

Village of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees Minutes; October 15, 2018

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Village of Bennet, Nebraska (the "Village") held a special session on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 8:00 p.m., at the regular meeting place of the Board, the Village Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the Village, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public; and (c) that the agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available to public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk.

In absence of Chairman Don Murray, Village Clerk Patricia Rule called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., conducted roll call, announced the location of the Open Meetings Act, and recorded the minutes. Trustees in attendance were Brad Ruzicka, Justin Dorn, Jerris Nider and Ryan Cheney. A quorum being present and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the session remained open for attendance by the public.

Motion by Nider, second by Cheney to nominate Dorn as Chair – pro tem. Roll call vote; Nider, Cheney, Dorn, Ruzicka voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Cheney, second by Nider to approve minutes for the September 2018 business meeting. Roll call vote; Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

A list of claims for payment was considered. Motion by Ruzicka, second by Cheney to approve payment of all claims presented. Roll call vote; Cheney, Ruzicka, Dorn, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

Rule provided the monthly Treasury report and details of Keno operations and CD renewals. Dorn provided details on CD maturity rates. Motion by Cheney, second by Ruzicka to approve the Treasurers Report and CD renewal. Roll call vote; Nider, Cheney, Dorn, Ruzicka voted YES. Motion carried.

Reports were received from Village Engineer Ryan Brandt, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department, Utility Superintendent, Planning Commission, and Health Board.

Dave Pool and Nate Dillon reported for the Ball Club. They suggested changing locks at ball field facilities was appropriate due to keys not returned, and changes in committee members. Ball Club members reported conditions of the crow's nest, and offered to contribute toward a new score board. Members also reported a possible merge with Palmyra teams and joining a new league.

Larry Kramer reported on the 5th year's statistics for the Farmer's Market. Vendors and customer numbers continued to increase. Assistant managers are needed.

Ordinance 2018-9.1 was introduced by title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING § 53.46 OF THE CODE OF BENNET RELATING TO SEWER RATES BY INCREASING THE BASE FEE AND USAGE FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL, NON-RESIDENTIAL, AND NON-RESIDENT CONTRIBUTORS BY 5% EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS; AND REPEALING § 53.46 OF THE CODE OF BENNET AS HITHERTO EXISTING.

Dorn opened a public hearing at 8:17 pm to receive comment on the proposed rate increase. Questions concerned the need for the increase and how it would effort rates. Rule explained the effects on residential customers and commercial accounts. The public comment period closed at 8:24 pm.

Motion by Dorn, second by Ruzicka to advance Ordinance 2018-9.1 to third reading. Roll call vote; Dorn, Nider, Cheney, Ruzicka voted YES. Motion carried.

James Waltke addressed the Board regarding driveway access to Lot 103. Waltke provided an email communication from the State Department of Roads. He suggested access could be gained from the north, past property owned by Midwest Farmers Cooperative. Allowable uses of the property were questioned. Village attorney W.F. Austin explained that an access agreement would provide for specific uses and could limit future changes in use. The current 'driveway' may not be adequate for particular uses. Waltke expressed the need for a turning radius for semi-trucks. Trustees directed the clerk to arrange a survey of Village properties in the area.

An engineer's report on progress of a water main replacement was received from Olsson. Motion by Nider, second by Cheney to accept the engineers report and approve payment request #1 to General Excavating in the amount of \$69,092.10 for the Bennet Water Main Replacement project. Roll call vote; Cheney, Ruzicka, Dorn, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

Engineering services for design of a sludge disposal system and building at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, were discussed. Trustees commented that design may be put out for bid to receive the most cost effective, competitive price, and because of concerns for timely completion of projects. Trustees would review a bio-solids study to determine procedure to move forward with a request for proposals.

Emily Bausch of Olsson Engineering addressed the Board to clarify procedures to move forward with the Whispering Pines Park Trail and Bridge project. Olsson developed the preliminary design. Working with the current timeline is important. Bausch highlighted two points; 1. Competitive Procurement was needed, after the award scheduled for late February or March for federal funding. 2. The Village could ask for an extension from the Natural Resource District funding deadline and use the money toward final design work. Trustees agreed to move forward with budgeted funds. Bausch would work with the Village Attorney to develop a letter agreement detailing project plateaus for the November meeting.

Nebraska City Utilities officials Carl Abbot, Dan Patton and Jeff Koors addressed the Board regarding electric services in Bennet. Abbott explained that *re-closures* produce the brief blinks in power but aid in preventing longer outages by resetting automatically. The company is working to clear trees that may affect overhead lines and encourage buried cable in new areas. Nebraska City Utilities are also working to secure contracts with additional suppliers to acquire another power feed. Company officials would continue to communicate with the community.

Larry Kramer represented a request by the Bennet Community Foundation Fund to add additional benches at Bennet Park. Funds are available, but restricted to items related to the Splash Pad at Bennet Park. Good quality steel benches were planned. Trustees approved of the bench placement plan.

Discussion and actions to release easements, and approve preliminary and final plats (Evergreen Place) of property located generally south of Cottonwood Street and west of Hackberry Street were tabled pending complete information and engineering reviews.

In closing, cost and lack of donations for the annual Halloween hotdog feed was discussed.

Motion by Ruzicka, second by Cheney to adjourn at 9:50 pm. Roll call vote; Cheney, Ruzicka, Dorn, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

Patricia Rule, Village Clerk