

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
November 2nd, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar  
 Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski  
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen  
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson  
 Visitors – 3 guests  
 Absent - Dirk VerSteeg, supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar to approve the October 19th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Kent Fredeen

<b>Receipts: \$21,604.81</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>	
Snow plowing 2021-2022	\$18,900.00	FNB- C checking interest	\$9.92
City of Chisholm Recycling agreement	\$1,300.00	FNB-C MET interest	\$19.60
MN Revenue – Market Value Credit-Ag	\$302.17	FNB-C Community Center interest	\$5.23
Sold Canister site coupons	\$750.00	FNB-C Cap. Exp. interest	\$0.58
Community Center rent – October 2021	\$300.00	FNB-C COVID-19/ARPA interest	\$5.04
Life Insurance reimbursed	\$12.27		

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$179,982.83</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$170,318.04
Community Center Account	\$45,636.70
Building Project Account	\$5,063.68
COVID -19 account	\$43,825.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$444,826.35</b>

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to approve the treasurer’s report as read. This was supported by Supervisor Strgar and passed.

**Debit Card usage:**

1. \$42.94 to AVG for internet security
2. \$36.08 postage to return a starter core to A&B Automotive electric
3. \$83.96 to L&M Supply for water and DEF Diesel exhaust fluid

**Voided checks:** none

**Transfers completed:**

1. \$100 from CTAS Cap. Exp. To Cap. Exp. Money Market Fund
2. \$504.25 from checking to the community center acct. for Sept. Community center rent and pancake feed proceeds (9/25/21).

**Recommended transfers:**

1. Transfer \$878.00 from checking to the community center account for October 2021 community center rent and Balkan Kids Animal Fair donations.
2. Transfer Balkan Kids Animal Fair expenses of \$201.57 from the Community Center account to the general account.
3. Net transfer to the community center account: (\$878.00-201.57= \$676.43)

A motion to approve the net transfer of \$676.43 to the community center account was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor Strgar. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on November 2nd, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$12,313.32. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for November 2nd, 2021 (payroll period– October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021), in the amount of \$8,008.47. Motion carried unanimously.

## REPORTS:

### 1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson

- a. The claims for the Balkan Kids Animal Fair came to \$201.57. The clerk sent out thank you's to all of the volunteers, donators, and animal providers on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.
- b. The clerk sent another email to Senator Amy Klobuchar's office requesting a timeline on the Direct Congressional Spending (earmarks). There has been no response.
- c. A wrap-up meeting for the Balkan Kids Animal Fair was October 26<sup>th</sup> at the community center. The volunteers wrote notes for the Balkan Fair event for 2022 and decided on a date for next year. The optimum date would be Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- d. The clerk provided Keyboard Liquor and Casey's Do It Best Hardware (Balkan's vendors for buying garbage coupons in town) with the letter of increase from St Louis County Environmental Services. The rate will increase on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to \$2/punch on the garbage coupons.
- e. The treasurer finished reconciling the bank statement on October 25<sup>th</sup>, the clerk reconciled the bank statement on CTAS on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The clerk cleaned up 2020's outstanding checks in CTAS and compared the outstanding checks with the treasurer.

