

Village board discusses nursing home auditors, fire sprinkler system

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 08 November 2012 17:17 -

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Village Board met for a special meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 30. The meeting had two purposes, first to discuss the audit firm previously hired to conduct the nursing home's annual audit. The second issue was to discuss installation of cover shields for the nursing home's new sprinkler system.

Audit firm

It was explained at the meeting that the firm that completes the Village of Wauneta's annual audit, Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C., reportedly expressed reservations concerning the firm, Eugene V. Ulmer, CPA, LLC., the Village hired to perform the nursing home's audit.

Reportedly the firm indicated that they may not be able to give the village's audit a "clean report" because they understood Eugene V. Ulmer, CPA, LLC had not passed a peer review, a periodic requirement of audit firms by the State Auditor's office.

They also expressed concerns of a possible conflict of interest because Doug Kucera, a CPA who works for Eugene V. Ulmer LLC had completed the business plan for the nursing home prior to the Village's purchase of the facility.

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Kucera attended the meeting to help bring light to the situation.

Kucera and Village Clerk Evelyn Skelton had been in contact with state officials prior to the special meeting.

All of their research indicated that the State Auditor's office confirmed that Eugene V. Ulmer is indeed qualified to perform the nursing home's audit. The State Auditor's office indicated Eugene V. Ulmer LLC was not yet required to engage in a peer review due to the amount of time they' been in existence.

Village board members did not feel the concern over potential conflict of interest was substantiated.

The Wauneta Village attorney, Arlan Wine, said the letter sent to Skelton from the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts backs up statements made by Kucera regarding the qualifications of his firm.

After detailed and thoughtful discussion, the Village Board determined they would stand behind their original decision to have Kucera and his firm complete the nursing home's audit.

Village board members said they felt a separate audit will allow them to have a more in-depth view of the financial health of this new village endeavor.

No new motion was made because the decision to have Kucera perform the audit was previously approved.

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Sprinkler system

The nursing home committee reported that Nebraska Fire Sprinkler was currently in town installing the new sprinkler system at Sunrise Heights of Wauneta.

The overall approved budget for the sprinkler project was \$165,000 and did not include “cosmetic” work such as covers for the pipes which will be installed throughout the nursing home.

Committee members reported to the board that the project has come in enough under budget to allow for cosmetic work, installation of the covers, without exceeding the original budgeted amount of \$165,000.

The motion to approve the installation of the covers was approved at the meeting.

The Wauneta Village board’s regular meeting time is the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. MT. The public is welcome to attend Village board meetings.