

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 18th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteeg
 Deputy Treasurer – Gail Radotich
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 6 guests
 Absent: Treasurer - Kent Fredeen

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on May 4th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the May 4th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Gail Radotich

Receipts: \$2,119.81			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
City of Chisholm Canister agreement	\$ 1,300.00	FNB-C April 2021 checking acct Interest	\$ 6.65
Dump tickets sold	\$ 375.00		
Community Center Rent	\$ 340.00		
MET life insurance reimbursed	\$ 98.16		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$99,109.01
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$166,181.88
Community Center Account	\$43,640.86
Building Project Account	\$4,959.97
COVID -19 account	\$5,105.20
Total	\$318,996.92

Voided checks: Check numbers: 62270

Debit Card usage: none

Supervisor Tarnowski moved to approve the treasurer’s report as read. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg. Motion carried unanimously.

Transfers completed: From checking to the Community Center Money Market acct. for March Community Center rent of \$1,215.00, April Community Center rent of \$780.00, and Pancake feed net proceeds of \$109.93, totaling \$2,104.93.

Recommended transfers: none

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on May 18th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$9,867.53. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for May 18th, 2021 (payroll period May 2nd – May 15th, 2021), in the amount of \$9,648.60. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson

- a. The clerk has been researching grant opportunities from the MPCA, Environmental Assistance from the EPA, and the IRRRB. The clerk called Chris Ismil, from IRRRB, to ask if he knows of any grants available to help Balkan with the oil/water separator project. He will get back to the clerk about open grants.
- b. The phone didn't work at the community center on May 7th, 2021. The clerk called Century Link to request a fix. The problem was found and the community center has a phone to use. The clerk received a Century Link bill with additional charges on it and called about it. The charges were taken off. If Balkan sees any additional charges on the next bill, we will have to report that to get the charges removed.
- c. Supervisor Strgar and the clerk will be working together to put in place Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals in the shop. The clerk found a website that can help find the sheets for the binder.

2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. The foreman stated that Balkan is out of 'picks' for the graders. The supervisors will get quotes and delivery details from vendors. The clerk will send the supervisors the historical costs in CTAS. This issue has been tabled until the next meeting.
- b. The lawn mowers and trimmer were serviced. The oil was changed, decks cleaned, blades sharpened, and batteries checked.
- c. Vlasich, White, and Vitali roads were graded May 3rd, 2021.
- d. A road inspection was done on May 3rd. Four loads of class five were hauled to White Road, six loads to Vitali Road.
- e. The blacktop bump on Nettle Road was dug out and the road was lifted. Two layers of asphalt was removed from the culvert area. Class five was hauled in to bolster the low area.
- f. Baich, Cooper, Centa, Laitala, and Salo roads were graded May 5th, 2021.
- g. The septic line at the pavilion was repaired May 6th, 2021.
- h. The toilet's wax ring was replaced in the men's room at the community center. The concrete at the pavilion was power washed May 7th, 2021.
- i. Baich, Long Lake, Cooper, Pozar and Franti roads were graded May 10th, 2021.
- j. The back hoe was retrieved from the community center after the septic job was completed.
- k. Long Lake Road and Countryside Lane was graded May 11th, 2021.
- l. After a road inspection May 11th, Long Lake Road was "turned" over, blended, graded and packed hoping to get rid of the "sugar sand" that has been pushed up.
- m. Haiskanen, Sever and Cemetery roads were graded May 12th, 2021.
- n. The rest of the west route was graded May 13th – May 14th, 2021.

3. Community Center Report
 - a. The AED machines need their batteries changed, new pads ordered, and possible calibration.
4. Canister Site Report
 - a. There was a fire at the canister site on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021. G-men came to load the garbage in their truck, after the second bin's contents was loaded on the vehicle, he compacted the load, then the driver noticed smoke coming from the back. He took out his fire extinguisher and used it. It wasn't enough, so the driver emptied the contents of his load on the canister site's ground, in order to save his truck. The foreman called the fire department to put out the fire. It was later found that an abundance of aerosol cans was to blame for the fire. People should drill a hole in their aerosol cans before bringing them to the site for disposal.
5. Other Reports

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. The dust from the roads is a problem. It was asked if Balkan can get chloride sooner to put on the roads for dust control. Since Balkan piggybacks off of St Louis County's bid for chloride, Balkan has to wait until after St Louis County has finished their dust control. This is usually late June to early July.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Phone service has been restored to the community center.
2. A mineral hearing on unmined iron ore assessment for taxation will be put on by the Minnesota Department of Revenue soon.
3. The oil/water separator quote from Leustek was sent to Chris Ismil, IRRRB, who will look for grant opportunities to pay for this project.
4. A letter asking for a donation to the Cook Annual Timber Days was sent to Balkan on May 11th, 2021. The board chose not to donate this year.
5. Angela Schwenk sent Supervisor Strgar the Hibbing Taconite Gravel license for 2021 to sign and email back to her. Balkan still has to pay the \$25 to Hibbing Taconite for 2021 fees.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The operators asked for 10-hour days starting May 31st lasting until September 2nd, 2021. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to approve the 10-hour day schedule with Steve working Tuesday through Fridays and Jon working Monday through Thursdays, therefore having five days of coverage for the township. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
2. Supervisor Strgar will fill out the conditional use permit for Sunset pit. He will call Jesse Suihkonen at Ulland to see if Balkan will be able to get in on crushing gravel this year.
3. Supervisor VerSteege found a caterer for the potential Pig Roast scheduled for July 31st, 2021. WOW Catering, out of Hibbing, is a local vendor and Balkan would like to support local businesses. Balkan will need a head-count or sign-up sheet to be able to order the catering. Jon will get more information to Supervisor Tarnowski by next meeting. It was suggested Balkan have a beer vendor there also. More specifics are needed to plan for this addition.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheet has been updated to include taking a leaning tree on Latick road down, safely. Supervisor VerSteege will stop at John Chuk's house to look at his culvert and see what repair is needed.
2. The Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust sent Balkan a control summary from the EXL Risk Assessors valuations on Balkan's properties. It is due back to MATIT by July 5th, 2021. The supervisors will look it over and make decisions before the due date.

3. Toilet paper rolls have been flushed down the toilet at the pavilion. The idea of furnishing the Saddle Club with a porta-potty was suggested. The supervisors will talk with Karen Pender, the head of the Balkan Saddle Club, about the issue.
4. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar approving Supervisor Tarnowski to apply for a Congressional Directed Spending grant for broadband and an oil/water separator for the garage, and garage and office improvements. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed. The application is due May 21st, 2021.**
5. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Tarnowski, to use \$200 out of petty cash for pancake feed seed money for every pancake feed in 2021. This passed unanimously.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Pancake breakfast at the community center May 22nd, 2021
2. Bonfire at the community center – June 5th at 7 pm.
3. SLC's Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Balkan site July 7th, 2021

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on June 1st, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar