

Village of Sprague

June Minutes of Meeting

The monthly Sprague Town Board meeting was held on June 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM. A roll call was held with the following Board members being present: Luke Foote, Earl Nannen, Terry Maul and Chris Gadeken. A quorum was present and Luke Foot, Chairman, called the board meeting to order in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The following visitors were also present – Caleb Burnham, Cory Maul, Alex McKiernan and Bruce Mahler.

The May meeting minutes were read by Staci Hayden. L. Foote made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of approving the minutes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

The May Treasurer's Report was presented by Mike Hayden. E. Nannen made a motion to approve the report and to pay all bills; it was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of approving the Treasurer's Report. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

The maintenance bid from Interstate Power for all generators was reviewed by the Board and C. Maul. Since G. Brandt was not present, this will be tabled until the July meeting.

The Board reviewed the status of new water meter installation. Since installation is taking longer than anticipated, the Board decided to mandate a day and time for installation at the designated residence. E. Nannen made a motion to set a date + time for installation; it was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of the installation letter. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed. M. Hayden will coordinate with the plumber for acceptable dates. In order to cover all residences/businesses in the Village, E. Nannen made a motion to purchase 10 additional meters + installation; it was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of purchasing the meters + installation. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed the contract from Olsson regarding the drainage project. The Board wants the lawyer to weigh in on the contract prior to signing it. Bruce Mahler spoke to the Board regarding his concern over how the drainage project will impact his land. Olsson is aware of the concern and reworking how water will move through the Buell addition. Any addition cost for this work will be handled with non-grant funds. No easement agreements have been received to date.

Caleb Burnham was present to get approval for adding a fence to his property at 1500 W 3rd. The Board advised C. Burnham regarding fence height requirements and reviewed all of the set-back requirements his future plans for his front porch. L. Foote made a motion to approve the C. Burnham's fence plan; it was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of approving the plan. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

Alex McKiernan was present to get approval for a SDL for Cheney Conservation for an event at the Sprague-Martell Community Center. L. Foote made a motion to approve the SDL; it was seconded by C. Gadeken. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of approving the SDL. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

A SDL for the August Summer Jam at the Sprague-Martell Community Center was presented for approval. T.Maul made a motion to approve the SDL; it was seconded by E. Nannen. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of approving the SDL. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed.

C. Maul updated the Board regarding water levels on the wells in the Village. Based on drought conditions in the area, the Board wanted to understand how the Village's wells were doing. All wells are at normal levels.

The Board reviewed propane contracts with Farmers and Frontier. The Board approved moving forward with Farmers.

With construction ongoing at 1535 W Sprague Rd, the Board discussed annexing the property into the Village limits. L. Foote made a motion to begin the annexation process. It was seconded by T. Maul. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of starting annexation. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed. The Board would also like a lease agreement drawn up for the land that is being farmed by R. Oelling.

Mike Hayden updated the Board on the purchase and installation of new accounting software for the Village. Skyla Heath has expressed an interest in taking over the water billing, so M. Hayden will be working with her to determine if she is qualified for the position.

The Board continued to discuss how to remediate the Locke Property. The first step will be to prepare for and move anything impacting the drainage project. After this is completed, a deadline will be given for the remainder of the property.

S. Hayden updated the Board on the salary information requested at the May meeting. All villages of similar size within the State were reviewed on the salaries given to the Clerk position. E. Nannen made a motion to increase the Clerk salary to \$500/mo.; it was seconded by C. Gadeken. A vote was held. All attending Board members voted in favor of the salary increase. There were no votes in opposition. The motion passed. The salary increase will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

Seeing no more items for discussion, E. Nannen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by T. Maul. All attending board members voted in favor of adjourning. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Bills presented for payment: Staci Hayden – clerk \$207.79, Cory Maul – maintenance \$277.05, Amanda Heath - meters \$115.44, Lynn Doolittle – salary \$369.40, Mike Hayden – salary \$369.40, Cory Maul – light fixture, transfer switch \$85.00; Olsson – Drainage project \$8563.20; Norris Public Power - electric est. \$500.00, One Call Concepts – digger hotline \$6.40, Quadient – postage \$106.92, Directnic LLC – website registration \$545.58, gWorks – accounting software \$1300.00, NE Dept of Environment & Energy – loan payment \$8216.01; NE Public Health Environmental lab – water test \$31.00, The Voice News \$196.35; Michael Hayden – office supply + mileage \$39.30; Windstream - internet \$12.01; Dave Brandt mowing - \$180.00; Cummins Sales & Service - \$629.87, U.S. Treasury – payroll taxes \$221.84.