

# Velva Regular Commission Meeting

March 21, 2022

Regular Meeting – 7:00pm

Velva City Hall

## Regular Meeting:

The Regular commission meeting was called to order by President Barta at 7:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Barta did introductions/roll call: Jennifer Barta – Commission President; Mary Liz Davis – Police Commissioner; Ken Kitelinger – Cemetery Commissioner; Ben Zietz – Water/Sewer Commissioner; Dave Keller – Street Commissioner (Zoom); Jenny Johns – City Auditor; Ron Nagle – City Assessor; Kelly Jemtrud – Public Works Director; Emma Lavacheck & Alan Walter – Ackerman-Estvold Engineering; Heather Tudor – Velva Area Voice; Trey Skager – McHenry County Sheriff; Terry Peterson – Aggie Foundation.

**Minutes** - Motion by Davis/Zietz to approve the minutes from the February 22 regular meeting. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.

**Payroll & Bills** - Motion by Kitelinger/Davis to approve the bills paid since the last meeting and the current bills to be paid in the amount of \$49,634.08 and payroll for \$16,549.62. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried. (Verendrye 1,333.34; BDS 104.79; Chemistry Lab 18.54; Circle 6,386; Dakota Fire 174.39; Dakota Truck 235.18; Domain List 288; Enerbase 774.06; Ferguson 835.76; Gooseneck 76.98; Gravel Prod. 906.92; Hawkins 1,264.02; HOE 15.31; Ihry 451; Leo Walter 18.19; Main Elec. 512.78; Menards 194.62; Mouse River 861.53; NAPA 132.68; NDLC 75; NDLC 30; North Star 494.34; Ottertail 5,902.75; P. Jemtrud 450; RDO 9.73; SRT 444.84; Starion Bond 18,686.25; VAV 43; VCDC 3,872.97; Velva Fresh Foods 137.44; Velva Library 3,872.97; Verizon 209.22; Weigel Trucking 770).

## **Reports of The President/Finance Commissioner**

Barta had no business to discuss.

## Communications

Terry Peterson, Aggie Foundation, presented a gaming site authorization request for Soltrain Enterprises. Peterson gave a rundown of the Foundation, including the board members – Lance Selzler, Velva ND; Wade Kittleson, Boston MA; Josh Stahlecker, Startell MN; David Buen, Minot ND and Terry Peterson, Velva ND. Peterson listed a few of the sites that they currently hold the authorization. Peterson stated that the Aggie Foundation is a member of both the VAC and the VCDC. Commissioner Davis asked questions regarding hopes, current contributions to Velva, who approves gaming requests, i.e. Peterson answered that they have donated money to the Swedlund and Briggs fundraisers, the Velva School, the golf course, and they plan to support the History museum. Davis addressed the VFD=Public Safety vs. AF=Sprited. Davis listed a few of the many donations made in the past 9-years by the VFD – totaling over \$200,000; stating without VFD, these donations may end up the responsibility of taxpayers. Kitelinger asked for a list of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter donations of the AF for 2022. Peterson gave a list from quarter-1, 2022 of over \$40,000. Kitelinger asked Soltrains owner, Mike Soli, what the \$10,000 was for that he received from Aggie Foundation? Soli said that is not what he said, and its Kitelinger's word against his. Peterson denied giving \$10,000 to Mr. Soli. Peterson explained that FMI, Food Management Investors, Inc. is their accounting firm and to ask them for any checks written. Kristen Bechtold, VFD Bookkeeper, stated that the VFD is not going to relinquish their site and they hold that authority until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Bechtold read a text message sent from Soli to Bechtold regarding his request to remove the VFD from Soltrains. Barta stated that if the VFD was not

going to relinquish their gaming site authority, there was nothing more to discuss and the issue stands between the VFD and Soltrains.

-Johns presented a letter from the McHenry County Auditor laying out the next election deadlines. April 11<sup>th</sup> by 4:00pm, all nominating petitions and paperwork needs to be turned into the Auditor's office. April 12<sup>th</sup> will be a drawing for name placement on the ballot.

-Barta presented a local raffle permit submitted by the Velva Trap Team with the Velva School. Kitelinger/Davis made a motion to approve the permit. Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.

### **Reports of Officers, Boards, Committees**

**-Water/Sewer Commissioner:** Zietz stated that there have been no water breaks this winter and is hoping this continues through Spring. Jemtrud – there are approximately 35 meters left to install.

**-Street Commissioner:** Keller stated that he was in contact with Jemtrud before the meeting and everything is going well; Keller will be back in three weeks to assist with crack sealing.

**-Cemetery Commissioner:** Kitelinger had no issues to discuss.

**-Police Commissioner:** Davis had no issues to discuss other than a few illegally parked vehicles in handicapped spots at the school. Skager informed people to report license plate numbers of violating vehicles.

**-Engineer's Report:** Lavachek – presented proposed letter to SRJB regarding the Main lift station replacement project. Zietz/Kitelinger made a motion to approve the letter and figures 1, 2 and 3 to be sent to the Souris River Joint Board asking for their assistance with the renovation/replacement of the city's Main lift station during the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project. Roll Call: All – aye; motion carried. Also, Maria Hanson sent an email regarding DCS finalizing the CDBG grant. Davis asked if Burlington has a walking path on their dike? Lavachek said they did. Walter – heard that there may be a strategic plan in the works for a walking path to the golf course. He will look into this as the bridge project may need to be altered.

**-Auditor's Report:** Johns presented an old easement, found by the city attorney, between the city and the Feists, matching the description of the boundary of the water plant and potentially the holding pond. The minutes do not go back to 1992 in the office, so research will need to be done at the Velva Library regarding the exact agreement. Johns gave an update on the next ARPA funding/reporting guidelines. The first step is done; just waiting on instructions for the second step – the due date is April 30<sup>th</sup> to be reported to the Department of Treasury. Johns asked if the future land use map in the office could be updated as there are discrepancies. Johns stated that she is in the very beginning phases of the budget process, however, if anyone can think of any projects to add to the 2023 budget, please notify her. Zietz asked if we could look into removing the old pump house at the corner of Main and Highway 52. Kaylene Kitelinger, Sales Tax Committee Member – the "Local Business representative," has resigned her position due to relocating for work. There is now a vacancy on that committee that will need to be filled.

**-Assessor/Building Inspector's Report:** Nagle stated that the Tax Equalization meeting will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at the Velva City Hall. No building permits to report from this month.

**-Public Works Report:** Jemtrud stated that he will begin street sweeping in the very near future. Immediately after street sweeping will be crack sealing, as the cracks are wide open right now and this is the best time to get them filled. Also, Johns asked to advertise for filling the PW's seasonal employee for the summer. Davis stated she would like to see this employee possibly help with watering flowers

on Main Street. Zietz/Kitelinger made a motion to advertise to fill the seasonal PW position for summer.  
Roll Call: All-aye; motion carried.

**-Introduction & Adoption of Resolutions/Ordinances:** No business to discuss.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business to discuss.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Miscellaneous:** Keller stated he talked with Dorothy Henke, Dot's Pretzels, and the Velva plant will continue to be open until August 2023 for sure. No certainties after that.

### **Adjournment**

-With no other business to discuss, Barta adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

*The next Commission Meeting will be Monday, March 21, at 7:00pm.  
If you would like to be on the next agenda, the deadline is Thursday at noon before a meeting.*

***\*\*Minutes are Subject to Amendment and Approval\*\****

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**Jennifer Barta**  
**Commission President**

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**Jenny Johns**  
**Auditor**