

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 29th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteege
 Treasurer - Kent Fredeen
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 5 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 15th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege to approve the June 15th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$129,881.81		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
St Louis County – May 2021 Tax apportionment advance – 70%	\$126,376.00	
City of Chisholm – Canister site agreement	\$1,300.00	
Canister site tickets sold	\$800.00	
Community Center Rent	\$640.00	
Community Center Garbage fee	\$100.00	
Community Center deposit to be returned	\$300.00	
Pancake feed proceeds	\$365.81	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$191,348.61
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$166,201.00
Community Center Account	\$43,851.48
Building Project Account	\$4,960.54
COVID -19 account	\$5,105.79
Total	\$411,467.42

Debit Card usage: \$255.54 for a minute’s book that was returned – a credit will be issued, \$172.37 for the correct minute’s book = \$427.91 in debit purchases

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

Transfers completed: none

Recommended transfers: \$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. Supervisor Strgar moved to approve the transfer of \$740.00 from checking to the community center account and \$342.48 from checking to the community center account. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteege and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to approve the bills for payment on June 29th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$7,534.62. Motion carried unanimously. Check #62366 will be voided in the amount of \$129.05, as this is a duplicate payment.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for June 29th, 2021 (payroll period June 13th – June 26th, 2021), in the amount of \$10,185.20. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk applied for the American Rescue Plan funds on June 24th, 2021, with SAM.gov and Minnesota Management and Budget. Balkan should be getting the funds in July. The first report is due to the U.S. Treasury October 31st, 2021.
 - b. The newsletter is almost ready. Some additions will be made to the newsletter. The clerk asked if the supervisors wished to add an article to the newsletter.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. The Tiger mower needs a complete cylinder replaced. **Supervisor VerSteeg motioned to purchase a complete cylinder, not to exceed \$1,000.00, for the Tiger mower. This was supported by Supervisor Strgar and passed unanimously.**
 - b. Adaptors were built back to glad hands/quick couplers on the equipment trailer. The tool box cover was painted. A new thermostat and hoses were installed on the excavator on June 14th, 2021.
 - c. John Chuk's culvert was installed on June 15th.
 - d. Four six-yard loads of class five were hauled to Cooper Road for a lift and fix on June 15th. More class five was hauled to build up the stock pile behind the garage.
 - e. The cupola from the old community center was moved to the pit behind the garage, due to recent vandalism.
 - f. The loader's brakes were examined on June 17th. The steamer was unloaded from the 1979 pickup and brakes were ordered for the loader.
 - g. The excavator wasn't working properly. It was hauled from Cooper Road to the shop to check out the radiator. The radiator was removed.
 - h. The Case Loader was brought to Sunset Pit on June 18th.
 - i. The recycling containers at the canister site were moved away from the fence on June 21st.
 - j. Two loads of class five were hauled to Cemetery Road. The grader was brought out to grade the newly laid class five and pack it.
 - k. A leaning tree on Latick Road, west of Baich, was removed, on June 21st.
 - l. The pick blades were removed from one grader and new cutting edges were installed on June 22nd.
 - m. A new fuel transfer pump was installed in the Ford dump truck on June 22nd. It now runs better than before.
 - n. Baich, Hyvarinen, Briski and Salonen roads were graded June 23rd.
 - o. Vlasich and Laitala roads were graded on June 23rd.
 - p. A large leaning tree was removed from Colombe Road on June 24th, per a resident's request.
 - q. Pozar road was graded June 25th.
 - r. Haiskanen and Long Lake Roads were graded June 25th.
3. Community Center Report
 - a. Supervisor Tarnowski suggested Balkan spray the weeds at the community center again this year. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to contact Green Again to spray for weeds. This was supported by Supervisor Strgar and passed unanimously.**
4. Canister Site Report
 - a. A current canister site attendant will start a new job in August and only be available to work on Saturdays twice per month. Balkan needs to plan on hiring a replacement attendant. Due to the lack of applications received for the canister site attendant position, **Supervisor Tarnowski motioned to increase the wages of the canister site attendants by \$1.50 per hour incentive pay, effective on the next payroll (June 27th – July 10th, 2021). This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.** The clerk will post the job opening at the Chisholm Senior center.
 - b. Holmes' recycling has a contract with St Louis County to pick up and remove Balkan's metal pile. They bring an excavator to load their truck with. This excavator is wrecking the bottom of the container in Balkan's yard. It was suggested that a steel plate be put on the bottom of the container, if available.
 - c. Supervisor Tarnowski mentioned the canister site is over budget due to increased coverage.

5. Other Reports
 - a. Supervisor Tarnowski asked if Balkan ever received a bill for the labor and installation of the township road signs installed in early spring from St Louis County. Not yet.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. Ann Palmquist suggested a clean-up of the old trophies and frames in the community center closet. Dave Pajunen volunteered to clean up and take stock of the closet and possibly repurpose the trophies and out of date items in the closet.
2. Laurel Fredeen stated that Balkan needs a sign for the community center to announce Balkan's functions, in particular, the elections. If no sign is approved, she suggested a pickle ball court or basketball hoop be installed for Balkan kids at the community center.
3. Shari Fisher asked for an update on broadband. Supervisor Tarnowski said she is frustrated with the information she has been given by the Century Link provider who was discouraging. She will call Whitney Ridlon, IRRRB-Broadband, to ask for more guidance and schedule a face-to-face meeting in July.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Balkan has the certificates of liability insurance for three truck haulers. The clerk will send out trucking agreements to the three haulers. It should take two days of hauling materials to do road lifts and repair roads.
2. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to contract for gravel for the approximate cost of \$12,000.00. This motion passed unanimously.**
3. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve spending \$1,000.00 from the community center account for the National Night Out on August 3rd, 2021. This motion passed unanimously.**
4. The clerk and Supervisor VerSteeg attended a MN Unemployment hearing regarding a past employee. The decision to issue unemployment benefits to the past employee depends on the judge. She will make a determination and mail us the results.
5. **A motion for buying a radiator for the excavator not to exceed \$1,000.00, was made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor Tarnowski. The motion passed unanimously.**
6. Calcium chloride will be sprayed the first week of July by Edwards Oil. The clerk will call them and find out if July 6th, 2021 would be a good day to spray. Road lifts are being planned for Franti and Johnson Roads on the east side of Balkan. The east side of Balkan will be sprayed at a later date in July 2021.
7. Supervisor Tarnowski asked about the status of the oil/water separator project. Balkan still needs another estimate and a drawing of the project with specifics. Someone suggested asking Robert Radotich to bid the project for the second estimate needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheet has been updated.
2. Bocce balls were found on the lawn at the community center. This is a hazard when cutting grass. It was determined the bocce balls were on the lawn from a pavilion rental the weekend before.
3. According to the 49ers Union Rep., Dan Manick, two employees must be present when operating a chainsaw, for safety reasons. Supervisor Strgar called the Union rep. to ask about this.
4. Dan Manick, 49ers Union Rep., sent an email asking if Balkan would like the him to draw up a memorandum of understanding about the changes to the policy at Balkan. It is simply an amendment to the 49ers contract. The clerk will email Mr. Manick to ask him to draw it up and send it to the supervisors for approval.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Pancake breakfast – June 26th, 2021 830am to 11am
2. SLC's Household Hazardous Waste collection at the Balkan site July 7th, 2021
3. July 31st – Pancake Breakfast 830a-11a

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on July 13th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar