

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 9th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center and Virtually**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar  
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteeg  
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski  
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson  
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen  
 Visitors – 19 guests in-person, 3 guests virtually

The clerk and treasurer posted the Annual Audit and the bank balances a half hour before the annual meeting started, per Minn. Statute 366.22. The receipts and disbursement registers were provided to the public.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Canvass meeting was called to order by Chairman Strgar at 8:15 pm. Supervisor Strgar asked for a motion to recess the Board of Canvass until after the annual meeting. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

The clerk called the Annual meeting to order at 8:20 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**Announcements:** The clerk asked if there was anyone who wanted to help out at the pancake feeds and if yes, they should talk to Ann Palmquist.

Per Minn. Statute 365.56, subdivision 4, the clerk asked if there were any nominations for a moderator to preside over the meeting. Gerry Palmquist was chosen by the electors to lead the meeting. There were no other nominations. The moderator reviewed the agenda and set the order of business for the meeting. Robert’s Rules of Order applied to conduct the meeting. This is provided for in Minn. Statute 365.56.

The moderator asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the Elector’s Annual Meeting. Larry Nosie motioned to approve the agenda. This was supported by Joe Jance and passed unanimously.

**THE TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:** The treasurer, Kent Fredeen, summarized the Board of Audit for the audience as required by Minn. Statute 366.22. The Board of Audit report was provided in a packet to all of those in attendance and posted on Balkan’s website.

Next, the treasurer went over the bank account balances, provided in the packet. See below.

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$227,131.61</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$134,823.43
Community Center Account	\$41,150.21
Building Project Account	\$4,958.69
COVID -19 account	\$5,103.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$413,167.82</b>

The treasurer, Kent Fredeen, explained the Yearly Summary of money coming into Balkan and when Balkan can expect the money. He asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. No one had any questions.

Next, the treasurer went over the Other Miscellaneous Receipts for 2020. The receipts were delineated with amounts and explained how they are divided into certain accounts. There were no questions from the audience.

The treasurer went on to explain the significant spending in 2020. These were listed and supplied to the audience in the meeting packet for all to follow along. A dump box for the 1979 tandem was bought for \$5,000.00. A snowblower was purchased for the canister site to clear snow from in between the canisters. Culverts were purchased and installed in 2020. Commercial insurance was \$11,299.00 for the year. The canister site was expanded in 2020 and Chisholm paid \$22,000.00 for the expansion, as a shared service to the residents. Balkan donated \$5,000.00 to the Chisholm Food Shelf with money from the CARES Act, in order to keep the money local. A road packer was purchased for \$37,385.00. An excavator and trailer were purchased for \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00, respectively. The total for significant spending in 2020 was \$147,504.83.

The 2020 Monthly Expenses were detailed to the audience by the treasurer. The expenses included officers' wages, canister site wages, medical insurance to past employees and current employees, fire contract costs, mileage and cell phone stipends, phone charges and electric services charges. There weren't any questions about the monthly expenses.

The resolution for the tax levy for 2020 was read by the moderator, Gerry Palmquist. He asked for a motion to keep the levy at the current amount of \$331,500.00, approved for the 2021 year. Linda Salo motioned to accept the levy at \$331,500.00, this was supported by Joe Jance. Treasurer, Kent Fredeen, spoke out to ask the residents to specifically list the five funds the levy should be divided into. The division of the levy, as proposed by Kent Fredeen, would be the General fund, the Road and Bridge fund, the Capital Expenditures fund, the Fire fund and the PERA fund. The break out of the funds and the percentages suggested were provided. Susan Forsberg, on the virtual meeting, stated the levy was not supposed to increase and she sees an increase. It was explained that the electors in 2020 passed the levy at \$331,500.00 for 2021 and the Board of Supervisors did not ask for a levy increase for 2022. This was determined out of order and a non-issue by the moderator. The meeting proceeded with Linda Salo amending her motion, at 8:50 PM, to state she would like the funds itemized per Mr. Fredeen's suggestion. There was some discussion about the order the levy resolution was on the agenda. Jennifer Tarnowski, as a resident, said she would like to see the fire contract approved first. The moderator suggested the levy resolution be tabled until the fire protection and EMS services motion was voted on.

The **Fire and EMS services resolution** was read to the congregation. The moderator asked for a motion to approve the Fire and EMS services resolution. A motion was made by Joe Jance to approve the resolution for Fire and EMS services. This was supported by Gloria Godec. The motion passed.

A **resolution to set the date and time for the 2022 annual meeting** came next. The annual town meeting will be held at the Balkan Community Center, no later than one hour following the closing of the polls for the Township election on the second Tuesday of March 2022. The posting places at the Balkan Township canister site, Balkan Community Center and Lucky Seven in Chisholm will also be approved with this resolution. Frank Sever motioned to approve the 2022 annual meeting place and posting places. This was supported by Joann Zgonc. The motion passed.

The moderator again brought up the **levy resolution** that was previously tabled. Linda Salo motioned to approve the current levy at \$331,500.00 to be itemized and divided into each of five accounts. Joe Jance supported Mrs. Salo's motion. A show of hands was asked for to show all in favor with the motion. It was supported unanimously.

The moderator asked if there was any resolution from the floor. No one voiced any.

Supervisor VerSteeg gave a summary of the Road Report that also lists the proposed projects for 2021. Linda Sutton asked if Balkan can put some gravel on Baich Road. It was explained that road repair and maintenance will be done when gravel can be extracted, now it is currently frozen and unattainable. Supervisor VerSteeg mentioned the board is looking into possibly crushing rock this year, as we have about half of what was crushed in 2019 remaining. It was stated by Jon White that Balkan will not completely deplete our supply of class five.

Frank Sever asked if Balkan had any plans about buying a loader. The supervisors are looking in to financing and any good deals they could find.

Laurel Fredeen asked for an update on the proposed boat landing fix on Centa Road. Balkan is looking at getting some concrete planks from the DNR in Tower, MN. The board is still working on the issue.

A motion was asked for by the moderator to adjourn the meeting of electors at 9:04 PM. Linda Salo moved to adjourn the meeting. This was supported by Jon White. Motion passed.

The Board of Canvass was reconvened with a motion by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg. Vice-chair Tarnowski stated "After receiving the count of votes, the results of the election are:

Supervisor (3-year term): Brad Strgar received 52 out of 81 votes. Garth Wilson received 29 votes out of 81 votes. Brad Strgar triumphed.

Treasurer (2-year term): Kent Fredeen received 74 votes out of 81. Gail Nosie received one vote. Gail Radotich received one vote. There were 5 undervotes (where no selection was made on the ballot.). Kent Fredeen triumphed.

**Thank you, election judges, for all of your hard work and dedication to the Township election!**

Vice-Chair Tarnowski moved to approve the newly elected officials. This motion was supported by Brad Strgar.

Supervisor Tarnowski moved to adjourn the Board of Canvas at 9:07 PM. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Moderator) Gerry Palmquist