### 2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. Supervisor Strgar contacted Jesse Suihkonen, from Ulland Brothers, regarding the bill for the gravel crushing. Jesse will send a bill or estimate on 11/3/21 via email.
- b. Class five was hauled from Sunset Pit and put one load on the Briski Road and 2 loads laid at the canister site on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Other class five was brought to the shop pit for storage for winter.
- c. Briski Road was graded on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- d. The pavilion was winterized on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- e. The Case Loader was retrieved and brought back to the shop on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- f. The canister site, Baich and Hyvarinen Roads were graded October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- g. Colombe, Franti and Johnson Roads were graded October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- h. Brush cutting was done on October 20<sup>th</sup> on Pozar, Tolonen, Koshere, Smolcich, Frider, Johnson and Colombe Roads.
- i. Salonen, Cooper, Latick and Cemetery Roads were graded October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- j. Brush cutting was done on Colombe, Johnson, Franti, Briski, Hyvarinen and half of Baich Roads on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- k. The backhoe was greased and hauled to Colombe pit on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- l. The grader 140H was greased, the Komatsu was greased, and the loader was driven to Sunset Pit on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- m. Sawmill, Haiskanen, Cemetery, Long Lake Roads were brush-cut on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- n. Soft spots were dug out on Briski Road and leveled with class five on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- o. More class five was hauled to Briski Road for the road patch and back to the shop for storage on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- p. Retrieved the backhoe from Colombe pit on October 26<sup>th</sup>. The beaver dam on Pozar was dug out inside the culvert. Long Lake Road was graded and an employee looked at John Nelson's driveway for snow plowing.
- q. The starter was removed from the Case Loader on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- r. A road lift over the culvert on Franti Road and on Sawmill Road were done on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The starter core that was removed from the Case Loader was shipped back to A&B Automotive Electric. Picked up water for the garage and DEF exhaust fluid from L&M Supply. Picked up old water heater from the pavilion for disposal.
- s. The 0-turn mower was serviced and washed on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The oil cooler was removed from the Case Loader, also.
- t. The 0-turn mower was brought back to the storage container at the community center on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- u. The walk-and-roll was power-washed and removed from the grader on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

- v. The yellow F-350 was jump-started and put in the shop to fix the bad tires on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 3. Community Center Report:
  - a. Ann Palmquist asked the clerk to bring up a Christmas idea for the community center that would involve hot chocolate, cookies and Santa. She says she has a Santa suit and a Mrs. Santa cloak. She suggested Dan Tarnowski be the Santa for the event. A good date for this event would be Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A community committee will need to be formed to plan events for Balkan.
  - b. Another resident suggested getting 4H involved under different projects. The leaders of the projects need to be from Balkan to get a 4H project going here.
- 4. Canister Site Report :
  - a. Two personnel issues were discussed. Supervisor VerSteeg will be asked to talk with the two employees.
- 5. Other Reports:
  - a. Supervisor Strgar contacted Frank Sever, SLC Sign Supervisor, asking for the labor part of the bill for the signs that have been put up this year. Mr. Sever didn't supply the bill. Supervisor Strgar requested costing information about a solar stop sign. He was told it could be expensive, in the \$1000-\$2000 range per solar stop sign. Supervisor Tarnowski suggested putting a "stop ahead" sign on Pozar Road before the stop sign. Supervisor Strgar will ask about this when he contacts Frank Sever again.

**CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an email from Janet Eicholz, Iron Range Historical Society, asking for stories, information or documentation regarding Balkan. The clerk provided the History of Balkan according to B. Taramelli and a picture of the old Balkan store on Latick Road. A history committee will need to be formed to discuss and remit Balkan's history. Several names of people who have been in Balkan for many years were provided.
- 2. A voicemail came from Dan Manick on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 requesting a time line when Balkan plans on posting the open full-time operator's position. Supervisor Strgar texted Mr. Manick, saying the posting will be at the supervisors' discretion. The job description needs to be reviewed and approved, a job posting would need to be made and approved, etc. before any job posting. Balkan has been observing the 67-day rule, when using part-time operators.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. The final costs for the Balkan Kids Animal Fair were \$201.57. A sheet was provided to the supervisors.
- 2. About 90% of the snow plow agreements have come into the office. Most have been received and deposited.
- 3. The oil separator project is on hold until the ordered tank comes in, due to supply chain issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
- 2. A resolution to designate the annual polling place for Balkan was approved. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor Tarnowski to designate the Balkan Community Center as the official polling place for 2022. This resolution #21-09 passed unanimously.**
- 3. Balkan received an application for a part-time operator to be put on the part-time operator list. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor Tarnowski to hire Curt Balaski. This motion passed.** The clerk was instructed to arrange a drug test and get the employment paperwork done for the new hire.
- 4. Supervisor Tarnowski approved purchase of internet and virus protection for the office computer. The clerk chose AVG internet protection and installed it on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

**NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on November 16th, 2021.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

---

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

---

(Board Chair) Brad Stgar