

**Village of Brownville Town Board Meeting,
August 8, 2022**

The special meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Chairman Marty Hayes pointed out the posting of the Open Meetings Act.

Board members present: Terry Vice, Josh Russell, Bailey Bindle and Natisha Helmick. Also present, Deborah Solie, clerk.

Motion by Helmick, seconded by Bindle, to approve the agenda as handed out. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Helmick, to approve the July 20 special meeting minutes. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Vice moved the financial report be accepted as handed out. Bindle seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

The claims were reviewed. Vice moved the claims be paid as made out. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Mike Hall, Nemaha County Commissioner, addressed the board about an incident that occurred in Brownville where a community member confronted county workers clearing a drainage tube. In future, Hall requested a board member be present for county work done in Brownville. The Board apologized for the workers experience and promised to send a letter of support to the worker directly involved.

Projects, Buildings and Equipment:

Water/Sewer Report: Helmick moved to sign the water contract as made out. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. The contract needs to be signed by representatives from Brownville and Rural Water District #1 before a notary.

Street Report: Helmick reported she moved dirt to the 3rd street alley to help alleviate erosion impacting a community member's property. The Village is waiting on the County to install a tube for drainage below the alley. She also reported the Village is waiting on Constructors to spread the asphalt chips. Constructors will bring approximately seven loads of asphalt when they have a slow or rainy day. Solie reported the CDBG-Public Works grant for the culvert is undergoing a new eight-step process for approval prior to release of funds. This is required because the work will occur in a wetland area. Helmick reported a ditch is washing on the north side of Water Street near the corner of Atlantic Street and a crack has appear under the armorcoat. The Board discussed tarring the crack and said they would do some additional review of the area. Kenton Wheeldon stated the tube at 4th and Atlantic streets needs to be extended and the Village could have Constructors, Inc. put asphalt over the extension when they are in town. Helmick has asked Jimmy Smith to look at Aaron Parker's driveway on 4th Street to see if there is some concrete work that could be done to prevent road erosion. Smith has worked on the area before, so the board decided to review the area before next steps.

Town Hall repairs: Helmick stated door locks will be put on the Town Hall front doors in August and the doors will be locked overnight to prevent access to the public bathrooms. The bathrooms will be available for use throughout the day. A painting bid from Monty Barbee for the interior of the Town Hall was reviewed and tabled by the Board. The Board decided to ask Barbee for a Town Hall exterior painting bid.

Riverside Park: Vice reported all supplies have been ordered for the park and the County will be assisting with debris removal, moving dirt for roads and laying gravel. The County will also tear up asphalt with cracks and holes, and they will pack in dirt and gravel over the areas. The goal for completion is fall 2022. Vice asked for community feedback regarding the location of picnic tables.

Old Business:

Helmick reported in order for the Village to enforce a dog ordinance, the Village would need to hire someone to ticket ordinance offenders or contract with the county sheriff to enforce the ordinance.

The zoning ordinance agenda item was tabled until additional information is available from the Village attorney.

Helmick discussed ordering garage door openers for the utility building. She said the cheapest bid is from Sack Lumber. Helmick moved to purchase the garage door opener from Sack Lumber with labor completed by the Village Board. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Wayne Brandenburger declined to present on the CDBG-Tourism grant for the Merriwether-Lewis.

Steve Woerth presented that Brownville was approved as a Creative District, which brings all Village non-profits and businesses together under one label/description. As a Creative District, funds will go toward creating a Welcome Center in the old gas station and promotion of the Village and southeast Nebraska.

Bill Robbins presented documentation related to the Open Meetings Act and asked the Board to reconsider limiting public discussion in future meetings. Bob Sailors spoke in support of Robbins position and the importance of public involvement in the monthly Board meetings. Hayes stated the League of Nebraska Municipalities said the chairman's ability to limit speakers is included in the Open Meetings Act.

Sailors asked the Board to remove trees, weed eat and spray the area around the Maintenance Building. He provided a history of the building and asked the Board to only store items in the building used by the Village.

The Board reviewed the possibility of purchasing the radio tower in Brownville and said they needed to review the current lease with the owner. Russell moved to offer \$1 for the radio tower. Helmick seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Helmick moved to approve the annual certification of program compliance and sign Resolution 8-8-2022 with the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Helmick moved to purchase a name plate for the veteran's memorial wall in the Town Hall for a Civil War veteran buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. Sailors said he would purchase the name plate.

Vice moved for the Village to spend \$300 on Halloween. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. Woerth is coordinating with the businesses for the trick-or-treat portion.

Helmick applied for, and received a grant from LARM to purchase barricades and cones. Helmick moved to purchase 18" cones up to \$500. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Vice moved that the meeting be adjourned. Russell seconded. All yes votes. Motion carried. Adjournment at 7:51 p.m.

Deborah Solie, clerk