

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 10th, 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 – 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 July 27th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege to approve the July 27th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$3,020.00			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Gravel Sold	\$720.00	FNB-C – MET July 2021 interest	\$19.13
Chisholm Canister site agreement	\$1,300.00	FNB-C – Comm. Center July 2021 interest	\$5.11
Pancake feed proceeds of 7/31/21	\$588.82	FNB-C – Cap. Exp. July 2021 interest	\$0.57
Garbage coupons sold	\$375.00	FNB-C – COVID-19/American Rescue Plan July 2021 interest	\$0.59
		FNB-C – checking acct July 2021 interest	\$10.78

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$198,447.50
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$166,244.04
Community Center Account	\$44,945.36
Building Project Account	\$4,961.82
COVID -19 account	\$43,808.25
Total	\$458,406.97

Debit Card usage: \$5.37 National Night Out Expenses

Voided checks: #62270 for \$966.08, #62366 for \$129.05

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

Transfers completed: \$43,808.25 was transferred from checking to the COVID-19, \$5,107.11 was transferred from the COVID-19 account to the checking account.

Recommended transfers:

1. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer for \$883.72 from the community center acct to the General account for National Night Out 2021.
2. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer for \$600.00 from the community center account to the general account for a rental fee returned to customer.
3. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer for \$725.00 from the general account to the community center account for July 2021 community center rent.
4. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer for \$558.40 from the general account to the community center account for pancake feed (7/31/21) proceeds.

The net transfer will be \$200.32 from the community center account to the general fund checking. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to approve the transfer of \$200.32 from the community center account to the general fund. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.**

- The treasurer provided a costing sheet for the National Night Out 2021. The total cost of the NNO was \$883.72.
- The treasurer provided an accounting of the pancake feed proceeds from July 31st, 2021 pancake feed. The net profit was \$558.40.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on August 10th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$13,303.32. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for August 10th, 2021 (payroll period July 25th – August 7th, 2021), in the amount of \$6,561.20. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk attended a webinar offered through St Louis County on July 29th, 2021 regarding broadband. It laid out the differences in internet services. Bill Coleman from the Blandin Foundation is willing to be a broadband resource for any entity needing his help with broadband.
 - b. The leftover water from the National Night Out 2021 was brought to the garage and canister site to supply our employees. Thanks to all who helped make the National Night Out a success!
 - c. Thank You's were sent out to all National Night Out donators on August 4th, 2021.
 - d. Four residents filled out the broadband surveys at the July 31st pancake feed. The clerk transferred those responses to the Paul Bunyan survey for Balkan.
 - e. AED Signs were recommended to be placed over the AED machine by the Chisholm ambulance. The signs have been put up over the AED machines.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. A replacement culvert is needed for Salo Road. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor Strgar to order a new culvert not to exceed \$2,500.00. This motion passed unanimously.**

- b. On July 27th, class five was hauled to Laitala road to finish topping off the spots that were dug out. Other large rocks were dug out in three different spots on Laitala Road. Grading was done on Laitala road to even out the class five.
 - c. On July 28th, the excavator was jump started on Laitala Road in order to bring it back to the garage for repairs. The alternator was tested and then taken to John Alsaker at the Maine Alternator shop.
 - d. Mattresses were picked up along Vlasich road.
 - e. A tree was removed from Sever Road.
 - f. The new cylinder was installed on the brusher/mower on July 28th. The new cylinder leaked oil; this was repaired.
 - g. The ditching spoon was designed and ready to start fabricating on July 29th.
 - h. Vlasich and Laitala Roads were mowed and brushed on July 29th.
 - i. The new alternator for the excavator was installed August 3rd. It was not charging, the connections were all cleaned, the wire at the end of the harness was replaced. The alternator is now charging.
 - j. The culvert was brought to Laitala Road on August 4th. The excavator was hauled to Laitala road for culvert installation planned for August 5th. The second existing culvert was marked for locating underground wires. The loader was retrieved from Colombe Pit.
 - k. August 5th, Laitala road was excavated and class five was hauled for the culvert installation.
 - l. Colombe road, Franti road, and Laitala roads were graded on August 5th.
 - m. The garage yard mower did not start on Thursday August 5th. It was pulled into the garage for fixing.
 - n. A plan for the chloride application was made on August 6th.
 - o. Graded Laitala, Pozar and Johnson Roads on August 6th.
 - p. The Ford Dump truck's power steering hose went out on August 6th. It was repaired.
 - q. Calcium chloride to be applied to east Balkan roads on Tuesday, August 10th, 2021.
3. Community Center Report
- a. More sand is needed on the playground. Colombe pit has some sugar-sand that can be brought to the community center playground.
 - b. Green Again Company was called to provide weed cessation for the community center grounds. They have not responded. We will wait until next year.
 - c. Dave Pajunen asked if he could get two basketball hoops donated, could Balkan pick up and remove the basketball hoops and install them at the community center. The board of supervisors agreed to allow the basketball hoops to be uninstalled at the current site, brought to Balkan and reinstalled at the community center, if donated.
 - d. Supervisor Tarnowski suggested putting some rummage sale signs and addresses at the community center for the community-wide rummage sales.
 - e. The pancake breakfasts include sausage from Koshar's Sausage Kitchen in Gilbert, MN. Many people like Koshar's sausage. It was suggested Balkan put a sign up at the pancake feeds to advertise Koshar's sausage.
4. Canister Site Report
- a. The recyclable cardboard is currently being compiled in big black round containers provided and emptied by the City of Chisholm. Chisholm's Public Works Director said they are picking up the cardboard too often. Supervisor VerSteeg gave the canister site workers a sheet they can record their calls to Chisholm regarding emptying the containers, in order to track pickups and emptying.
5. Other Reports:

- a. Future projects for the Road and Bridge employees: Finish ditching on Long Lake Road, the Balkan driveway has low spots – dig into the “sock” and open it to let the holding water down to the ditch., the Balkan garage yard needs landscaping, brushing of ditches, 3rd Street culvert project in Chisholm, finish Franti and Johnson Road lifts.
- b. Supervisor Tarnowski called St Louis County Planning and Zoning to ask questions some residents called Balkan about. Since Balkan does not issue ordinances because it can’t enforce them, St Louis County has tools to fight blight. A letter to the blight owner saying he/she is violating a county ordinance by having more than five unlicensed vehicles in public view. A formal complaint must be made with a parcel number and the owner listed.
- c. The clerk found an article in the Mesabi Tribune regarding DNR grant funding for installing a public access at the proposed site on North Long Lake Road. It is a 1:1 match, but in-kind services can be substituted for the match. The grant offers \$2,500 to \$10,000 to make a public access. More discussion is needed for this project at this time.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. On August 4th, 2021 Balkan received an email from the Superintendent of Vaughan-Steffenrudd elementary school, regarding the “dumping” on 9 ½ Street in Chisholm. They removed various items from the satellite tower area. They are looking into putting up a “no dumping” sign at the satellite tower. Richard Newbauer, concerned citizen, was notified.
2. MN DOT sent out a survey for the Highway 73 corridor project asking for resident opinions. The clerk filled out the survey on line. This survey is more for Chisholm residents and the impact of the project on businesses in Chisholm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Buhl Wellhead Protection Plan was sent to Balkan for review and comments. Supervisor Tarnowski viewed the CD that was included with the plan. The Wellhead Protection Plan covers the likelihood of contamination and the plans in place to mitigate any contamination.
2. Approximately 102 people attended the Balkan National Night Out on August 3rd, 2021. A picture was put in the paper on August 4th and another article will be on the next Wednesday after the event.
3. Left over food from the National Night Out was donated to the Back Pack Program offered by the United Way, for distribution to kids in need.
4. Gravel crushing is done at the Sunset Pit. The crushed rock will be brought to the Balkan Pit.
5. Work is still being done to Laitala Road. Two culverts were replaced and some soft spots in the road were fixed.
6. The playground equipment needs some repairs. Supervisor Tarnowski suggested Balkan buy some pieces a little at a time to replace any damaged equipment. The cost of the playground equipment is high. Supervisor Strgar suggested we use a urethane product to coat the decking.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. Due to the new COVID-19 delta variant and its spreading, should Balkan put in place any masking requirements or new capacity limits at the community center? The board of supervisors will monitor the situation until more guidance has been given. No change to the capacity limits or masking requirements now.

3. Rocks were raked on Balkan's driveway. Supervisor VerSteege and operator, Steve Johnson removed the rocks from the driveway on August 10th, 2021.
4. The clerk asked if it was needed to pass a resolution to accept American Rescue Plan money. This was not necessary.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. August 28th, 2021 – Pancake Breakfast

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Tarnowski, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on August 24th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar