

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**March 11th, 2021, 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 – 3 guests

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** After review of the minutes from the board meeting on February 23rd, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the February 23rd, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Kent Fredeen

<b>Receipts: \$32,862.62</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>	
St Louis Co. – 2020 MET (1 <sup>st</sup> Stipend)	\$31,318.00	FNB-C MET Feb. 2021 Interest	\$15.63
City of Chisholm – Recycle agreement	\$1,300.00	FNB-C Community Center Feb. 2021 Interest	\$4.71
Community Center Rent	\$215.00	FNB-C Capital Expenditures Feb. 2021 Interest	\$0.57
		FNB-C COVID-19 Feb. 2021 Interest	\$0.59
		FNB-C Checking account Feb. 2021 Interest	\$8.12

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$212,808.02</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>\$398,844.23</b>

**Voided checks: #62100 for \$102.51 O'Reilly's overpayment returned uncashed, #62126 for \$112.00 R.C. Fabricators**

**Debit Card usage: \$91.11 Staples for paper and ink**

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

**Transfers completed: \$1,000.00 from MET to the checking for the Summer Rec. Program**

**Recommended transfers: Transfer \$31,318.00 from Checking into the MET fund. A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to transfer from the checking to the MET fund \$31,318.00. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed. Transfer \$375.00 from the checking to the community center fund for Feb. 2021 community center rent. Supervisor Tarnowski motioned to approve a transfer from the checking account to the community center account for February 2021 rent. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.**

Supervisor Tarnowski suggested the treasurer, Kent Fredeen, look through Balkan's expenses for 2020 to determine if some of the expenses could be paid for with the MET money. The treasurer was asked to make a recommendation of what can be transferred from the MET fund to the Capital Expenditures fund. The MET fund money can be used for infrastructure and intercommunity projects, but no rolling equipment.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on March 11th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$9,232.08. Motion carried unanimously. *Correction to the bills and the checking account: \$43.23 was originally missed to PERA on the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 bills. The corrected amount of bills should be \$9,275.31.*

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for March 11th, 2021 (payroll period February 21<sup>st</sup> – March 6th, 2021), in the amount of \$5,180.29. Motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS:**

1. Clerks Report:
  - a. The election judges did an excellent job with the election. Thank you!
  - b. The clerk will be working on sending in the financial reports to the office of the state auditor by March 31<sup>st</sup>, the newsletter for Spring 2021 and the first quarter 941's to file in April.
2. Shop & Road Report:
  - a. The roads, canister site and the community center were plowed for snow Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - b. The Sawmill road, Salonen road, Baich road and Korpi road were brush cut.
  - c. The septic lines at the garage were found frozen when the alarm light for the tank lit up on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The employees diagnosed the problem and got permission to have the tank pumped.
  - d. A sign was installed on the garage back door stating EMPLOYEES ONLY.
  - e. Welding and fabricating were done on the newer truck box purchased in 2020. Employees cut out the holes for the strobe lights that will be installed. The truck box is ready for sanding and painting when the temperatures warm up.
  - f. The tool crib is being organized.
  - g. The canister site was sanded on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - h. Limbs and branches from brush cutting were "winged" out to the ditches to prepare for Spring.
  - i. Snowbanks were "winged" out to push the snow into the ditches on the west side of Balkan to prepare for thawing.
  - j. Jeff Minter's mailbox was found on Salo Road following a snow plowing. Mr. Minter took care of replacing the mailbox. He called Supervisor Strgar to inform him.

3. Community Center Report
  - a. Ann Palmquist suggested a community bonfire in early June. Kent Fredeen offered a fire ring for the event, Supervisor Tarnowski offered fire bricks for the occasion.
4. Canister Site Report
  - a. A nice message was put on the Chisholm's neighborhood watch's Facebook page about Dave Pajunen being very kind and helpful to folks at the canister site on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
5. Other Reports

**CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- a. Jeff Hendrickson asked about the purchase of a loader. The supervisors are looking at options to replace the current loader before it ends its useful life. It was said that it doesn't pay to put new tires on the old loader. Financing options are being planned.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1.
  - a. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Laurel Fredeen called to ask if Balkan will put better strobe lights on some of the township's vehicles. The supervisors discussed this and thought that the graders would be the place to start. They will look into costs for better strobe lights. It was mentioned that the strobe lights could cost as much as \$300-\$900 each.
  - b. Mrs. Fredeen asked if Balkan will fix the fence in back of the garage to look better. This is being done by the full-time employees.
  - c. Also, on the list Mrs. Fredeen called with was to fix up the cupola from the old school/community center. The cupola is in major disrepair and may not be salvageable. However, the copper (now green) top could be placed on the top of a gazebo (that needs to be made for it) to be preserved and enjoyed. The supervisors will look into this idea. Mr. Fredeen will provide a picture of a community gazebo that utilized their old community center cupola, so that the supervisors can see Mrs. Fredeen's vision.
  - d. Balkan should check the batteries and set up a demonstration for the AED machines. This was previously done at a pancake feed. This could be performed for the public at an event in the future.
2. A Chisholm resident called the office on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to ask if Balkan can add some gravel to the canister site due to the excessive mud on the site. The mud is very slippery. Currently, there is little Balkan can do until the piles of gravel and class five can be accessed, they are still frozen.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The water/oil separator at the garage needs to be addressed. After discussion, it was decided the supervisors will call Charlie Leustek for an estimate and advice.
2. The community center pavilion's septic lines are broken and need to be dug up and replaced.
3. Future COVID-19 relief money is coming in 2021. Balkan will need to plan on how that money should be spent to benefit our community. Some suggestions include help with mortgages, microloans, and a filtration system for the community center. It is not known yet how much money Balkan will receive.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The work priority sheet has been updated.
2. Supervisor Tarnowski has been in contact with Tammy Nevalainen, the recreation director for Chisholm, about what activities are available for residents. Tammy sent over a sign-up for youth soccer and an ad we can post to Facebook or Balkan's website advertising for summer help. Some ideas for inclusion with Chisholm could be building a baseball diamond for games at the community center or a soccer field. Other ideas brought up were a cribbage tournament night, game night, movie night on an outdoor screen, a bonfire, a coffee social and a book club. Residents seem to be more interested in activities for their children rather than adult activities.

3. Jon White, foreman, asked about a cell phone stipend for Steve Johnson, employee. Jon currently receives a \$40 stipend monthly to use his personal cell phone for work. The supervisors suggested Balkan split the current stipend to \$20 each for the full-time employees. This will be addressed at the reorganization meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
4. Steve Johnson's one year anniversary will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. His employee review will be scheduled on April 20<sup>th</sup> before a regular board meeting at 5:15 PM.
5. The LBAE meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM -7 PM was discussed. Balkan will hold this meeting at the community center, in person.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

1. Employee review for Jon White's one year anniversary on March 16h, 2021 at the community center at 6 PM.
2. Short courses will be offered virtually again this year, due to COVID-19.

**NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on March 23rd, 2021.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Board Chair) Brad Strgar