

BIG SPRINGS VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2024

Present Trustees: Dinkel, Everitt, and Van Zee. Absent Trustees: Van Horn and Farrier. Others present: Village Clerk/Treasurer, Tamera Loomis, Village Attorney, Josh Wendell, and Deuel County Sheriff, Scott DeCoste.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Big Springs, Nebraska was called to order at 7:00pm on April 2, 2024, in open and public session by Chairman Van Zee. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting at the Village Office, U.S. Post Office, and Community First Bank and by publication in the Chappell Register and on the Village Official Website + Mobile App at bigspringsne.org, the Village's designated methods for giving notice, and delivered to members of the Board of Trustees with a copy of their Acknowledgment of Receipt and the Agenda attached to these minutes. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in advance notice. All proceedings hereafter shown were recorded while said meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Van Zee welcomed the visitors and announced the Open Meeting Law Poster posted on the wall of the meeting room with copies available from the Village Clerk if wanted.

Motion by Everitt, we approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 meeting, seconded by Dinkel. Yea: Van Zee, Everitt, and Dinkel. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Van Zee, we accept the 2024 Nuisance Abatement Agreement with West Central Nebraska Development District, Inc. and authorize the board chairman sign said agreement, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Dinkel, Van Zee, and Everitt. Motion passed unanimously.

Brief department reports were heard. Animal Control—Looking for someone. Park/Pool—Everitt will request bids for spring bridges repair and bids for railing for the bridges separate to present at the next meeting. It was moved by Everitt, we request the village clerk complete a Deuel County Visitor's Committee Grant application to help refurbish the Depot Museum floor in the amount of \$1,400.00, seconded by Van Zee. Yea: Everitt, Dinkel, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously.

The clerk will contact Clean Harbors in Kimball NE to see if they can help or guide us to who can move the liquid tar from AG Valley property.

Motion by Van Zee, we authorize the board chairman sign the letter of support to M12 Studio's application for a Union Pacific grant to launch the annual "Great Train Robbery Day", seconded by Everitt. Yea: Van Zee, Dinkel, and Everitt. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Van Zee, we adopt Resolution R24-04-01 A resolution adopting a Code of Conduct applicable to all Village Board of Trustees, Commission, and Committee Members of the Village of Big Springs establishing standards of conduct for such members in the application and administration of their duties and powers, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Dinkel, Everitt, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION No. R24-04-01

A resolution adopting a Code of Conduct applicable to all Village Board of Trustees, Commission, and Committee Members of the Village of Big Springs establishing standards of conduct for such members in the application and administration of their duties and powers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BIG SPRINGS, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. That the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Big Springs hereby adopt the Code of Conduct establishing standards of conduct for all Village Board of Trustees, Commission, and Committee Members of the Village of Big Springs in the application and administration of their duties and powers. A copy of the said Code of Conduct, marked as Exhibit "A", is attached hereto, and incorporated by reference.

SECTION 2. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Resolution passed and approved this 2nd day of April 2024.

Exhibit A

CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

Act in the Public Interest

Recognizing that stewardship of the public interest must be their primary concern, members (Board of Trustees, as well as, Commission, and Committee Members) shall work for the common good of the people of Big Springs and not for any private or personal interest and they shall assure fair and equal treatment of all persons, claims,

and transactions coming before the Village Board of Trustees or a Village of Big Springs Commission, or Committee.

Conduct of Members

The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, use of inappropriate language or profanity, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon other members of the Board of Trustees, Boards, Commissions, Committees, staff, or members of the public. Members shall exhibit respect for all people and shall be sensitive to different cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

Members acknowledge that they act collectively as a governing body during public meetings. Members acknowledge that they do not have authority to make decisions or take individual actions on behalf of the Village, unless expressly directed to do so by the Village Board of Trustees.

Respect for Process

Members shall perform their duties in accordance with the processes and rules of order established by the Village Board of Trustees governing deliberation of public policy issues. Members shall encourage meaningful involvement of the public and implementation of policy decisions of the Village Board of Trustees by Village staff.

Members shall respect the confidentiality of information concerning property, Village personnel, and affairs of the Village. They shall neither disclose confidential information without proper legal authorization, nor use such information to advance their personal, financial, or other private interests.

When members or staff engage in conversation with residents, applicants, developers, and officials of other governmental agencies, they shall be cautious not to make representations or promises about future actions of the Village Board of Trustees, Commissions, and Committees. Members acknowledge future actions of the Village Board of Trustees, Commission, or Committee cannot be promised or predicted with certainty.

Conduct of Public Meetings

Members shall prepare themselves for public issues, listen courteously and attentively to all public discussions before the Village Board of Trustees, Commission, or Committee and focus on the business at hand. They shall refrain from interrupting other speakers, making personal comments not germane to the business of the body, or otherwise interfering with the orderly conduct of meetings. To establish the public record and inform members of the public, they shall articulate reasons for policy decisions.

Members acknowledge that within the public setting surprises are counterproductive and agree not to spring a surprise on each other or staff during a public meeting. If in doubt, members shall meet with staff beforehand and members shall not ask staff sensitive questions in a public meeting.

Members acknowledge the importance of their attendance at meetings of their respective bodies. Members shall make it a priority to attend all meetings, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the meeting.

Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, and in order to assure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, members shall not use their official positions to influence government decisions in which they have a material financial interest, or where they have an organizational responsibility or personal relationship, which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Gifts and Favors

Members shall not take any special advantage of services or opportunities for personal gain, by virtue of their public office that are not available to the public in general. They shall refrain from accepting any gifts, favors, or promises of future benefits, which might compromise their independence of judgment or action or give the appearance of being compromised.

Use of Public Resources

Members shall not use public resources not available to the public in general, such as Village staff time, equipment, supplies, or facilities, for private gain or personal purposes. Members, individually, shall not direct, order, or make demands on any Village employee, other than inquiries that can be answered routinely and without research.

Representation of Private Interests

In keeping with their role as stewards of the public interest, Trustees shall not appear on behalf of the private interests of third parties before the Board of Trustees or any Board, Commission, or Committee, or proceeding

of the Village, nor shall members of the Board, Commission, or Committee appear before their own bodies or before the Village Board of Trustees on behalf of the private interests of third parties on matters related to the areas of service of their bodies.

Advocacy

Members shall represent the official policies of the Village Board of Trustees, Commission, or Committee to the best of their ability when designated as delegates for such a purpose. When presenting their individual opinions or positions, members shall explicitly state they do not represent their body or the Village of Big Springs nor shall they allow the inference that they do.

Members shall leave decisions made at the public meetings at the meeting and shall refrain from disputing such decisions at a later date or later public meeting.

Policy Role Matters

Members shall respect and adhere to the Village Board of Trustees-Clerk/Treasurer form of government as outlined by the Municipal Code. In this structure, the Village Board of Trustees shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Nebraska applicable to and regulating villages.

The Village Board has the power to pass ordinances, to prevent and remove nuisances, to restrain and prohibit gambling, to provide for licensing and regulating theatrical and other amusements, to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases, to establish and regulate markets, to erect and repair bridges, to provide for the inspection of building materials to be used or offered for sale, to govern the planting and protection of shade trees in the streets and the building of structures projecting upon or over and adjoining and all excavations through and under the sidewalks, and in addition to the special powers herein conferred and granted, to maintain the peace, good government, and welfare of the village and its trade, commerce, and manufactories; and to enforce all ordinances by inflicting penalties upon inhabitants or other persons for violation thereof.

The village has the power and authority by ordinance to define, regulate, suppress, and prevent nuisances, to declare what constitutes a nuisance, and to abate and remove the same. The village may exercise such power and authority within its zoning jurisdiction.

Go through Village Administration

Except as provided in the Village of Big Springs Municipal Code, members shall not interfere with the administrative functions of the Village or the professional duties of Village staff; nor shall members impair the ability of staff to implement Village Board of Trustees, Commission, or Committee decisions.

Independence of Boards and Commissions

Because of the value of the independent advice of Commissions, and Committees to the public decision making process, members of the Board of Trustees shall refrain from using their position to unduly influence the deliberations of outcomes of Commission, and Committee proceedings.

Positive Workplace Environment

Members shall support the maintenance of a positive and constructive workplace environment for Village employees and for citizens and businesses dealing with the Village. Members shall recognize their special role in dealings with Village employees to not create the perception of inappropriate direction to staff.

Implementation

As an expression of the standard of conduct for members expected by the Village, the Village of Big Springs Code of Conduct is intended to be self-enforcing. It therefore becomes most effective when members are thoroughly familiar with it and embrace its provisions.

For this reason, standards of conduct shall be included in the regular orientations for candidates for Village Board of Trustees, applicants to Commissions, and Committees, and newly elected and appointed officials. Members entering the office shall sign a statement affirming they read and understood the Village of Big Springs Code of Conduct.

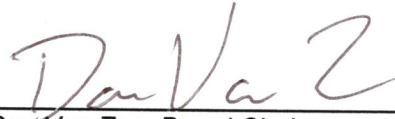
Motion by Van Zee, we reinstate regular daily Village Office hours: Monday – Wednesday – Friday 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM and Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Everitt, Dinkel, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Van Zee, we set Spring Cleanup days May 1st – 15th and authorize roll-off dumpsters to coincide with nuisance review letters, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Everitt, Dinkel, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Van Zee, we approve payment of the claims, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Dinkel, Everitt, and Van Zee. Motion passed unanimously.

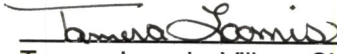
General			
PAYROLL	SLRY	1,666.30	
BIG SPRINGS CEMETERY ASSOC	EXP	5,595.83	
BIG SPRINGS LIBRARY	EXP	2,370.83	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	Gas	131.96	
CENTURY LINK	PH	51.10	
CFB-FBO CURTIS BROWN	RET	200.00	
CHAPPELL REGISTER	Prnt/Publ	298.98	
DEUEL COUNTY TREASURER	Law Enforcement	8,166.66	
Edward Jones	RET	150.00	
IRS	Tax	278.56	
McQUILLAN & WENDELL PC, LLO	Legal	5,942.00	
NPPD	Elec	85.97	
Norma VanZee	Rep/Main	75.00	
ONE CALL CONCEPTS INC	Dues and Fees	1.98	
ONE CALL CONCEPTS INC	Dues and Fees	7.16	
PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING LLP	Prnt/Publ	67.75	
U.S. Bank	Postage	43.78	
Street			
PAYROLL	SLRY	1,264.79	
BIG SPRINGS TRUCK AND TRAVEL	Fuel	566.65	
CENTURY LINK	PH	204.51	
IRS	Tax	453.18	
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	Rep/Main	114.49	
NPPD	Elec	975.27	
Water			
PAYROLL	SLRY	2,205.85	
CENTURY LINK	PH	133.43	
COMMUNITY FIRST BANK	Transfers	5,267.50	
Century Link (Lumen)	PH	86.97	
IRS	Tax	612.87	
Monument Inn & Suites	Trvl	190.00	
NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB	Lab Testing	461.00	
NE DEPT OF REVENUE	Tax	145.43	
NPPD	Elec	657.55	
Nebraska Rural Water Assoc	Dues	250.00	
U.S. Bank	Postage	86.15	
US POSTAL SERVICE	Postage	42.40	
VERIZON	PH	57.05	
Sewer			
PAYROLL	SLRY	2,205.85	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	Gas	316.54	
CENTURY LINK	PH	133.43	
COMMUNITY FIRST BANK	Transfers	6,982.50	
Century Link (Lumen)	PH	81.15	
IRS	Tax	612.87	
NE DEPT OF REVENUE	Tax	777.31	
NPPD	Elec	408.92	
US POSTAL SERVICE	Postage	42.40	
VERIZON	PH	57.06	
Trash			
US POSTAL SERVICE	Postage	42.40	
WASTE CONNECTIONS	Trash	5,858.46	
WESTERN RESOURCES GROUP	Recycling	149.50	
Parks			
PAYROLL	SLRY	114.99	
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	Gas	40.35	
IRS	Tax	41.20	
NPPD	Elec	142.11	
Pool			
Century Link (Lumen)	PH	66.95	
Library			
PAYROLL	SLRY	1,038.97	
IRS	Tax	212.66	
Depot Museum			
NPPD	Elec	145.89	

Motion by Van Zee, we adjourn, seconded by Everitt. Yea: Dinkel, Van Zee, and Everitt. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.



Dan Van Zee, Board Chairman
Village of Big Springs Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



Tamera Loomis, Village Clerk

