwater Works \$450, Menards \$136.35, Midway Welding \$254.76, Midwest Dirt Works Inc. \$46,443.77, Municipal Supply Co. \$51.50, NE Dept of Revenue \$253.12, NE Dept of Environment & Energy \$195, NE Public Health Environmental Lab \$16, Noakes \$1,293, Norris Public Power \$2,586.63, One Call Concepts, Inc., \$18.58, Pavers Inc. \$19,701.60, Salaries \$5,274.50, Schuerman Welding \$446.69, Solheim Law Firm \$2340, Summit Fire Protection \$257, US Bank \$1,003.56, Verla Busboom \$40, Voice News \$447.91, Waste Connections \$4,659.24. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to pay the bills and that the Clerk request Sargent Well Drilling to further explain their billing from August. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Special Designated Liquor License for St. James Catholic Church for October 26th Soup Supper. Jenny Oelke explained that a non-profit can get 6 special designated licenses a year, they plan on having drink tickets bought at the door and to ID anyone under 30, wine and beer will be served. The board asked for proof of insurance. Motion by Birkett and seconded by Douglass to approve the SDLL for St. James for October 26th with the guarantee of receiving the proof of insurance. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass No: None Motion carried.

Larry Chapman spoke on the need of a crosswalk at Hwy 77 and 4th Street. It is dangerous for especially for pedestrians and bikes. You need to wait a long time, and it is difficult to judge a safe distance of the vehicles coming through on Hwy 77. Larry had called the Department of Roads Engineering Division and asked for the supervisor to call him, and he has not heard back from them. Options might be a crosswalk painted and a sign on either side to the most elaborate a push button so that traffic is required to stop. A traffic study was done but results have not been given. On September 28th there was a bad accident at that corner. Chad Ziemann who works with the NDOT indicated one of the problems is that the Village does not have a developed sidewalk on the east side of the highway. Larry indicated it was Cameron Hastings who he had spoken to at NDOT. Discussion about the cost and whether the State and the Village would share, whether highway allocation funds could be used, and are there grants available. Another issue is at Apple Road and Hwy 77 when the Fire Department tries to get across the highway for calls. There should be some sort of Emergency lighting. Chad said he would continue to contact the engineers at NDOT and report back to the Village.

The current ordinance in the Village is that chickens are not allowed. Certified letters went out to particular property owners that were have chickens that they would need to remove them.

Clerk was asked to move the discussion regarding Miller & Associates and JEO Consulting Group for Engineers be put on November meeting when all the Board would be available.

Board member German arrive at 7:48 p.m.

Bobbi Pettit from Five Rule was present to discuss the past year of working with Planning and Zoning and options that she would like to present for the next year for a contract. The first proposal is for \$12,000 for a year and would be the current arrangement and scope for working with the Planning & Zoning updating the regulations. The second proposal is for \$23,600 for a year and would add project development to the scope of work. Which would include grant writing and community development activities. Motion by Birkett and seconded by Douglass to approve Option #1 to have Bobbi continue what she is now doing with Planning and Zoning for \$12,000 a year. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried.

Chairperson Kohout read Ordinance 2024-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF CORTLAND, GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA TO AMEND CORTLAND VILLAGE CODE SECTION 90.01; TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to suspend the three readings. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried. Motion by Birkett and seconded by Douglass to approve Ordinance 2024-06. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried. Ordinance is available in pamphlet form at the Village Office.

Discussion regarding Midwest Dirtworks estimate for \$8610.00 to re-grade drainage ditch behind Douglass residence and install 72' of soil erosion waddles and install Class A riprap. This was brought to the board by Bob Hegler a couple of months ago. It was felt that the Village had addressed the problem once and that the Village should not pay for it again. It was suggested that the homeowners possibly get together and divide the cost to fix. The clerk was asked to send a letter to Bob Hegler regarding the decision. Clerk was asked to put the weeds in the culverts on the east side of the Hwy along Apple Road on the November agenda. Chris asked if it was his responsibility to keep the grate cleaned in that ditch, board responded yes.

Chairperson, Kohout read Ordinance 2024-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF CORTLAND, GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TO AMEND THE CORTLAND VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 51: WATER SECTION 51.09 MINIMUM RATES, TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to suspend the three readings of Ordinance 2024-07. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried. Motion by Birkett and seconded by German to approve Ordinance 2024-07. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried. Ordinance is available in pamphlet form at the Village Office.

The clerk brought a sewer rate study to the board. The last rate change was done in 2014, and the Village is quite low compared to other Villages. Clerk was asked to put in on the November agenda. Randy from Rural Water does sewer rate studies also.

Barta nuisance property option to purchase has been sent to their attorneys and Jena has not heard back from them to date. Clerk brought to attention the property at 300 W 4th Street that has sunflowers and rubble in the back yard. A letter will be sent to both the residence and the owner of the property. Clerk was also asked to research the Special Use permit on the property as the business that is posted on the property is not a registered business.

Miscellaneous: Museum – Will receive their check from Big Give Gage tomorrow evening. It will be \$5500 plus, these monies will be used for siding along with other grant monies. The kitchen will be open for the October 12th Once In A Blue Moon Festival.

There were two campers sitting on the streets, clerk has sent letters, one camper has already been moved.

Douglass reported that Spookfest on October 26th, Christmas Tree Lighting on December 1st, Santa Claus on December 7th, and Christmas Lighting Contest on December 18th.

The clerk asked if the ballpark parking lot could be used on October 12th for the Fall Festival. It was allowed. Suggested that Chris put out Local celebration signs for Saturday. He will put up Thursday.

Clerk reminded the board that Monday, October 14th was a Holiday and office would be closed.

Utility Superintendent, Chris, reported that the tower was back in service and thanked the Nebraska Rural Water Association for the help that they gave him. The two water samples that were taken when tower went back into service were perfect. Chris has received is Grade IV water license and plans to take the pesticide class in March. He replaced a meter and had to order 5 new antennas. Discussion about cracks in the Street, especially at 3rd and Vermont, it is to late for sealing. Suggested that we contact Mike Tibble for advice. Repairs were done on shut off by Christie Grusing home. Fire Hydrant by Matt's Automotive will be done next week. Asbestos in the Legion Room will be scheduled. Lead and copper form needs to be hung at the Post Office and put on website.

Motion by Douglass and seconded by Birkett to approve the 25% Highway allocation match of \$2,229.00. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German No: None Motion carried.

Motion by German and seconded by Birkett to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Roll Call Yes: Kohout, Birkett, Douglass, German 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.