

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 15th, 2020, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteeg
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen
 Visitors – 2 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: After review of the minutes from the December 1st, 2020 meeting, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the December 1st, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$80,651.71			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
St Louis County – October 2020 Tax Apportionment	\$74,767.63	FNB-Chisholm Nov. 2020 checking account interest	\$7.02
St Louis County Year-End advance for 2020	\$3,756.73		
Garbage tickets sold	\$375.00		
Snow plowing 2020-2021	\$300.00		
City of Chisholm – Recycle agreement for Canister site	\$1,104.17		
Sale of rusty screen	\$250.00		
Sales tax for rusty screen	\$18.44		
Community Center rent	\$40.00		
Life insurance reimbursed	\$32.72		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$208,283.60
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$135,772.58
Community Center Account	\$40,589.99
Building Project Account	\$4,956.84
COVID -19 account	\$5,101.68
Total	\$394,704.69

Debit Card usage: Staples - \$127.72 minutes sheets and desk calendars, Walmart – \$19.32 for magnetic sheets for the canister site

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski and seconded by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the treasurer’s report as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Transfers completed:

1. From MET to the checking account for the snowblower \$999.00
2. From COVID-19 account to the checking \$5,000.00 for the donation to the Chisholm Food Shelf

Recommended transfers: none

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on December 15th, 2020, and ordered paid in the amount of \$10,527.68. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for December 15th, 2020 (payroll period 11/29 – 12/13/2020), in the amount of \$4,988.15. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report:
 - a. There were some glitches on the website like a broken link for the October 6th, 2020 Agenda. A website scan was done and the broken link was fixed.
 - b. With the Coronavirus surging in our area, the township should make a plan on how to handle employees coming back to work that have tested positive and what the employee needs to have to return to work. The supervisors suggested the employee must have a doctor's note to return to work stating the employee is symptom-free and is no longer contagious.
 - c. The clerk took a Broadband in your community or Intelligent Community self-test on Dec. 3rd in order to see the questions companies will ask about broadband. Balkan scored 43 out of 100. Most communities are in the 75-100 range. The clerk understands this as our area is not high on broadband/internet capabilities.
 - d. Larry Briski's claim was turned into MATTT on Dec. 12th, 2020. Deb Provence, the administrator for MATTT, will offer the claimant some money for the damage and let us know what was accepted.
 - e. The newsletter for Winter 2020 is complete and ready to send to Express Print for copying and folding. The clerk hopes to have the newsletters out around the 21st of December due to the time-sensitive material in the newsletter regarding the filing period for the township election.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. The west routes have been brushed.
 - b. Roads were "grooved" to add traction.
 - c. The tool room was cleaned and tidied.
 - d. The John Deere tractor tire was repaired due to a leak, by Pomp's.
 - e. No Trespassing signs were purchased and placed on Balkan's land, along Vlasich Road.
 - f. The tire on the loader was leaking and was repaired.
 - g. The posting sign at the canister site fell down again. It was rehung and adjusted.
 - h. Sanding was done at the canister site and Long Lake road's intersections.
 - i. The shop employees were authorized to purchase high visibility winter jackets.
 - j. The dump trucks and mower tractor have been pressure washed and cleaned inside.
 - k. Kirk road was brushed.
3. Community Center Report
 - a. Due to the governor's executive order, rentals at the community center have been put on hold indefinitely.
4. Canister Site Report
 - a. The cardboard bins are filling up fast. Four black garbage containers were supplied by Chisholm for overflow of cardboard, in addition to the four green containers. They are all full. The city of Chisholm will dump them when called.
 - b. Newer rugs are needed for the canister site warming shack. Supervisor VerSteeg will check out Aramark in Hibbing for used rubber backed rugs.
 - c. It was suggested that Supervisor Strgar publish an article about proper recycling or look into it.
5. Other Reports

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The 49ers Health and Welfare fund will increase the monthly amount in March 2021 to \$1325 per month per employee. This is a 4.8% increase.
2. RAMS sent Balkan a ballot to elect half of their board of directors. Our supervisors were not interested in voting.
3. St Louis County Fair was asking for donations. The supervisors declined to donate because tax money should not be used to donate to other causes.
4. Ruth, from St Louis County land and minerals called to ask a few questions about Seppala Road. She wanted to know if the Seppala road goes through to Pozar road. Treasurer Kent Fredeen looked up Balkan's road petitions going back 100 years. He found maps and easements on the westerly boundaries, called cartways. In 1997, the prior supervisors voted

to abandon part of the Seppala road that would run through to Pozar road. Currently, the “road” is little more than a four-wheel trail. We believe St Louis county is researching the properties on Seppala road in order to add them to the tax rolls. There are two forty-acre plots along that “road” that have been tax forfeited.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The clerk called the Office of the State Auditor to ask for advice on how to clean up the balances in CTAS. Mark Alborado, from the State auditor’s office, said we could change the beginning balances in the accounts to reflect the correct amounts per our treasurer, with approval from the supervisors in the form of a motion. There aren’t any journal entries to make adjusting entries to fix accounts in CTAS. He mentioned we may have to draw a line in the sand and just start fresh, since our CTAS program dates from 2001. **Supervisor Strgar made a motion to approve changing the beginning balances in CTAS for 2021. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheet has been updated.
2. The contract for 2021 for the Primary Purpose Group to use the community center on Sunday nights has been approved, updated and signed by the supervisors.
3. The Cenex card that the foreman has use of should be kept in the office due to the shop door being open during the day. It can be used at many places not just Cenex. The supervisors suggested we store it in the office in a filing cabinet for safe keeping.
4. Gloris Oikari has recently passed. Gloris prepaid six months of life insurance for METlife into 2021. At \$4.09 per month for six months, a refund should be issued to her son, Ron Oikari, for \$24.54.
5. Supervisor Tarnowski and Clerk Hendrickson attended a conference call with Paul Bunyon’s development manager, Steve Howard, and IRRRB’s Whitney Ridlon on December 10th regarding broadband in our area. The FCC had a reverse auction for support dollars based on speed time. Mr. Howard informed us that the FCC has awarded our area to LTD Broadband. This is one of the hardest areas to serve due to it being so rocky. LTD Broadband has six years to put in effect the infrastructure. However, LTD only has to deliver to 95% of the Group area. The FCC pays about 10% per year of the agreed upon amount awarded to the company. If LTD Broadband doesn’t deliver on their promises for their awarded areas, the bid could go to the next highest bidder in line or pass it off on another reverse auction, which could take upwards of two years to six years. When asked what we can do now, Whitney Ridlon said we could have our community take a survey built by Paul Bunyon and wait on LTD Broadband to get to our area. Supervisor Tarnowski thought offering a drawing to win, say some gift cards for up to 10 people, would compel people to complete the survey. Paul Bunyon would then furnish us with the results of the survey. A special mailing may be used to get the word out about the survey for Paul Bunyon Communications. It was mentioned that Balkan is required to give Century Link a try because they are in our area and have the existing infrastructure in place.
6. The conditional use permit between HibTac and Balkan should be found and paid annually. The fee is around \$25 per year. This conditional use permit grants Balkan the use of the Sunset Pit for crushing rock and class five.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. A special meeting with councilors from the city of Chisholm will be on Thursday, December 17th at 6 PM at the Balkan community center to discuss shared services, such as the canister site and fire and ambulance protection.

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on December 29th, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar

