

**VILLAGE OF DUNCAN BOARD MEETING/1&6 YEAR ROAD PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 To Follow Budget Hearing (7:00pm) – 1&6 Year Road Program**  
**Public Hearing - 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 7:12 PM by Chairperson, Jeff Oppliger. 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, Jeff Oppliger, Josh Dahlberg and Joe Boruch. Also, in attendance were, Village Staff: Don Reves, Marianna Evans and Michelle Schindel. Visitors present were: Ryan Gray (Columbus Chief Firefighter); Gary Schlesinger. *A motion was made to approve the minutes from last month's meeting on August 8, 2022 by Dahlberg, second---Wagoner. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Oppliger, Dahlberg. Voting nay—none. Langton & Boruch abstained from voting due to absence at that meeting. The Chairman carried the motion.* Visitors were given the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes on any non-agenda items. No comments. Oppliger continued with the meeting.

**1&6 Year Road Program Public Hearing**

Oppliger Opened the public hearing for the 1&6 Year Road Program at 7:14pm. Evans reminded the board of the street engineer's plan to only do maintenance for the 1 year and keep the Boulevard on the 6 year plan as before. The board reviewed the engineer's plans and map. No questions or concerns were stated. Evans read R22-262 1&6 Year Road Plan aloud. *A motion to close the 1&6 Year Road Program public hearing at 7:15pm was made by Dahlberg, second—Wagoner. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Chairman carried the motion. A motion to pass R22-262 was made by Dahlberg, second—Boruch. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Chairman carried the motion.*

**Unfinished Business:**

**Duncan Welcome Sign Grant Application** Evans reported that she has been working on the Columbus Area Visitor Improvement Grant and will plan to turn in at the end of next week. It is due by September 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Evans will turn in on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Schlesinger presented to the mic to state that Kate (Visitor Bureau) was unable to make this meeting for questions, so he is here to answer any questions about the grant. Evans reported that she needs at least 3 letter of support. She stated it would be great to get one or more from local businesses. Schlesinger stated that he would send Evans example letters from past grant applicants. Evans stated she would then send to the board members so they could see what they needed to ask others to include in their letters. Oppliger requested that Evans send a copy of the application instructions to the board members so that they could help with finding local support letters. Evans reported that she would appreciate at least one other person attending the presentation at the Advisory Committee meeting. The board agreed that someone else should go. No further discussion. Oppliger continued with the agenda.

**New Business:**

**EMS Concerns** Chief Gray presented to the mic and introduced himself to the board as the new chief firefighter for the City of Columbus. He stated that the city of Columbus 'intends to cease EMS service to Duncan'. He stated that the city of Columbus provides EMS service to Duncan currently and he has been unable to find any sort of agreement between the city of Columbus and the Village of Duncan in regards to EMS service. He handed out copies of statistics from the last few years on calls. He reported that 2% of the city's EMS calls per year are from Duncan. He reported that it costs approximately \$30,000/year. He stated that every time a unit comes to Duncan, it is out of service for the residents of Columbus for at least an hour. He stated that Columbus has a population of 25k and he currently does not have enough staff. He reported that he has 45 overlapping calls with 1 fire engine + 1 EMS unit going to each call. He stated that he needs 2 more employees per shift added to continue servicing Duncan. He stated that it would cost the city of Columbus \$500k/yr to put one more unit in service. It would cost \$83-90k/yr to add another firefighter. He stated that he will need to discuss with Platte County as well. He reported that they have 14% of their calls are from outside the city limits of Columbus. Evans asked if he had spoken with Platte Center or any other town in Platte County. He stated that he had not because Duncan is the only town they service. He stated that the other towns have their own ambulance services. Evans asked if the other towns' service included paramedics. Chief Gray reported that all the other towns are 'transport service' only, without paramedics. He stated they do, at times, have to do 'intercepts' in these other towns (or on their way to Columbus). Evans asked if he had numbers on how many intercepts they have made to these other towns. Chief Gray stated he did not. Evans pointed out that if they are intercepting as much as they are attending calls to Duncan, then it would only be fair to speak to these other towns about paying him as well. If they are out for a call to Duncan or an intercept to another town in Platte County, then they are out of service in Columbus just as much. Chief Gray directed the board to the document he provided that showed how many calls per

year from the 611 (Platte) and 621 (Polk) 911 districts. Schlesinger asked if Gray to tell which calls were from inside Duncan city limits. Chief Gray reported that he would have to go back and look up each call to see an address. Schlesinger pointed out that Chief Gray is asking Duncan to pay when he only has numbers for the entire Platte County. Schlesinger stated that Gray should be going to the county and not just to Duncan. Schlesinger stated there was no reason for Duncan to talk about this until after Platte County has been addressed. Gray stated he was only wanting to let Duncan know that EMS service is going to stop at some point. He stated he didn't know exactly when but that it was not feasible for the city of Columbus' budget. He stated that the people of Columbus, who are paying the taxes for this service, are going without service every time they have to go out to a call in Duncan. Schlesinger brought a recent call to Chief Gray's attention where Columbus sent 4 units out to an accident northwest of Duncan (out of city limits but in Platte County). Schlesinger stated it didn't make sense that they request Duncan firefighters to respond and then send 4 units of their own. Schlesinger wanted to know who makes those decisions. Gray stated that if the chief is on during a call, he would make the decision. However, he stated he was not on during that call so he doesn't know who or why that call was made. Evans pointed out that Schlesinger's point is that Columbus EMS service is wasting resources and then coming out here to Duncan and requesting money from Duncan in order to continue to serve us. Gray stated again that he just started in March and did not know who made that decision or why. Evans asked Gray whose idea it was to fix their budget by stopping service to Duncan. Gray stated that it was his idea. Evans asked if they receive any money from taxes or anything from Platte County. He stated that they do not receive anything from Platte County. He reported they would be attending a Platte County meeting later this month, after a fire district meeting next week. He stated he just wanted to bring this to our attention to start thinking on what sort of agreement we will need to make to continue service. Dahlberg stated that there is legislation already that would allow them to add a tax and they plan to talk to Platte County about it at that meeting on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Evans stated that either way, Duncan should have an interlocal agreement with City of Columbus, for EMS services. Whether there is money involved or not. Chief Gray agreed. Chief Gray stated that he would keep Duncan updated through Dahlberg. No further discussion.

