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CHAPTER 6 – PUBLIC WAYS AND PROPERTY

Article 1 – Municipal Property

SECTION 6-101: DEFINITIONS

The following definition shall be applied throughout this chapter. When no definition is specified, the normal dictionary usage of the word shall apply:

"Sidewalk space" as used herein shall mean that portion of a street between curb lines and adjacent property lines.

SECTION 6-102: GENERAL AUTHORITY

A. The Village Board shall have the care, supervision, and control of all public highways, bridges, streets, alleys, public squares, and commons within the village and shall cause the same to be kept open, in repair, and free from nuisances.

B. The village shall have the power to prevent and remove all encroachments, including snow, ice, and other similar obstructions upon all sidewalks and other village property.

C. The village shall have the power to remove all obstructions from the sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and crosswalks at the expense of the person placing them there or at the expense of the village and to require and regulate the planting and protection of shade trees in and along the streets and the trimming and removing of such trees.

D. The village shall have the power to regulate the building of bulkheads, cellar and basement ways, stairways, railways, windows, doorways, awnings, hitching posts and rails, lampposts, awning posts, all other structures projecting upon or over and adjoining and all other excavations through and under the sidewalks in the village.
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §§17-555, 17-557, 17-557.01, 17-558, 17-567)

SECTION 6-103: TREES; AUTHORIZATION

No person shall plant or allow to grow any shade or ornamental tree within the sidewalk space without first making a written application with the village clerk and receiving written authorization by resolution from the Village Board. The applicant shall follow all terms and conditions in the said resolution as the board deems appropriate. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-557.01, 18-1720)

SECTION 6-104: OBSTRUCTIONS

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to obstruct or encumber by fences, gates, buildings, structures, or otherwise any of the streets, alleys, or sidewalks.

B. Trees and shrubs growing upon the lot line partially on public ground and partially upon the abutting property or wholly upon the abutting property but so close to the lot line as to interfere with the use or construction of any public improvement or so that the roots thereof interfere with any utility wires or pipe shall be deemed obstructions. It shall be the duty of owners and occupants to keep all such similar growth trimmed and pruned at all times.

C. Whenever any such growth is maintained contrary to the provisions of this section, the Village Board may pass a resolution ordering the owner or occupant to remove such obstruction. Notice ordering the obstructions be cut or removed shall be given to each owner or owner's duly authorized agent and to the occupant, if any, by personal service or regular mail. Within five days after receipt of such notice, if the owner or occupant of the lot or parcel of ground does not request a hearing with the village or fails to comply with the order to cut or remove the obstruction, the village may have such work done by village personnel or an outside party. The costs and expenses of any such work shall be paid by the owner. If unpaid for two months after such work is done, the village may either (1) levy and assess the costs and expenses of the work upon the lot or piece of ground so benefited in the same manner as other special taxes for improvements are levied and assessed or (2) recover in a civil action the costs and expenses of the work upon the lot or piece of ground and the adjoining streets and alleys.

D. In the event the property owner is a nonresident of the county in which the property lies, the village shall, before levying any special assessment against that property, send a copy of any notice required by law to be published by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the nonresident property owner, which shall be that address listed on the current tax rolls at the time such required notice was first published.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §§17-557, 17-557.01)

SECTION 6-105: OVERHANGING BRANCHES

A. The owner or occupant of any lot, piece or parcel of ground abutting or adjacent to any street or sidewalk over which the branches of trees extend shall at all times keep the branches or limbs thereof trimmed to a height of at least 8 feet above the surface of said walk and at least 12 feet above the surface of said street. Whenever the limbs or branches of any tree or trees extend over streets or sidewalks contrary to the provisions herein so as to interfere with the lighting of the street from street lights or with the convenience of the public using said street or sidewalk, the Village Board may follow the procedure provided in Section 6-104(C). See also the provisions in Chapter 7, Section 7-407 in regard to trimming trees near electrical lines.

B. In the event the property owner is a nonresident of the county in which the property lies, the village shall, before levying any special assessment against that property, send a copy of any notice required by law to be published by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the nonresident property

owner, which shall be that address listed on the current tax rolls at the time such required notice was first published.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-557.01) (Am. Ord. No. 96-339, 12/9/96)

SECTION 6-106: BARRICADES AND LIGHTS

Whenever any excavation on any public property, including without limitation parking sites, sidewalks, curbs, and streets, occurs within the zoning jurisdiction of the village, the party responsible for the excavation shall provide adequate barricades around the excavation and shall install sufficient warning lights and signs around the excavation to protect the public. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-505)

SECTION 6-107: EAVE AND GUTTER SPOUTS

It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to erect or maintain any dwelling or business building within the limits of the village where the said dwelling or building abuts on any sidewalk or street without providing proper guttering and eave spouts to receive the wastewaters that collect on the said sidewalks and streets. All eave spouts erected on any dwelling or business building shall be constructed to drain into the alleys or shall be buried beneath the sidewalks and drain into the streets where it is found to be impossible to drain said eave spouts into the alley.

SECTION 6-108: DAMAGE

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully, maliciously, or carelessly injure, change, deface, or destroy any street, sidewalk, building, ditch, drain, or grade within the corporate limits. No person shall cause or permit any offensive or corrosive material to be discharged or thrown out upon any street, sidewalk, alley, or public ground.

SECTION 6-109: HEAVY EQUIPMENT

A. Every solid rubber tire on a vehicle moved on any highway or street within the village shall have rubber on its entire traction surface at least one inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

B. No tire on a vehicle moved on a highway shall have on its periphery any clock, stud, flange, cleat, or spike or any other protuberance of any material other than rubber which projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that:

1. This prohibition shall not apply to pneumatic tires with metal or metal-type studs not exceeding five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter inclusive of the stud-casing with an average protrusion beyond the tread surface of not more than seven sixty-fourths of an inch between November 1 and April 1, except that school buses, mail carrier vehicles, and emergency vehicles shall be permitted to use metal or metal-type studs at any time during the year;

2. It shall be permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances which will not injure the highway; and
3. It shall be permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions upon any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other condition tending to cause a vehicle to slide or skid.

C. No person shall operate or move on any highway or village street any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer (1) having any metal tire in contact with the roadway or (2) equipped with solid rubber tires, except that this subsection shall not apply to farm vehicles having a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less or to farm implements.

D. The Department of Transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may, in their discretion, issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway or village street of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery.

E. It shall be permissible to use a rubber-tired crane with a fixed load when (1) such vehicle will be transported on a state highway or on any road within the corporate limits, (2) the village has authorized a one-day permit for the transportation of the crane and specified the route to be used and the hours during which the crane can be transported, (3) such vehicle is escorted by another vehicle or vehicles assigned by the village, and (4) such vehicle's gross weight does not exceed the limits set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-6,294(3).
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-6,250)

SECTION 6-110: CUTTING CURB; DRIVEWAY; PERMIT; DEPOSIT

A. No person shall (1) cut into any paving, curb, or sidewalk for the purpose of constructing a driveway or any other purpose or (2) construct a driveway where no curb cutting is required without having first obtained a permit following the procedures set out herein. All driveway applications shall contain the following information:

1. The addition, block and lot which the driveway is to serve;
2. The location of the proposed driveway with reference to adjacent lot lines;
3. The width of the driveway and type of street surface to which the driveway will connect.

B. Before any permit for curb cutting is issued:

1. The applicant for such permit shall deposit with the village treasurer a sum set by resolution of the Village Board for all paving, curb, or sidewalk to be cut. Such sum shall be set on a per-square-foot cost of construction basis. The deposit shall be retained by the village for the purpose of replacing the paving, curb, or sidewalk in the event the work is done by the village. In the event the village elects to require the applicant to replace the paving,

curb, or sidewalk, the deposit shall be retained by the village until the work is completed to the satisfaction of the maintenance superintendent.

2. The applicant shall inform the village clerk of the place where such cutting is to be done and it shall be the maintenance superintendent's duty to inspect the place of entry into the paving, sidewalk, or curb before the same is cut.

C. Upon approval of said permit by the Village Board, the applicant shall be required to build said driveway and complete said curb cut to the village's specifications, including size and type of materials. When the applicant is ready to close the opening made, he or she shall inform the maintenance superintendent, who shall supervise and inspect the materials used and work done in closing the opening.

D. It shall be discretionary with the Village Board to order the maintenance superintendent, under the supervision and inspection of the village engineer or the committee of the board on streets and alleys, to do the work of cutting and closing the paving and charge the costs thereof to the party who obtained such permit.
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-567)

SECTION 6-111: REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION; AUTHORIZATION

When acquiring an interest in real property by purchase or eminent domain, the village shall do so only after the Village Board has authorized the acquisition by action taken in a public meeting after notice and public hearing. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-1755) (Ord. No. 95-296. 2/13/95)

SECTION 6-112: REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION; APPRAISAL

The village shall not purchase, lease-purchase or acquire for consideration real property having an estimated value of \$100,000.00 or more unless an appraisal of such property has been performed by a certified real estate appraiser. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-403) (Ord. No. 95-297, 2/13/95)

SECTION 6-113: REAL PROPERTY; SALE AND CONVEYANCE

A. Except as provided in subsection (G) herein, the power of the village to convey any real property owned by it, including land used for park purposes and public squares, except real property used in the operation of public utilities, shall be exercised by resolution directing the sale of such real property.

B. After the passage of the resolution directing the sale, notice of all proposed sales of property described in subsection (A) of this section and the terms thereof shall be published once each week for three consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper published in or of general circulation in the village.

C. If within 30 days after the third publication of the notice a remonstrance

against such sale is signed by registered voters of the village equal in number to 30 percent of the registered voters of the village voting at the last regular municipal election held therein and is filed with the Village Board, such property shall not then, nor within one year thereafter, be sold. The procedure for determining the validity of the said remonstrance shall be as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-503(3).

D. Real property now owned or hereafter owned by the village may be conveyed without consideration to the State of Nebraska for state armory sites or, if acquired for state armory sites, shall be conveyed strictly in accordance with the conditions of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§18-1001 to 18-1006.

E. Following (1) passage of the resolution directing a sale, (2) publishing of the notice of the proposed sale, and (3) passing of the 30-day right-of-remonstrance period, the property shall then be sold. Such sale shall be confirmed by passage of an ordinance stating the name of the purchaser and terms of the sale.

F. Notwithstanding the procedures in subsections (A) through (E) of this section, real property owned by the village may be conveyed when such property:

1. Is sold in compliance with the requirements of federal or state grants or programs;
2. Is conveyed to another public agency; or
3. Consists of streets and alleys.

G. Subsections (A) to (F) of this section shall not apply to the sale of real property if the authorizing resolution directs the sale of an item or items of real property having a total fair market value of less than \$5,000.00. Following passage of the resolution directing the sale of the property, notice of the sale shall be posted in three prominent places within the village for a period of not less than seven days prior to the sale of the property. The notice shall give a general description of the property offered for sale and state the terms and conditions of sale. Confirmation of the sale by passage of an ordinance may be required.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §§17-503, 17-503.01) (Am. Ord. No. 96-327, 2/12/96)

SECTION 6-114: PERSONAL PROPERTY; SALE AND CONVEYANCE

In order to sell personal property owned by the village, the Village Board shall adopt a resolution directing the sale and the manner and terms of the sale. Following passage of the resolution directing the sale of the property, notice of the sale shall be posted in three prominent places within the village for a period of not less than seven days prior to the sale of the property. If the fair market value of the property is greater than \$5,000.00, notice of the sale shall also be published once in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in such village at least seven days prior to the sale of the property. The notice shall give a general description of the property offered for sale and state the terms and conditions of sale. When such personal property is being sold in compliance with the requirements of federal or state grants or programs or conveyed to another public agency, the notice procedure set forth above may be dispensed with. (Neb. Rev.

Stat. §17-503.02)

SECTION 6-115: PUBLIC WORKS; SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; NOTICE

A. Before the village or special taxing district for public works or public improvements shall be formed and before the village or special taxing district may impose any special assessment for public works or public improvements, a copy of any notice required to be published by law shall be mailed to the last known addresses of all non-resident property owners as shown on the current tax rolls at the time such notice is first published.

B. The village clerk or any other person upon whom the duty is imposed by law to publish notice required by law in regard to the formation of a special taxing district for public works or public improvements shall mail by certified mail with return receipt requested a copy of the published notice in regard to the formation of any special taxing district within the village to the last known address as shown on the current tax rolls of each nonresident property owner.

C. The village clerk or any other person upon whom the duty is imposed by law to publish notice required by law in regard to any special assessment by a special taxing district shall mail by certified mail with return receipt requested a copy of such notice to be published to the last known address as shown on the current tax rolls of each nonresident property owner.

D. The failure of the village clerk or any other person upon whom the duty is imposed by law to mail a copy of a published notice as provided in this section shall invalidate the assessment against the property involved while permitting all other assessments and procedures to be lawful.

E. "Nonresident property owner" shall mean any person or corporation whose residence and mailing address as shown on the current tax rolls is outside the boundaries of the county and who is a record owner of property within the boundaries of the village, special assessment district, or taxing district involved.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §§13-310 through 13-314)

SECTION 6-116: EMINENT DOMAIN

The village shall have the power:

A. To create, open, widen, or extend any street, avenue, alley, off-street parking area, or other public way or annul, vacate, or discontinue the same; to take private property for public use for the purpose of erecting or establishing market houses; market places; parks; swimming pools; airports; gas systems, including distribution facilities; water systems; power plants, including electrical distribution facilities; sewer systems; or for any other needed public purpose; and to exercise the power of eminent domain within or without the village limits for the purpose of establishing and operating power plants, including electrical distribution facilities, to supply such village with public

utility service and for sewerage purposes, water supply systems, or airports.

B. The procedure to condemn property shall be exercised in the manner set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§76-704 to 76-724, except as to property specifically excluded by Neb. Rev. Stat. §76-703 and as to which Neb. Rev. Stat. §§19-701 to 19-707 or the Municipal Natural Gas System Condemnation Act is applicable. For purposes of this section, electrical distribution facilities shall be located within the retail service area of such village as approved by and on file with the Nebraska Power Review Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 70, Article 10.
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-559)

Article 2 – Streets

SECTION 6-201: WIDENING OR OPENING

The Village Board shall have the power to open or widen any street, alley, or lane within the limits of the village; to create, open, and improve any new street, alley, or lane; provided, all damages sustained shall be ascertained in such manner as shall be provided by ordinance. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-558, 17-559 76-704 through 76-724)

SECTION 6-202: NAMES AND NUMBERS

The Village Board may at any time by ordinance rename any street or provide a name for any new street. Buildings used for residence or business purposes and located along such streets shall retain such numbers as the board may require. Upon the erection of any new building, it shall be the duty of the maintenance superintendent to assign the proper number to said building and give notice to the owner(s) and occupant(s) of the same.

SECTION 6-203: EXCAVATION; DRAGGING TREES AND OBJECTS WITHOUT WHEELS

It shall be unlawful for any person to make an excavation in any street for any purpose whatsoever unless a written permit is issued by the maintenance superintendent, authorizing such excavation. It is furthermore unlawful for any person to drag trees or any other objects without wheels upon the surface of any streets, which will cause scouring and gravel removal, provided that this prohibition may be suspended upon the direction of the village chairperson in the event of emergencies. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-567)

SECTION 6-204: DRIVING STAKES

It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any peg or stake of any kind into the pavement in any street or alley without authorization from the maintenance superintendent. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-567)

SECTION 6-205: MIXING CONCRETE

It shall be unlawful for any person to mix any concrete or plastering material directly on the street pavement for any reason whatsoever. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-567)

SECTION 6-206: HARMFUL LIQUIDS

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or permit to leak in the gutter of any street any waste gasoline, kerosene, or high lubricating oils, which damage or act as a solvent upon said streets. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-567)

SECTION 6-207: UTILITY POLES, WIRES, MAINS

A. Poles, wires, gas mains, pipelines, and other appurtenances of public service companies shall be located or erected over, upon, or under the streets, alleys, and common grounds after a proper written application shall have been made to the village clerk and permission in writing given by the Village Board. When requested by the board, public service companies heretofore or hereafter granted right of way for the erection and maintenance of appurtenances for the purpose of transacting their business upon, under, or over the streets, alleys, and public grounds shall at all times erect, locate, or relocate their said appurtenances to such places and in such manner as shall be designated by said board.

B. Such poles, wires, gas mains, pipelines, and other appurtenances shall be removed or relocated by said companies at their own expense when requested to do so by the Village Board. Whenever it becomes necessary for the board to request such relocation for public safety and convenience, it shall order said relocation by resolution and the village clerk shall notify any company or companies affected. Said companies shall, within 24 hours after receiving notice, at their own expense cause the said appurtenances to be removed or relocated. The Village Board shall designate another location where said appurtenances may be reset or placed. All appurtenances shall be reset, placed, or erected in such manner that they will not interfere with the water system, sewer system, or poles, wires, or mains of any public utility located on the same street or alley or with travel or buildings constructed or hereafter to be constructed. Whenever possible, all said appurtenances shall be confined to the alleys of the village.

SECTION 6-208: DRIVEWAY APPROACHES

The maintenance superintendent may require the owner of property served by a driveway approach constructed or maintained upon the street right of way to repair or replace any such driveway approach which is cracked, broken, or otherwise deteriorated to the extent that it is causing or is likely to cause damage to or interfere with any street structure, including pavement or sidewalks. The village clerk shall give the property owner notice by registered letter or certified mail, directed to the last known address of such owner or the agent of such owner, requiring the repair or replacement of such driveway approach. If within 30 days of mailing such notice the property owner fails or neglects to cause such repairs or replacements to be made, the maintenance superintendent may cause such work to be done and assess the cost upon the property served by such approach. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-1748)

SECTION 6-209: POWER TO IMPROVE, VACATE, ETC.; IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS; SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

A. The Village Board may grade, partially or to an established grade, change grade, curb, recurb, gutter, regutter, pave, gravel, regravels, widen or narrow streets or roadways, resurface or relay existing pavement, or otherwise improve any streets, alleys, public grounds, or public ways, entirely or partially, and streets which divide the

village corporate area and the area adjoining the village; construct or reconstruct pedestrian walks, plazas, malls, landscaping, outdoor sprinkler systems, fountains, decorative water ponds, lighting systems, and permanent facilities; and construct sidewalks and improve the sidewalk space. These projects may be funded at public cost or by the levy of special assessments on the property especially benefited in proportion to such benefits, except as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§19-2428 to 19-2431.

B. The Village Board may by ordinance create paving, repaving, grading, curbing, recurbing, resurfacing, graveling, or improvement districts, to be consecutively numbered, which may include two or more connecting or intersecting streets, alleys, or public ways, and may include two or more of the improvements in one proceeding. All of the improvements which are to be funded by a levy of special assessment on the property especially benefited shall be ordered as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§17-510 to 17-512 unless the board improves a street which divides the village corporate area and the area adjoining the village as provided in Section 6-211 (Petition for Improvements).

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-509, 18-1751)

SECTION 6-210: IMPROVEMENT OF STREETS ON CORPORATE LIMITS

A. Whenever the Village Board improves any street which divides the village corporate area and the area adjoining the village, the board shall determine the sufficiency of petition as set forth in Section 6-211 by the owners of the record title representing more than 60% of the front footage of the property directly abutting upon the street to be improved, rather than 60% of the resident owners.

B. Whenever the board shall deem it necessary to make any of the improvements allowed by statute on a street which divides the village corporate area and the area adjoining the village, the Village Board shall by ordinance create the improvement district pursuant to Section 6-212 (Improvement Districts) and the right of remonstrance shall be limited to owners of record title, rather than resident owners.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-509)

SECTION 6-211: PETITION FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Whenever a petition signed by the owners of record title representing more than 60% of the front footage of the property directly abutting upon the street, streets, alley, alleys, public way, or the public grounds proposed to be improved shall be presented and filed with the village clerk, petitioning therefor, the Village Board shall by ordinance create a paving, graveling, or other improvement district or districts and shall cause such work to be done or such improvement to be made. The board shall contract therefor and shall levy assessments on the lots and parcels of land abutting on or adjacent to such street, streets, alley, or alleys especially benefited thereby in such district in proportion to such benefits, except as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§19-2428 to 19-2431, to pay the cost of such improvement. The board shall have the discretion to deny the formation of the proposed district when the area has not previously been improved with a water system, sewer system, and grading of streets. If the board should deny a requested

improvement district formation, it shall state the grounds for such denial in a written letter to interested parties. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-510)

SECTION 6-212: IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS; OBJECTIONS

A. Whenever the Village Board deems it necessary to make any improvements as provided in Section 6-209 allowed by statute which are to be funded by a levy of special assessment on the property especially benefited, the board shall by ordinance create a paving, graveling, or other improvement district and after the passage, approval, and publication or posting of such ordinance shall publish notice of the creation of any such district for six days in a legal newspaper of the village, if a daily newspaper, or for two consecutive weeks if a weekly newspaper. If no legal newspaper is published in the village, the publication shall be in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the village.

B. If the owners of the record title representing more than 50% of the front footage of the property directly abutting on the street or alley to be improved file with the village clerk within 20 days after the first publication of such notice written objections to the creation of such district, such improvement shall not be made as provided in such ordinance but the ordinance shall be repealed. If objections are not filed against the district in the time and manner prescribed in this section, the Village Board shall immediately cause such work to be done or such improvement to be made, shall contract for the work or improvement, and shall levy assessments on the lots and parcels of land abutting on or adjacent to such street or alley especially benefited in such district in proportion to such benefits to pay the cost of such improvement.
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-511) (Am. Ord. No. 96-329, 2/12/96)

SECTION 6-213: IMPROVEMENT OF MAIN THOROUGHFARES

The Village Board shall have power by a three-fourths vote to enact an ordinance creating a paving, graveling or other improvement district and to order such work to be done without petition upon any federal or state highways in the village or upon a street or route designated by the board as a main thoroughfare, connecting to either a federal or state highway or a county road. The board shall contract therefor and shall levy assessments on the lots and parcels of land abutting on or adjacent to such street, alley or alleys especially benefited thereby in such district in proportion to such benefits to pay the cost of such improvement. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-512)

SECTION 6-214: IMPROVEMENT; PROTESTS OR PETITIONS

Before proceeding with any improvement under Section 6-209, the sufficiency of protests or petitions or of the existence of the required facts and conditions shall be determined by the Village Board at a hearing of which notice shall be given to all persons who may become liable for assessments by one publication in each of two successive weeks in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the village. Appeal from the action of the board may be made to the District Court. The sufficiency of the petitions or protests referred to in Sections 6-211 and 6-212 as to the ownership of the property

shall be determined by the record in the office of the county clerk or register of deeds at the time of the adoption of such ordinance. In determining the sufficiency of the petitions or objections, intersections shall be disregarded, and any lot or ground owned by the village shall not be counted for or against such improvement. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-513)

SECTION 6-215: IMPROVEMENTS; SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Assessments for improvements made under the provisions herein shall be made and assessed in the following manner:

A. Such assessments shall be made by the Village Board at a special meeting, by a resolution, taking into account the benefits derived or injuries sustained in consequence of such improvements, and the amount charged against the same, which, with the vote thereon by “yeas” and “nays,” shall be spread at length upon the minutes. Notice of the time of holding such meeting and the purpose for which it is to be held shall be published in a newspaper published or of general circulation in said village at least four weeks before the same shall be held or, in lieu thereof, personal service may be had upon persons owning or occupying property to be assessed.

B. All such assessments shall be known as “special assessments for improvements” and shall be levied and collected as a separate tax, in addition to the taxes for general revenue purposes, and shall be placed on the tax roll for collection, subject to the same penalties and collected in like manner as other village taxes.

C. In the event the property owner is a nonresident of the county in which the property lies, the village shall, before levying any special assessment against that property, send a copy of any notice required by law to be published by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the nonresident property owner, which shall be that address listed on the current tax rolls at the time such required notice was first published.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-524)

SECTION 6-216: IMPROVEMENTS WITHOUT PETITION OR CREATION OF DISTRICT

A. The village may, without petition or creating a street improvement district, grade, curb, gutter, and pave:

1. Any portion of a street otherwise paved so as to make one continuous paved street, but the portion to be so improved shall not exceed two blocks, including intersections, or 1,325 feet, whichever is the lesser;
2. Any unpaved street or alley which intersects a paved street for a distance of not to exceed one block on either side of such paved street; and
3. Any side street or alley within its corporate limits connecting with a major

traffic street for a distance not to exceed one block from such major traffic street.

B. Those improvements may be performed upon any portion of a street or alley or any unpaved street or alley not previously improved to meet or exceed the minimum standards for pavement set by the village for its paved streets.

C. In order to defray the costs and expenses of these improvements, the chairman and Village Board may levy and collect special taxes and assessments or issue paving bonds as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-2003.
(Neb. Rev. Stat. §§18-2001 through 18-2004)

SECTION 6-217: VACATING PUBLIC WAYS

The village shall have power to open, widen, or otherwise improve or vacate any street, avenue, alley, or lane within the limits of the village and also to create, open, and improve any new street, avenue, alley, or lane. All damages sustained by the citizens or by the owners of the property therein shall be ascertained in such manner as shall be provided herein.

A. *Title; All of Street Vacated.* Whenever any street, avenue, alley, or lane is vacated, the same shall revert to the owners of the abutting real estate, one-half on each side thereof, and become a part of such property unless the village reserves title in the ordinance vacating such street or alley. If title is retained by the village, such property may be sold, conveyed, exchanged, or leased upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed in the best interests of the village.

B. *Title; Portion of Street Vacated.* When a portion of a street, avenue, alley, or lane is vacated only on one side of the center thereof, the title to such land shall vest in the owner of the abutting property and become a part of such property unless the village reserves title in the ordinance vacating a portion of such street or alley. If title is retained by the village, such property may be sold, conveyed, exchanged, or leased upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed in the best interests of the village.

C. *Filing of Certified Copy.* When the village vacates all or any portion of a street, avenue, alley, or lane, the village shall, within 30 days after the effective date of the vacation, file a certified copy of the vacating ordinance with the county register of deeds to be indexed against all affected lots.

D. *Conditions.* The title to property vacated pursuant to this section shall be subject to the following:

1. There is reserved to the village the right to maintain, operate, repair, and renew public utilities existing at the time title to the property is vacated there; and
2. There is reserved to the village, any public utilities, and any cable television

systems the right to maintain, repair, renew, and operate water mains, gas mains, pole lines, conduits, electrical transmission lines, sound and signal transmission lines, and other similar services and equipment and appurtenances, including lateral connections or branch lines, above, on, or below the surface of the ground that are existing as valid easements at the time title to the property is vacated for the purposes of serving the general public or the abutting properties and to enter upon the premises to accomplish such purposes at any and all reasonable times.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-558)

Article 3 – Sidewalks

SECTION 6-301: DUTY TO KEEP CLEAN

It shall be unlawful for the occupant of any lot or the owner of any vacant lot within the corporate limits to allow snow, sleet, mud, ice, or other substance to accumulate on the sidewalks or to permit any snow, sleet, ice, mud, or other substance to remain upon said sidewalk. All sidewalks within the business district shall be cleaned within five hours after the cessation of a storm, unless the storm or fall of snow shall have taken place during the night, in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the following day. Sidewalks within the residential areas shall be cleaned within 24 hours after the cessation of the storm. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-557)

SECTION 6-302: CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR BY OWNER; APPLICATION, PERMIT

A. Any person desiring to construct or cause to be constructed any new sidewalk or a partial sidewalk under repair shall do so only as provided herein. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct any sidewalk without first having made application with the village clerk and obtaining a permit. Said owner shall make application in writing for a permit and file such application in the office of the village clerk. The permit shall give a description of the lot or piece of land along which the sidewalk is to be constructed. The maintenance superintendent shall issue the desired permit unless good cause shall appear why said permit should be denied.

B. All sidewalks shall be built and constructed on the established grade or elevation, and if there is no established grade, then on the grade or elevation indicated by the maintenance superintendent. If it is desired to construct the sidewalk at any other than the regularly prescribed location, grade, elevation, and thickness, the superintendent shall submit the application to the Village Board, which shall determine whether the permit should be granted or denied. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or cause to be constructed said sidewalk at any other location, grade, or elevation than so designated by the village.

SECTION 6-303: CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR; ORDERED BY VILLAGE

A. Every owner of any lot or piece of land within the corporate limits shall at all times keep and maintain the sidewalk along and contiguous to said lot, lots, or pieces of land in good and proper repair and in a condition reasonably safe for travel for all travelers thereon. The owner shall be liable for all damages or injury occasioned by reason of the defective or dangerous condition of any sidewalk.

B. The maintenance superintendent may require sidewalks of the village to be repaired and shall issue notice to the owner of any property upon which any such sidewalk in disrepair is located, requiring said owner to make arrangements within 48 hours from receipt of notice to have the sidewalk repaired.

B. Said repairs shall be completed within 21 days after receipt of said notice. All sidewalks shall be constructed or repaired in conformity with such plans, specifications, and materials as may be approved by the Village Board. No special assessment shall be levied against the property unless said owner shall neglect or refuse to repair within the time prescribed; and in the event that such owner fails to repair, the village shall cause the repairs to be made as follows:

1. By publication in one issue of a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in such village and
2. By either (a) causing a written notice to be served upon the occupant in possession of the property involved or (b) to be posted upon such premises ten days prior to the commencement of such construction or repair.

D. If any owner shall fail to construct or repair any sidewalk in front of his or her property within the time and in the manner as directed herein after having received due notice to do so, the chairman and board may cause the sidewalk to be constructed or repaired and may assess the cost thereof against the property.

E. In the event the property owner is a nonresident of the county in which the property lies, the village shall, before levying any special assessment against that property, send a copy of any notice required by law to be published by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the nonresident property owner, which shall be that address listed on the current tax rolls at the time such required notice was first published.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-522)

SECTION 6-304: IMPROVEMENTS; ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION

Assessments for improvements made under the provisions herein shall be made and assessed as provided in Section 6-215 (Improvements; Special Assessments). (Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-524)

SECTION 6-305: CONSTRUCTION BY PETITION; IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; ABUTTING OWNER

A. If the owners of the record title representing more than 60% of the front footage of the properties directly abutting upon the street proposed to be improved with a sidewalk shall sign a petition and present it to the village clerk for filing, petitioning therefor, the Village Board shall by ordinance create a paving or other improvement district, cause such work to be done or such improvement to be made, contract therefor, and levy special assessments on the lots and parcels of land abutting on or adjacent to such streets or alleys specially benefited thereby in such district in proportion to such benefits, except as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§19-2428 to 19-2431, to pay the cost of such improvement. The Village Board may deny the formation of the proposed district when the area has not previously been improved with a water system, sewer sys-

tem, and grading of streets. If the board denies a requested improvement district formation, it shall state the grounds for such denial in a written letter to interested parties.

B. Upon the petition of any property owner who is an abutting owner in fee simple of property subject to assessment for sidewalk improvements, the Village Board may order permanent sidewalks built in accordance with this article upon the owner making, executing, and delivering to the village an agreement to the effect that the petitioning freeholder will pay the engineering service fee and all other incidental construction costs which until paid shall be a perpetual lien upon the real estate along which the owner desires such sidewalk to be constructed and that the petitioner gives and grants to the village the right to assess and levy the costs of such construction against the owner's real estate abutting the sidewalk improvement and promises to pay such costs with interest. The total cost of such improvement shall be levied, allocated, financed, and specially assessed as provided by law.

C. In the event the property owner is a nonresident of the county in which the property lies, the village shall, before levying any special assessment against that property, send a copy of any notice required by law to be published by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the nonresident property owner, which shall be that address listed on the current tax rolls at the time such required notice was first published.

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-510)

Article 4 – Penal Provision

SECTION 6-401: VIOLATION; PENALTY

Any person who shall violate or refuse to comply with the enforcement of any of the provisions of this chapter, set forth at full length herein or incorporated by reference, shall be deemed guilty of an offense and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$500.00 for each offense. A new violation shall be deemed to have been committed every 24 hours of such failure to comply.