



VILLAGE OF STAPLEHURST
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VILLAGE OF STAPLEHURST

MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 29, 2025

The Village Board of Trustees met in regular session on April 29th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Staplehurst Village Hall. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting in three designated places.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairperson Frank, Trustees Stava, Benedict, Wilken

Absent at roll call: Trustee Hans (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Chairperson Frank called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted for public review.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Stava, seconded by Wilken, to approve the March 25th, 2025 regular meeting minutes. All in favor: Benedict, Wilken, Stava, Frank, Hans.

Motion by Stava, seconded by Wilken, to approve the April 1st, 2025 special meeting minutes. All in favor: Benedict, Wilken, Frank, Stava, Hans.

Approval of Village Claims

Village claims presented for approval: LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS \$852.25, JAMISON FERN \$420.00, TAYLOR'S DRAIN & SEWER SERVICE INC \$525.00, MMC CONSULTING LLC \$340.00, CROUCHS FARM AND HARDWARE \$31.96, WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEB \$140.11, SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT \$12.95, SEWARD LUMBER \$33.52, OREILLY AUTO PARTS \$209.93, MIDWEST LABORATORIES, INC \$241.35, CROUCHS FARM AND HARDWARE \$57.95, BEAVER HARDWARE \$6.04, ONE CALL CONCEPTS INC \$2.85, JR'S WATER, SEWER & SEPTIC \$1,525.00, FARMERS COOPERATIVE \$169.90, JONES GROUP INSURANCE \$200.00, SVEHLA LAW OFFICES, P.C. \$325.00, FARMERS ALLIANCE \$125.00, EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY COMPANY \$1,376.20, NORTHEAST NEB TELE CO \$63.43, DAWSON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE \$19.54, CENTRAL VALLEY AG \$41.63, BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$254.09, CROUCHS FARM AND HARDWARE \$27.48, MT GODWIN LLC \$425.00, CORNHUSKER PRESS \$81.50, NEBRASKA SNOW EQUIPMENT \$152.50, JAMISON FERN \$1,531.08, BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$112.77, CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY-GAS \$321.63, NEBRASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ENV LAB \$15.00, USA BLUE BOOK \$222.73, STAPLEHURST FIRE DEPARTMENT \$919.80, JAMISON FERN \$420.00, CRAIG STAVA \$360.00, DEBBIE FRANKS \$400.00, CONNIE WILKEN \$650.00, KAYLYNN COLEMAN \$120.00, SHAUN BENEDICT \$280.00, JAROD HANS \$360.00, NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT \$1,643.92, STAPLES \$518.79, WEEBLEY \$35.00, POST OFFICE \$185.63, MENARDS \$407.29, WEEBLEY \$29.95.

Motion by Stava, seconded by Benedict, to approve the Village claims. All in favor: Wilken, Frank, Benedict, Hans, Stava.

Fire Department Report/Claims

The Fire Department reported they have voted to wait on upgrading their current door and frame. They received a bid from an engineer and will be looking at a contractor for another bid option. For now, the door is working adequately.

Motion by Stava, seconded by Benedict, to approve Fire Department claims totaling \$318.75. All in favor: Wilken, Frank, Hans, Stava, Benedict.

Sheriff's Department Report

The March 2025 report from the Sheriff's Department was reviewed by those present, nothing to declare.

150th Celebration

Cindy Arnold presented information regarding the 150th celebration taking place in 2026. Further discussion regarding blocking off streets and planned activities will take place closer to the event.

Building Permit - 155 N 6th

Motion by Benedict, seconded by Stava, to approve the building permit for 155 N 6th Street (Foust). All in favor: Wilken, Frank, Stava, Benedict, Hans.

Jones Insurance Bid

Riley Wiltfong from Jones Insurance Group led the discussion reviewing documentation. The board decided to take a closer look at the proposal and make updates to the equipment list before following up with Jones Insurance.

Maintenance Report

- Sewer plant repaired
- New battery installed for lawnmower
- Water turned on at ballpark
- Jamison Fern submitted his resignation; last day will be May 16th, 2025

Motion by Stava, seconded by Wilken, to accept Jamison Fern's resignation. All in favor: Hans, Benedict, Frank, Stava, and Wilken.

Chair Report

Chairperson Frank recommended a review of current ordinances to update those that are outdated. It was agreed that a special meeting would be held to further discuss and review current ordinances.

Frank discussed the need to develop a plan of action for gradually upgrading equipment.

Ordinance Courtesy Letters: Village attorney Drew Graham from Svehla Law addressed the board regarding the approximately 60 residents who received courtesy letters requesting property cleanup to align with village regulations. He stated that the letters were sent with short notice and he was under the

impression the board supported the overall decision. The board indicated they would have preferred to review the list prior to letters being sent; however, Drew mentioned the risk of singling out certain properties. Residents in attendance shared concerns that their properties were not in violation. Drew emphasized that the goal was to make this a village-wide effort without targeting specific offenders. Trustee Stava noted that some properties in town are in serious need of cleanup. It was agreed there was a lack of communication, and the board will have final say on who receives second letters. Next steps will be discussed at a future meeting.

Large craters in the alley behind the post office and bar were discussed. Trustee Stava mentioned that a ditch could be installed as there is currently no drainage. Stava will investigate options.

Clerk Report

Paper Shredder: Three pricing options were presented. Motion by Wilken, seconded by Hans, to approve the purchase of a shredder priced at \$679. All in favor: Wilken, Hans, Benedict, Frank, Stava.

Website: Two options were presented to update the current village website, which would allow residents more access to permits, ordinances, alerts, etc. Motion by Wilken, seconded by Hans, to approve Municipal Impact at a startup cost of \$1,236. All in favor: Stava, Frank, Benedict, Wilken, Hans.

Water/Sewer past due accounts were presented to the board, most have agreed and have been paying agreeing to the terms.

Trustee Report

- Wilken reported that Seargent Drilling will be conducting a test hole.
- Greckel will begin cleanup of 725 B Street on May 5th.
- A grant application was submitted for the village to receive a new well and well house.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:43pm by Stava, seconded by Benedict. All in favor: Hans, Wilken, Frank, Benedict, and Stava. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi McVey-Blath

Village Clerk