**Proposed 2 New Fireman** Dahlberg handed out the applications of 2 men that applied to be Duncan volunteer firefighters. The board reviewed the applications and a motion to approve Travis Settles and Orion Hunt as Duncan Volunteer Fireman was made by Boruch, second—Wagoner. *Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Dahlberg abstained due to conflict of interest (Fire Chief). Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed R22-264 Authorization for Clerk to Sign Documents with LIGHT (League Insurance Government Health Team)** Evans explained that she had given them all the League of Municipalities magazine and flagged the page this refers to. She stated that the League has been working for a long time on getting an option for insurance for small municipalities who do not have insurance offered to them. They finally completed their task and now BCBS is offering insurance at a discounted rate to those who work for municipalities and do not have coverage otherwise. Evans stated that she needs to Board to approve the resolution to allow her to sign documents that would sign the Village of Duncan up for the opportunity to allow their employees to apply for coverage through this program. Evans read R22-264 aloud and *a motion to pass R22-264 was made by Wagoner, second—Langton. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Chairman carried the motion.*

**Proposed Ordinance 22-208 Hwy 30 Speed Limit Through Town** Evans explained that she had received a request from the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation for the Village to update their ordinance for the speed limit through Duncan. She stated they sent her a copy of the old one that they had on file and it was from 1951. She stated that for some reason, they need us to have an updated ordinance but that we did not need to change the speed limit. The board discussed briefly and Evans read Ordinance 22-208 aloud. *A motion to pass Ordinance 22-208 Hwy 30 Speed Limit Through Duncan was made by Dahlberg, second—Wagoner. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Chairman carried the motion.*

**Shade Structure for Park (Dermatology Grant)** Oppliger stated that he had spoken to a dermatologist about the grant and found out that there was a lot of red tape involved with getting the grant for the shade structure. Oppliger stated that he is working with local vendors for donations and/or for building the structure. He has one company willing to come out and look to see if they would be willing to donate their time to build the structure. After brief discussion by the board, Oppliger continued with the meeting.

**NCG Delegate Request (Harry Prosocki)** Evans reported that Prosocki presented to her office earlier last week and requested to be added to the agenda to renominate himself as the NCG delegate for Duncan. Evans stated that he reported to her there was a meeting coming up and he wanted to be able to vote as our delegate. The board discussed briefly and *a motion to approve Harry Prosocki as the NCG Delegate for Duncan was made by Boruch, second—Wagoner. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. Chairman carried the motion.*

## **Departmental Reports:**

**Utilities** Reves reported that Obrist will be adding the manholes needed in the areas where we will be installing the sewer linings. He reported that the new street in the Lloyd subdivision is ready to be poured. Boruch asked if the second street of that subdivision would be poured as well. Reves stated that the P&Z and Village Board had already approved for Lloyd to complete his subdivision in 2 phases. Once this first phase is complete, the second phase will begin where the second street will be poured. Reves also reported that Bauer Underground had been in Duncan and are now waiting on their boring/burial crew to install the fiberoptic cables for Stealth Broadband. Reves reported that he cleaned up the yard on 6<sup>th</sup> street that the Board had discussed at the last meeting. He reported that he had a difficult time due to how tall the weeds/grass was. He stated there were items he couldn't see and hit with his mower several times. He had Saunders help with the tractor as well. He stated her invoice had already been sent out but that it was approximately \$500. He reported that the same resident has had a vehicle parked in her driveway for several years that is outdated on tags and would appear to be abandoned, according to ordinances. Evans reported that she is delaying sending a letter until she can figure out what towing company to work with. Oppliger stated he would call Mike's Towing tomorrow and discuss if they would tow for the Village. No further report.

**Parks & Rec.** Wagoner asked why there was a slide sitting behind the Frontier Communications building. Dahlberg stated it was the new slide that was supposed to replace the slide that was damaged in the park. He stated he has not had time to install it yet.

**Planning & Zoning** no report

**Clerk Report** no report

**Treasurer Report & Updates—Approval of Bills** Schindel handed out the monthly recap to the board members. She went over the receipts and bills. She stated that she received the Loup rebate. She reported that the first direct deposit for payroll worked great. She reported she still needs to get her home computer set up for remote access to the office. She stated that the check the Village sent for the broker of USPS contract has still not been cashed. Evans reported that she has attempted several times to contact them and has been unsuccessful. She suggested canceling the check and await a new invoice. The board agreed. Schindel stated she would cancel the check. *A motion to approve the bills was made by Dahlberg, second—Wagoner. Vote was as follows: voting aye—Wagoner, Langton, Oppliger, Dahlberg and Boruch. Voting nay—none. 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 **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 PM**. Being no other business, adjournment was made by Oppliger at 8:28p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: Marianna Evans (Clerk)