

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 5th, 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 – 2 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 September 21st, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the September 21st, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$2,098.68			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
St Louis County – Min. Rent and Royalties	\$974.54	FNB-C MET Sept. 2021 Interest	\$22.90
St Louis County – Min Leas Excess Revenue	\$35.98	FNB-C Community Center Fund Sept. 2021 Interest	\$6.47
Radko – scrap iron from old culvert	\$92.40	FNB-C Capital Expenditures Sept. 2021 Interest	\$0.71
Pancake Feed proceeds	\$334.38	FNB-C COVID-19/ARPA Sept. 2021 Interest	\$6.30
Community Center/Pavilion rent	\$250.00		
Canister site coupons sold	\$375.00		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$210,191.90
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$170,298.74
Community Center Account	\$45,127.22
Building Project Account	\$4,963.10
COVID -19 account	\$43,820.06
Total	\$474,401.02

Debit Card usage: none

Voided checks: none

The treasurer provided a summary of the pancake feed proceeds from September 25th, 2021 for the board. The treasurer was asked to provide at the next board meeting scheduled for October 19th, 2021, the net pancake breakfast proceeds for the year.

Treasurer Fredeen went over the yearly revenue summary, the supervisors asked him to provide an estimate of the money left to come in for the year of 2021. He said there is roughly \$97,900 left to receive this year. The treasurer was asked to provide this year's Capital Expenditures (in CTAS) balance for the next meeting. He stated the Capital Expenditures (CTAS) amount is 13% of the levy amount of \$331,500, which amounts to about \$43,095 for the entire year. He will provide the amount Balkan has received currently at the next board meeting. The supervisors will use this information to make informed decisions on a possible equipment purchase.

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:

1. Transfer \$100.00 from CTAS Capital Expenditures account to the Capital Expenditures Money Market account to keep the account active with the bank. The bank sent a letter stating the account has been dormant. The treasurer filled out the bank letter to reinstate the account. It was notarized by the clerk.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor VerSteege to transfer \$100 from the CTAS Capital Expenditures account to the Capital Expenditures Money Market Account. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Transfer \$290.00 from checking to the Community Center account for September 2021 Community center rent. Transfer \$214.25 from checking to the Community Center account for the pancake breakfast proceeds.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor VerSteege to transfer \$504.25 from checking to the community center account. This motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to approve the bills for payment on October 5th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$8,724.07. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to accept the payroll for October 5th, 2021 (payroll period September 19th – October 2nd, 2021), in the amount of \$6,674.98. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk reported the Franti Road culvert replacement project has been posted and published in the Chisholm Tribune, scheduled for replacement on October 7th, 2021. Supervisor Strgar handed out letters to residents along that road alerting them to the road closure for culvert replacement.
 - b. The clerk was asked to call Century Link to find out what the difference in the bills for the office and the community center. Century Link said there were additional features on the office phone which causes the bill to be so high compared to the

community center's phone bill. The clerk asked the Century Link representative to remove all features except caller ID. This should reduce the office phone bill to \$36.73 plus \$10 for the caller ID, and \$10 one-time charge to remove these features.

- c. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)'s reporting deadline has changed from October 31st, 2021 to April 30th, 2022. All projects that utilize the ARPA money provided by the Federal government need to be reported to the US Treasury.
2. Shop & Road Report:
- a. Balkan's current front-end loader has many issues. The motor filled up with antifreeze indicating a large leak, the oil pan cannot be removed, poor brakes, and a radiator leak. Supervisor VerSteeg has been in contact with RMS to see what is available for rent or purchase for front-end loaders. Supervisor VerSteeg said RMS has a rent-to-own option for a 2018 loader with about 500 hours, however, Balkan will have to decide if they want to purchase the loader by January 1st, 2022. The purchase price was set at \$119,500.00.
Supervisor Strgar made a motion to rent the proposed loader. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.
Supervisor VerSteeg will arrange to have the loader delivered and sign for the rental. One concern is who insures the loader while it's being rented. The clerk will check on this issue with MATTT, the township's insurance carrier.
 - b. Supervisor VerSteeg gave an update on the ordered oil/water separator project for the garage. He said Charlie Leustek ordered it but had to change the specifications due to the tank being too short for the job. They needed to add 24 inches to the tank.
 - c. A tree was removed from Krogerus Road on September 20th, 2021.
 - d. Locate stakes were installed on Briski and Salo Roads on September 20th.
 - e. The mirror for the dump truck was installed on September 21st.
 - f. A starter was installed on the Case front-end loader on September 21st.
 - g. A tree was removed from Cooper Road on September 21st.
 - h. Ditching was finished on Long Lake Road on September 22nd.
 - i. Two culverts were installed on Salo Road on September 23rd and 24th.
 - j. The backhoe was retrieved from Colombe pit on September 24th.
 - k. The old culvert from Salo Road was sold to Radko for scrap.
 - l. A new culvert was picked up and delivered to Franti Road in preparation for the culvert replacement slated for October 7th, 2021.
 - m. The starter was removed again from the front-end loader.
 - n. Class five was hauled to Salo Road on September 27th.
 - o. Crushed rock and class were hauled from Sunset Pit to the back of the garage to stockpile for winter.
 - p. The excavator was retrieved from Laitala Road and brought back to the garage on September 27th.
 - q. Salo Road was graded on September 27th.
 - r. Salo, Bicanich and Vitali Roads were graded September 28th.
 - s. More crushed rock was hauled from Sunset Pit September 28th and 29th.
 - t. The newest starter for the Case Loader was installed along with a master switch on Sept. 30th.
 - u. New hoses were installed on the brusher/mower on October 1st.
 - v. The oil was changed in the Case Loader.
 - w. A part-time operator was trained on the grader on Haiskanen Road on October 1st.
3. Community Center Report:

- a. General Waste was called to empty the canister at the community center on October 4th, 2021. They were unable to empty it due to the canister being locked. They will try again the next Monday. Supervisor VerSteeg will open the lock for them.
4. Canister Site Report
 - a. Supervisor VerSteeg will be checking on employees to see if they are doing their jobs to the extent they are required.
5. Other Reports:
 - a. A personnel issue was discussed.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- a. It was suggested by a resident to put a blinking battery or solar light on the Hwy. 73 and Pozar Road intersection's stop sign. It is hard to see to stop at that sign due to the hill on Pozar Road intersection. Supervisor Strgar will call St Louis County to ask about adding a solar component to the stop sign for greater visibility and safety.
- b. Minnesota Unemployment sent their determination letter on the past employee's appeal. The reviewing unemployment law judge found the previous determination to be factual and legally correct.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Two propane bids were presented to the board. One from Ferrell Gas and the other from COMO oil. The best price offered was \$1.599. The supervisors decided to go with Balkan's current keep-full propane provider, Lakes Gas. The clerk will let the vendors that submitted bids know that Balkan went with another vendor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The treasurer provided the September 25th, 2021 pancake breakfast net profit to the board. The net profit from September 25th was \$214.25.
2. The board was asked to sign the Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to the June 27th, 2021 restructuring of the Road and Bridge department. Two copies will be sent to the business agent for the 49ers, Dan Manick.
3. The clerk gave an update on the Balkan Kids Animal Fair scheduled for October 16th, 2021. Funding approval was requested. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to allow spending not to exceed \$250 for the Balkan Kids Animal Fair.**
4. The Fall Balkan Newsletter will be sent to the printers on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021. This newsletter includes the snow plow agreement for 2021-2022 season.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. More planning and research need to be done for Balkan to offer a Bingo event at the community center. The board will keep this idea on their radar.
3. A resident suggested Balkan offer an after-school program from 3-5pm for kids to come and use the internet, do homework, and/or come play at the community center after school. Currently, very few after school programs are available in our area. More research and details need to be ironed out before Balkan can do this. In the future, Balkan may try to get feedback from residents about offering an after-school program via the website.
4. Supervisor Tarnowski supplied the year-to-date budget for Balkan expenses. She said Balkan is at 73% of the budget of \$599,000.00.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Balkan Kids Animal Fair -

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

1. The newsletter is going out to residents Monday, October 11th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on October 19th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar