A meeting of the Stratton Village Board of Trustees was held on Monday December 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm CT at the Village Clerk’s Office. Notice of the meeting was posted and availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. A poster of the “Open Meetings Act” was clearly visible on the office wall, and Chairwoman J. McDonald directed the attention of those present to the poster. All proceedings hereafter shown occurred while the meeting was in session. Present: Chairwoman P. McDonald, Trustee F. Priddy, Trustee J. McDonald, Trustee J. Richardson, Superintendent K. League, Clerk T. Hedrick, Julie Bernt, Joyce Cushing and Roberta Loescher from the Library Board, Brandon Loughrin from Miller & Associates, Dale Schilke from Engineering international and Terry Galloway from Galloway Financial Advisors.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

OPEN FORUM:

Superintendent League informed the board that the lock on the front door to the VM Hall would need to be repaired. Over the years the numerous different keys have worn on the lock causing it to stick and not work properly with all keys. The discussion of limiting the number of keys was addressed and a locksmith will be contacted for repair.

Commercial dumpster conditions were discussed. It was discussed that if a home is using the dumpster for commercial use from home ran business they will need to be charged for commercial rates.

Motion by J. Richardson and second by J. McDonald to approve the previous minutes, treasurers’ report and claims with the exception of the claim for BSB which will be discussed during the agenda item for Scarber Street. Roll call: Ayes- F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New plans with changes to the budget for the Library and Village Office building were reviewed. Motion by J. McDonald and second by J. Richardson to approve Amendment #1 to make changes and modifications to the professional service consultant agreement between Engineering International, Inc and Village of Stratton. Roll call: Ayes- F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson. Nays- none. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to excuse T. Jones from the December meeting. Roll call: Ayes- J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy. Nays- none. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

Terry Galloway with Galloway Financial Advisors reviewed different options and benefits for an employee sponsored retirement program. Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. McDonald to offer a retirement program with a 3% match to employees of $5000 or more compensation per year. Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

Dale Schilke with Miller & Associates and Superintendent League updated the board on the progress and completion of the Scarber Street project. Discussion of liquidated damages and the completion of the final cut out for a driveway was reviewed.

Motion by P. McDonald and second by F. Priddy to deny request for payment and signing of certificate of substantial completion until work has been completed. Roll call: Ayes J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- None. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Richardson and second by F. Priddy to approve building permit for 802 County Avenue. Roll call: Ayes- J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy. Nays- none. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

Rates Resolution was signed by Chairman P. McDonald to reflect the new water rates that will take effect for the January billing per Ordinance 198.

Superintendent League discussed damage to the curb and gutter on Scarber Street and Beaver Avenue. He is still working on getting estimates and then will be submitted to the truck company responsible for the damage. Superintendent League also asked the board if they wanted to pursue reimbursement regarding damage to a powerline from a hauling company’s dump truck. Superintendent League will direct Clerk Hedrick to bill them for the repair cost.

Board Reorganization:

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to select P. McDonald as Chairperson. Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by J. McDonald and second by J. Richardson to select F. Priddy as Vice Chairperson. Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to select McCook National Bank as our Financial Institution. Roll call: Ayes- F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to retain Schroeder & Schroeder, P.C. as our Attorney. Roll call: Ayes- J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to select Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C. as our auditor. Roll call: Ayes- P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to select Chris Miller with Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. as our street superintendent. Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to select Hitchcock County News as our newspaper. Roll call: Ayes- F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson that the Village of Stratton Board of Trustees will meet at the Village Office in Stratton, NE on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm unless it falls on a holiday, which the meeting will then be moved to the Tuesday following the third Monday. Roll call: Ayes- P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to have the following committee organization:

 Streets, Alleys & Landfill: J. McDonald and F. Priddy

 Electricity: F. Priddy and J. Richardson

 Water & Sewer: T. Jones and J. McDonald

 Finance: P. McDonald and T. Jones

 VM Hall: P. McDonald and F. Priddy

 Health & Welfare: P. McDonald, T. Jones, J. McDonald, F. Priddy, J. Richardson

 Park & Recreation: P. McDonald and J. Richardson

Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Richardson and second by F. Priddy to give the following wage adjustments: Superintendent $275, Assistant Superintendent $100, Clerk $200, Deputy Clerk $100, VM Hall Cleaner $50 and Librarian $50. Roll call: Ayes- P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Employee Evaluations and Wages were discussed. Motion by J. Richardson and second by J. McDonald to give the Superintendent a 2% increase in wage; the Assistant Superintendent a $0.50 per hour increase in wage with another $0.50 once he obtains his CDL, Deputy Clerk a $0.40 per hour increase in wages; and the Clerk a $1.00 per hour increase in wage. Roll call: Ayes- P. McDonald, J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to continue offering the current health insurance plan provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska to full time employees. Roll call: Ayes- J. Richardson, F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Priddy and second by J. Richardson to contribute $125.00 to full time employee HSA accounts on a monthly basis. Roll call: Ayes- F. Priddy, J. McDonald, P. McDonald, J. Richardson. Nays- none. Absent- T. Jones. Motion carried.

Streets, Alleys, & Landfill Committee Report: Nothing new to report.

Electricity Committee Report: Nothing new to report.

Water & Sewer Committee Report: Nothing new to report.

Finance Committee Report: Clerk Hedrick informed the board of a Donor Wall idea for the new Library and Village Office building. Clerk Hedrick will begin advertising for “Book” plaques donations.

Health & Welfare Committee Report: Nothing new to report.

Park & Recreation Committee Report: Nothing new to report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Peggy McDonald, Chairperson

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Tara Hedrick, Village Clerk

The next meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Village Office.