

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 13th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteeg
 Treasurer - Kent Fredeen
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 3 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 board meeting on June 29th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the June 29th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$68,946.43			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
St Louis County – May 2021 Tax apportionment– 30%	\$54,161.13	FNB-C MET June 2021 interest	\$23.91
St Louis County – Federal PILT 2021	\$13,375.38	FNB-C Community Center June 2021 interest	\$6.29
Community Center Rent	\$675.00	FNB-C Cap. Exp. June 2021 interest	\$0.71
Community Center garbage fees	\$50.00	FNB-C COVID-19 June 2021 interest	\$0.73
Canister site coupons sold	\$375.00	FNB-C checking account June 2021 interest	\$5.56
MN Power Interior lights rebate	\$240.00		
Life insurance reimbursed	\$32.72		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$240,979.09
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$166,224.91
Community Center Account	\$44,940.25
Building Project Account	\$4,961.25
COVID -19 account	\$5,106.52
Total	\$462,212.02

Debit Card usage: Staples \$36.37 for thermal adding machine tape

Supervisor Tarnowski moved to approve the treasurer's report as read. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg. Motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Tarnowski asked the treasurer if this is the high point for income for 2021. The treasurer said there is still more money coming in this year: the disparity reduction aid will come in September, the taconite municipal aid, the DNR PILT, and the tax apportionment for October is still to come in this year.

Transfers completed: \$740.00 from checking to the community center account for June 2021 community center rent. \$342.48 from checking to the community center account for 6/26/21 net pancake feed profit.

Recommended transfers: none

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on July 13th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$13,182.39. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for July 13th, 2021 (payroll period June 27th – July 10th, 2021), in the amount of \$5,508.60. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk sent out the newsletter for printing on July 6th, 2021. The newsletters were mailed on Friday, July 9th, 2021.
 - b. The quarterly payroll reports were finalized for the 2nd quarter of 2021 on July 13th, 2021.
 - c. The clerk picked up some face paint and balloons for the National Night Out. The clerk did not find any water balloons for sale. She will check Amazon for water balloons or reusable cotton water balls.
 - d. The clerk, Supervisor Tarnowski, Shari Fisher and Whitney Ridlon, from IRRRB, met at Valentini's on July 12th, 2021 to discuss broadband. Supervisor Tarnowski put together a map of existing fiber laid in Balkan. Balkan will need to finalize the map of existing broadband fiber, increase our survey results with Paul Bunyon, plan on spending 1-15% of the cost of the project, and reach out to the St Louis County commissioners to ask for funding to match IRRRB for Balkan's broadband project. Once these preliminaries are done, Balkan can set up a meeting with Paul Bunyon to get a cost estimate to get the project moving forward.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. The calcium chloride will be sprayed July 14th, 2021 for dust control.
 - b. A new ram is needed for the Tiger mower. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor Tarnowski to purchase a ram for the mower for \$325.00 from Radko. This was passed unanimously.**
 - c. **A motion was made to purchase a lower mirror bracket assembly for the driver side of the 2018 International dump truck.** Currently, the mirror is being held on by black tape.
 - d. The clerk was authorized by Supervisor Strgar to write a letter to Jesse Suihkonen, Ulland Construction, to order 20,000 tons of gravel to be crushed and 250 yards of one-and-a-half-inch crushed rock.
3. Community Center Report

- a. Supervisor Tarnowski called Green Again to set up a time to spray for weeds. There was no response. She will try again.
- 4. Canister Site Report
 - a. Dave Pajunen asked for another canister from St Louis County to put by the blue bins. Supervisor Strgar will call Dave Fink to ask about getting an additional canister. Maybe they will exchange a new canister for our damaged one.
 - b. Tires will be picked up at the end of July, to clear out that area.
 - c. Joleen Hendrickson applied for the canister site attendant position. **A motion was made to hire Joleen Hendrickson by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar and passed unanimously. She will start training Wednesday, July 28th, 2021.**
- 5. Other Reports:
 - a. Supervisor Strgar contacted Anita Provinzino regarding the proposed boat landing for Long Lake on North Long Lake Road. She is interested in finding out more about the project. There is DNR funding available for acquisitions and help with technical support.
 - b. The clerk noticed the Met Life hasn't been paid by Jonelle Kallio for 2021. She was asked to write a letter asking if Jonelle was still interested in the life insurance.
 - c. It was recently discovered that Balkan did not receive the 2020 Federal Payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) money because the previous clerk did not fill out and turn in the form to St Louis County. The treasurer contacted St Louis County Auditor's office to ask if there was any recourse to getting the money. St Louis County has already disbursed the amounts for 2020, in 2020, and will not be able to reimburse that money.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. A township legal seminar will be offered on October 16th, 2021 in Cotton, MN by Couri & Ruppe, PLLP. This will be a free seminar.
- 2. The Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up by the 49ers union to reflect the reorganization of Balkan's Road and bridge department. The clerk will send the signed copy to Dan Manick for his signature.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The compensation resolution was ratified to increase the canister site attendant's pay to reflect \$1.50 increase in incentive pay. Currently, the canister site attendants' pay is at \$15.00 per hour. The chairman and clerk signed the resolution.
- 2. Calcium chloride is being sprayed on the west side of Balkan on July 14th, 2021. The clerk will call Larry Nosie, who was interested in spraying 200 feet of his driveway, to ask him if he still wants a chloride application and to tell him the price Balkan can offer it to him at.
- 3. Katie Betters brought a claim in for the damage to her well top. Balkan will pay this out directly with a waiver of liability enclosed with the check. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to reimburse Katie Betters for her well damage. This motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The work priority sheet may be replaced by Supervisor VerSteeg's weekly list of duties for the equipment operators.
- 2. The closet at the community center has miscellaneous pancake feed items that belong to the Saddle Club. Supervisor Strgar talked with Karen Pender about the items. She said she will donate the items in question to Balkan except the plastic tote.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- 1. July 31st – Pancake Breakfast 830a-11a

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on July 27th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Stgar