

**VILLAGE OF DUNCAN BOARD MEETING**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:00 PM – Village Hall, 906 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Duncan, NE. 68634**

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The monthly board meeting of the Village of Duncan Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson, Nick Wagoner. The Chairperson publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was held in the Village Hall. Board members present were: Nick Wagoner, Steve Langton, Jerusha Ratcliffe and Joe Boruch. Lance Denbo was absent. Also in attendance, was Village Staff: Marianna Evans, Michelle Schindel and Doug Michalak. Wagoner asked if there were any non-agenda items that the public would like to bring to the attention of the Board. None noted. Wagoner then continued with the agenda. *A motion to approve the minutes from the Nov. 13, 2023 meeting was made by Langton, second—Boruch. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**New Business:**

**2022 Water Project Phase 2 Bid Acceptance** The Board reviewed all of the bids and the recommendation from JEO. The board discussed briefly and *a motion to approve Obrist & Co. as the winner for the Phase 2 of the 2022 Water Project was made by Boruch, second—Wagoner. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**EMS Service to Duncan & Rural Fire District (Bob Slusarski-DRFD)** Slusarski introduced himself as the representative for the DRFD. He reported the EMS service that the city of Columbus has provided to Duncan and the DRFD has been noted in a resolution from the city of Columbus from March 15, 1967. He reported that in that resolution, there was no agreement for payment of any type. However, now, Columbus has been demanding the DRFD pay the city of Columbus \$126,000/yr. for the first year and the following years would have living adjustments. He stated that all the proceeds for the service would be kept by the city of Columbus. Slusarski has been trying to negotiate with the city of Columbus for several months. The city of Columbus would deny every offer that the DRFD offered as well as what Columbus Rural Fire District would propose. After several negotiation refusals, the DRFD decided to research getting their own service. After speaking with many professionals and DRFD and Platte County Board, they have decided to create their own EMS service for the DRFD. Slusarski stated that his proposal for the Village of Duncan is that the Village continue to pay for 50% of the DRFD bills annually, including workman's comp. Slusarski stated that the Village has not previously paid half of that cost, however the annual cost for the Village for workman's comp would only be \$618.50. He stated that the DRFD would cover all upfront costs associated with getting the service in action. Including the ambulance and materials to start (approx..\$120k). The Village Clerk would also be the 'go-between' for the billing company and the DRFD. Since they do not have any employees or anyone that would be consistently reachable for questions, they would like the Clerk to perform those duties. He stated that it would only involve passing the insurance/patient information on to the billing company once received by the DRFD. Slusarski stated that the billing company is called Metro Billing Services and they were highly recommended by another ambulance company that he had been conferring with throughout this transition. He was told that the billing info collection only takes up about 3-4 hours per month but they have 4 locations of service. Slusarski is requesting that the Village pay for 50% of total costs for the DRFD. He stated that the DRFD would also credit the Village at the end of the year for 50% of all proceeds they receive for EMS calls. Slusarski reported that his goal is for the Village cost to be \$0. He would like to re-evaluate the financials in 2 years to review what the profit/loss situation is. Slusarski stated that he has got people in training already to become EMT's. He stated that they should be finished with their classes and EMS system should start in March (2024). The EMS service will follow a similar cost schedule as provided by Columbus EMS. With the exception of extensive care that would require a paramedic rather than an EMT. He stated that there are several surrounding towns that are willing to help out in situations when needed. For example, if our ambulance is busy or EMT's unavailable etc. Slusarski stated that they have already bought the ambulance and will now need to stock it accordingly. Again, all of these upfront costs will be the DRFD responsibility and the Village will not have to pay for that. The Board discussed briefly and thanked Slusarski for all of his research and hard work in dealing with this issue. Evans reported that Mr. Slusarski had put a lot of time and effort into this matter in order to make the best decision for the DRFD, including

the Village of Duncan. She stated that Slusarski has really gone above and beyond his call of duty in this situation and that he did his best to be the best advocate for all those that would be affected by this decision. Evans stated that she felt Slusarski deserved recognition and that he had made the best decision for the residents of Duncan and surrounding. She reported that when she asked the League of Municipalities about this issue, they told her that they were working on it in Washington DC. She stated that the League told her they have a team that is trying to create legislation that will deal with this problem. This is happening all over the nation with big towns/cities that have provided EMS service to them since the beginning of the EMS system and suddenly now are being faced with the demand of extreme payments for continuation of service from that town/city. Evans stated that she was also told that the legislation is hoping to include federal subsidies to these bigger towns/cities to keep offering service to the surrounding areas instead of forcing the surrounding areas to pay large amounts of money to keep service. Evans stated that she did find a resolution from the city of Columbus from March of 1967. This resolution was the city of Columbus specifically stating that they would provide Emergency services to the surrounding areas of Columbus. In that resolution, there was no mention of any contract, agreement or any amount of money that was required. No further discussion. *A motion to approve moving forward with creation of an interlocal agreement with the DRFD with the stipulations as mentioned by Slusarski was made by Wagoner, second—Boruch. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed new CVA Sewer Rate** Evans reported that the Board members have a copy of her calculations and the amounts of water used by CVA over the last year. She also included a copy of the original resolution approving the rate used to calculate. She stated the new sewer rate for 2024 for CVA is \$162.73/month. She reported that the resolution was created 5 years ago and asked if the Board would like her to ask NRWA to assist in looking into if the calculation rate should be increased to keep up with inflation. The board agreed. Evans stated she would try to get ahold of Randy with NRWA about this. *A motion to approve the CVA sewer rate of \$162.73/month for 2024 was made by Wagoner, second—Langton. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed Welcome Sign Donation Recognition** Discussion and ideas of how to give the Bill Lehr family recognition for their generous donation of the stone used for the sign bases was had. It was agreed for Michalak to inquire on the possibility of engraving or creating a small plate with thanks to attach to the sign(s). He will bring the quotes etc. to the next meeting. Postponed to next meeting.

**Annual Wage Review** Board members have a list of each employee, their pay rate and what several different increases would raise their wage by from 2-6%. Also listed was the current inflation rate and the current approved federal cost of living adjustment recommendation. Langton stated that he felt all employees were doing a great job. The rest of the Board agreed. The Board reviewed and discussed briefly and a *motion to approve a 4% raise for all employees was made by Langton, second—Ratcliffe. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

#### **Departmental Reports:**

**Utilities** Michalak reported that he is looking into fixing up the alleys and otherwise has no new report.

**Back-up Water/Maintenance Position Posting** Evans reported no one has applied so she will post on Indeed.

**Parks & Rec.** no report

**Planning & Zoning** no report

**Clerk Report** Evans reported that she will add her clerk conference approval to the next agenda as it is coming up in March and she needs to secure her spot at the conference.

**Treasurer Report & Updates—Approval of Bills** Schindel asked the Board to re-initial the previous monthly recap due to having to correct an error on it. She reported on the current bills. The Board reviewed the monthly recap and a *motion to approve the bills was made by Wagoner, second—Boruch. Voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Ratcliffe and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Denbo was absent. The Chairman carried the motion.*

All meetings are open to the public and a current agenda for said meetings will be posted and available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk, Post Office, T-Bone 2 and the Village website on the Thursday prior to the meeting. The next meeting will be on **January 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**. Being no other business, adjournment was made by Wagoner at 8:02p.m.