

**Village of Bennet, Nebraska
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting & Regular Meeting
Minutes March 9, 2020**

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Bennet, Nebraska (the “Village”) held a special meeting on Monday March 9, 2020 at 6:45 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.

Chairman Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act posted near the entrance of the room for access by the public. Village Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Trustees in attendance were Ryan Cheney, Brad Ruzicka, and Jerris Nider. Justin Dorn and Don Murray were absent. A quorum being present and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

The purpose of the special meeting was to take action on a resolution assessing the cost for nuisance abatement at 510 Madison Street. Cheney moved Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-3.1, a resolution assessing the cost of removing dead or diseased trees that were declared a nuisance against the benefitted property (510 Madison Street). Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

The Bennet Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Bennet, Nebraska (the “Village”) held a regular business meeting on Monday March 9, 2020 at 7:00 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.

Chairman Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act posted near the entrance of the room for access by the public. Village Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Trustees in attendance were Ryan Cheney, Brad Ruzicka, and Jerris Nider. Justin Dorn and Don Murray were absent. A quorum being present and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

Nider moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve minutes for the February 10, 2020 regular business meeting and Board of Adjustments meeting. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

A list of claims was considered. Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve the claims for payment. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to amend the agenda to discuss action item 5(f) approving a refund for a damage deposit before 5(a) discussing the status of Whispering Pines Park project due to the absence of the representative from Olsson Associates. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider voted YES. Motion carried. Trustee Don Murray arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Ruzicka moved and Nider seconded a motion to approve the refund of \$500.00 damage deposit for moving the old depot at 785 Jackson Street. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to amend the agenda to have reports prior to finishing the unfinished business. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Nider seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Ryan Brandt with Kirkham Michael reported that the street study was delayed in February due to the snow. He will present the street study along with armor coating options at the April meeting.

Josh Buck reported that the Planning Commission had a public hearing scheduled for Boyd Batterman's Nemaha Ridge First Addition Preliminary Plat on March 25th.

Clerk Michele Lincoln reported that the Farmers' Market had eight returning vendors for this year's Farmers' Market.

The Health Board had met and discussed on going nuisance issues. Another meeting will need to be scheduled to take action on property deemed unsafe.

Emily Bausch with Olsson Associates gave an update on the Whispering Pines Park project. She reported that the trail is 75% done and all of the concrete should be poured by the end of March. A Greener Towns MiniGrant Application was submitted for up to 500 potted native plants through the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The grants will be awarded in April. The Village's portion would be between \$800 - \$900 for a full truckload of plants. Volunteers will be needed when the plants arrive which she is hoping to be in mid-April. She mentioned that we may want to modify the seeding plan to move the tall prairie grass to the outer edge. The next pay certificate will be submitted for the April meeting. Emily has been providing NRD with progress updates on the project. Utilities Superintendent Ken Maahs said there is a park bench he can take to place on the concrete pad in the park.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-2.4, a resolution approving an application by Empire Leasing Group LLC for a special use permit to authorize the construction of a multi-family dwelling (three-plex) in the R-3 residential district at 360 Elm St. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

In February the Bennet Area Community Foundation requested permission to plant a Christmas Tree in the park. Nider stated he will get together with Larry Kramer with the Bennet Area Community Foundation to assess the best location.

Ruzicka moved and Nider seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-3.2, a resolution to declare unpaid utilities as delinquent and to place a lien on the property located at 410 Jefferson, legally described as ROGGENKAMPS ADDITION TO BENNET, BLOCK 15, Lot 12, & W1/2 VAC ALLEY ADJ, Bennet, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Murray seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-3.3, a resolution continuing the operation of the Farmers' Market Advisory Committee and expanding committee membership. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

The Farmers' Market Advisory Committee requested the Village purchase t-shirts for the committee members as a means of identifying market management from the general public. Trustee Don Murray said he would donate the t-shirts to the Farmers' Market.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to approve the agreement for the temporary use of the portable marquee sign and the agreement with Bennet Community Builders Association for their sign to advertise for the Farmers' Market. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Cheney moved and Nider seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-3.4, a resolution approving the rehire of temporary part time summer help. Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried.

Chad Yost with SpectrAir gave an update on internet services. Service north of the water tower and in the Sweetgrass Prairie Addition is working well. Tim Norris, Chief of the Bennet Rural Fire District, informed him that they could put an antenna on the pole near the fire station to offer service at the park. He would like to get service at the big ballfield and hang equipment, but they would need to coordinate in order to get power.

Notice was received from the Plumbing Inspector John Morris that he was retiring effective April 30th, 2020. His backup inspector Jeff Kreifels is interested in filling the position. A contract for approval will be on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Cheney moved and Ruzicka seconded a motion to amend the agenda due to an emergency nature to discuss contingency plans regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Roll call vote: Cheney, Ruzicka, Nider, Murray voted YES. Motion carried. Murray mentioned that we need to make sure we have sufficient supplies to ensure we can maintain our day to day operations. Attorney Austin mentioned that our meetings could be held by teleconferencing if needed. We will be working on emergency plans and discuss it at next month's meeting.

Cheney moved and Murray seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Roll call vote: Cheney, Murray, Ruzicka, Nider voted YES. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, Village Clerk