

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 7th, 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 – 7 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on August 24th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the August 24th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$59,587.46			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
St Louis County – 2021 Taconite Production Tax	\$31,317.00	FNB-C MET Aug. 2021 Interest	\$19.13
MN Revenue – Disparity Reduction Aid	\$26,161.00	FNB-C Community Center Account - Aug. 2021 Interest	\$5.16
Pancake Feed Proceeds	\$404.68	FNB-C Capital Expenditures Fund Aug. 2021 Interest	\$0.57
Canister site coupons sold	\$375.00	FNB-C COVID-19/ ARPA Account Aug. 2021 Interest	\$4.92
City of Chisholm – canister site agreement for September 2021	\$1,300.00		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$251,680.13
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$138,958.54
Community Center Account	\$44,750.20
Building Project Account	\$4,962.39
COVID -19 account	\$43,813.76
Total	\$484,165.02

Debit Card usage: none

Voided checks: none

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

Transfers completed: \$27,304.63 transferred from MET to the Road and Bridge fund for 2021 Calcium chloride.

Recommended transfers:

- \$31,317.00 transferred from checking to the MET account.

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to approve the transfer of \$31,317.00 from checking to the MET account. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.

- \$370.55 transferred from the checking to the Community Center account for the net profit from the Pancake feed 8/28/21.

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to approve the transfer of \$370.55 from checking to the community center account. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteege and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to approve the bills for payment on September 7th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$4,195.46. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to accept the payroll for September 7th, 2021 (payroll period August 22nd – September 4th, 2021), in the amount of \$5,784.00. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The certified levy was mailed to St Louis County on August 26th, 2021.
 - b. MAT is helping townships apply for ARPA funding, for a fee. They will hold 6 subject presentations in various areas of Minnesota from Sept. 14th – Sept. 30th, 2021.
 - c. After the census is taken every ten years, redistricting of political boundaries is done. Clerks and election administrators are required to take the training and submit proof of training to St Louis County – elections. The clerk finished training on August 30th, 2021.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. On August 23rd, 2021, an employee was fabricating the ‘spoon’ and went on a parts-run to L&L Rental and Radko.
 - b. Ditching is being done on Laitala Road August 24th through September 3rd, 2021.
 - c. The grader (G-43) had a broken hydraulic mount that was welded and repaired on August 25th, 2021.
 - d. More fabricating of the ‘spoon’ was done on August 25th, 2021.
 - e. The tools were cleaned and organized on the workbench on August 26th, 2021.
 - f. The Gravely mower was serviced on August 27th, 2021 to include a new battery and new blades.
 - g. Long Lake, Latick, Cooper, Salonen, Briski, and Baich Roads were spot graded on August 27th, 2021.
 - h. Employees brushed and dug out for Chisholm on August 31st, 2021.
 - i. A failed culvert on Franti Road was causing a sink hole on the edge of the road. This was patched and temporarily repaired on August 31st, 2021.
 - j. More ‘spoon’ fabricating was done on August 31st, 2021.
 - k. The logging roads on Vlasich Road was dug out, ditched and graded on September 1st, 2021.
3. Community Center Report
 - a. A swing to replace the broken one on the playground was located in the pavilion.
4. Canister Site Report
 - a. Dave Pajunen asked if the canisters can be moved away from the fence to be able to weed whack there.
 - b. Bill Marino fell at home, another canister site attendant will fill in for him on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021.
5. Other Reports:
 - a. Laurel Fredeen is planning an event that will include animals for the community. She is planning on putting together a committee to put on this event for the community. The first committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at the garage. The event is being planned for October 16th, 2021, Saturday.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Superior Fuel gave Balkan a propane pricing email on August 27th, 2021. Balkan will need to check propane tanks to see if they need to be topped off. Next, Balkan will solicit bids for the garage and possibly the community center.
2. St Louis County tax forfeit property auction periodical was sent to Balkan on August 31st, 2021. The supervisors will review the periodical. The auction starts September 23rd, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A notice of request for reconsideration for a past employee for MN Unemployment Insurance was delivered to Balkan. Supervisor Tarnowski asked the clerk to call and ask when we will get the new determination.

2. Ninety-nine people attended the Pancake breakfast on August 28th, 2021. The net profit from the breakfast was \$370.55. The treasurer provided the summary.
3. Balkan still hasn't been billed by St Louis County for the labor portion of putting up signs. Supervisor Strgar will call Frank Sever, SLC sign supervisor, to ask about this bill.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. An employee filled out a vacation request for this week. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to approve the vacation request. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.**

3. Paul McDonald and Mike Jugovich, St Louis County Commissioners, came to the town board meeting to discuss how St Louis County can help Balkan with their Broadband project. There are planning grants available on a match basis. We were told that Matt Johnson, SLC planning department, would be a great resource for us and we should apply for a planning grant through St Louis County. This will bring in about \$25,000.00, reimbursable, to use toward broadband planning, pre-engineering, and grant writing. St Louis County's grant money will be "gap" funding, in case Balkan needs to piece together broadband funds from other agencies. The Commissioners said the cost is roughly \$35,000.00 per mile to install fiber.

Shari Fisher contacted Ida Rukavina to ask when the earmarks will be awarded. Ms. Rukavina said the end of September or early October. Mrs. Fisher talked with Chuck Ackman from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office. He is Senator Klobuchar's broadband expert. We were encouraged to contact Chuck Ackman for assistance with broadband. In Cherry Township, Kip Borbiconi was essential in getting CTC broadband to install fiber. They have complete funding for their broadband project. Kip would be another excellent advisor for Balkan to contact.

The treasurer, Kent Fredeen, suggested a possible levy increase to be able to supply Balkan with enough money to install broadband.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. **September 25th, 2021 Pancake Breakfast**
2. **October 31st, 2021 – ARPA first report of spending due to the US Treasury**

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on September 21st, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar