

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 27th, 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 6:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on July 13th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the July 13th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$45,499.04		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
MMB – American Rescue Plan	\$43,808.25	
Town Aid (1/2 of total in 2021)	\$1,016.50	
Community Center Rent	\$250.00	
Community Center garbage fees	\$25.00	
Life Insurance Reimbursed	\$126.79	
Community Center Alcohol Deposit	\$100.00	
Chloride purchased by a resident	\$68.50	
MATIT – Refund of Property Insurance for 2021	\$104.00	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$253,270.20
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	\$474,503.13

Debit Card usage: \$79.98 Printer ink, \$384.52 National Night Out Expenses

Supervisor Tarnowski moved to approve the treasurer's report as read. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg. Motion carried unanimously. The treasurer updated and presented the Yearly Review Summary which lists all of the income sources for Balkan Township. The treasurer stated that most of the money comes in the second portion of the year.

Transfers completed: none

Recommended transfers:

1. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer to move the balance of the COVID-19 account of \$5,106.52 to the general fund. This is Balkan's money, but the treasurer anticipated another round of money coming in 2021 for the American Rescue Plan, and will re-use the same money market account. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to transfer the balance of the COVID-19 money market account, in the amount of \$5,106.52, to the general fund. This passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer was recommended by the treasurer to move \$43,808.25 from the checking to the COVID-19/American Rescue Plan account. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to transfer the \$43,808.25 to the COVID-19/American Rescue Plan account. This was passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on July 27th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$22,569.47. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for July 27th, 2021 (payroll period July 11th - July 24th, 2021), in the amount of \$11,588.24. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The National Night Out post cards were mailed to residents on July 28th, 2021.
 - b. Everything is on track for the National Night Out.
 - c. There will be a road closure on Laitala Road on August 5th, 2021 from 10am to 12 noon. The clerk will post and publish this road closure. The clerk was asked to make up a letter to the residents on that road to inform them of the road closure. Supervisor Strgar will hand these out to the residents on Laitala road.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Road repairs on Cooper Road continued. Class five and pit run were added July 13th, 2021.
 - b. Cemetery Road received a 10-yard load of class five to level the road.
 - c. Grading was done on Cooper, Hyvarinen, the roads off of highway 73, Johnson, Colombe and half of Baich roads on July 13th and 14th before spraying calcium chloride.
 - d. The West side of Balkan's roads were sprayed with calcium chloride on July 14th, 2021 by Edwards Oil.
 - e. The surface was stripped of trees to create a pile of pit run in Colombe Pit, on July 15th.
 - f. The backhoe was hauled to Sunset Pit on July 15th.

- g. The excavator was moved from Cooper Road to Colombe Pit and back to the shop for a full service then brought back to Sunset pit on July 15th.
- h. A soft spot on Laitala Road was dug out and repaired on July 16th. On July 20th to July 23rd, the second culvert was dug out on Laitala Road.
- i. More pit run was dug out of Colombe pit for the project on Laitala Road, July 21st.
- 3. Community Center Report
 - a. More sand is needed on the playground, a resident suggested.
- 4. Canister Site Report
 - a. A new canister is expected at the canister site, soon.
 - b. A big projection TV needs to be moved into the dump. Supervisor VerSteege is aware of this.
- 5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. On July 16th, Balkan received an email from Richard Newbauer relating the dumping he has seen on 9 1/2 Street in Chisholm. He suggested a “No Dumping” sign be put near the satellite tower. Supervisor Tarnowski looked up the property to find the owner. The owner is the State of Minnesota, the taxpayer is Vaughan-Steffensrud Elementary School. It was suggested the clerk write to both the owner and taxpayer to inform them of the dumping on their property.
- 2. A small triangle of land off of McNiven Road and Highway 73 was offered as a tax forfeited land sale. The supervisors were not interested in the parcel at this time.
- 3. On July 19th, a letter came from Minnesota Unemployment regarding a decision on the appeal from June 29th, 2021. The unemployment judge denied unemployment benefits to the previous employee.
- 4. July 22nd, Balkan received a letter from the City of Buhl seeking comments on their Wellhead Protection Plan. They sent a disc to view the project. Supervisor Tarnowski will view it.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The main hydraulic lift cylinder on the Tiger Boom mower had a broken mounting flange. Supervisor VerSteege arrange to have the flange welded adding two new pieces of flat bar. The two pieces weren’t welded on all four sides. The integrity of the repair was in question. It was decided to purchase a brand new hydraulic cylinder for \$709.00. **A motion to approve the purchase of a ram for \$709.00 was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
- 2. The Balkan Community – Wide Rummage Sales ad will be in the Chisholm Tribune on August 11th and in the Mesabi Tribune on Friday, August 13th, 2021.
- 3. A display banner was made by Supervisor Tarnowski for the National Night Out. It will be put up at the pancake feed on July 31st to advertise the event. Also available at the pancake feed on July 31st, broadband surveys to be filled out on paper to increase the survey response rate.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The work priority sheet is no longer needed because the board is providing written daily work direction.
- 2. Balkan’s road and bridge department was digging up a soft spot on Laitala road when they hit a wire on July 16th and July 20th. These wires weren’t marked when they called in to locate wires. There will be no liability to Balkan township for hitting these unmarked wires.
- 3. Broadband funding is available through Grants.gov. The application is due August 17th, 2021. Balkan is not ready to apply for this grant yet because we are still working to select a service provider, who can get the engineering completed and provide a project cost estimate.

4. A new part-time equipment operator was added, Scott Pulford.
5. Ann Palmquist offered to sell Balkan 107 leftover cans of pop for \$40 for use at the National Night Out. Supervisor Strgar suggested he and Supervisor VerSteeg buy the cans and donate them for the National Night Out 2021.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. July 31st – Pancake Breakfast 830a-11a
2. August 3rd, 2021 – National Night Out 2021 at Balkan Community Center 430 pm – 7 pm.

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on August 10th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar