

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 19th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

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

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 October 5th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the October 5th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Gail Radotich

Receipts: \$2,376.16			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Met Life Ins. Reimbursed	\$98.16		
Community Center Rentals	\$590.00		
City of Chisholm Recycling agreement	\$1,300.00		
Sold Canister site coupons	\$375.00		
Balkan Kids Animal Fair Donations	\$13.00		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$179,091.34
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	\$443,300.46

Debit Card usage: \$400.00 refill of the marketing mail account at USPS on 10/12/21

Voided checks: none

The treasurer’s report will resume on the next meeting scheduled for November 2nd, 2021. The clerk supplied the receipts, and Gail Radotich, deputy treasurer, read off the totals received since 10/5/21 and the bank balances.

Transfers completed: none

Recommended transfers: none

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on October 19th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$20,314.64. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for October 19th, 2021 (payroll period October 3rd – October 16th, 2021), in the amount of \$10,785.92. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk sent out emails thanking the propane bidders for their bids and letting them know Balkan went with another vendor, Lakes Gas. The winning bid was \$1.599/gallon of propane for the 2021 – 2022 heating season.
 - b. The clerk sent an email to MATTT, Balkan's insurance carrier, asking if Balkan should insure the 2018 rented Komatsu loader. Jon Mocol, from MATTT, responded and suggested Balkan insure the loader. The difference in insurance was approximately \$196 to insure the loader.
 - c. The clerk filed the quarterly tax returns on October 11th, 2021. There was a difference in the amount paid and amount due of \$1, on the Minnesota Revenue withholding. This difference was paid from the bank account and added to disbursements in CTAS.
 - d. Newsletters went out to residents on October 13th, 2021.
 - e. The clerk wrote Amy Klobuchar's office requesting a timeline for the direct congressional spending request Balkan submitted in September for broadband funding. The clerk received a response to email Amy Klobuchar with any questions at a different email address.
 - f. The office phone was fixed on October 14th, 2021, after being out for a week. The insulation on a wire was cracked, letting in moisture to cause a short in the line.
 - g. One Balkan employee reported no taxes taken out of his checks. The clerk looked into this matter and supplied the employee with new W-4's to take out additional withholding. The clerk contacted Mark Alborado, at the Office of the State Auditor, with this question on October 14th. He replied that CTAS was working correctly and the employee should fill out a new W-4 to take out additional withholding. The clerk called and left a message with this employee explaining the outcome of the inquiry.
 - h. The Balkan Kids Animal Fair was a success! We had over 150 people in attendance. Two people won baskets donated. The clerk called the winners to have them pick up their baskets. There was \$13 donated from this event.
 - i. Get-well flowers were sent to Kent Fredeen on Monday, October 18th, 2021.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Laitala, Vlasich, North Long Lake, the fire trail, Korpi and Sawmill Roads were graded on October 4th.
 - b. Pozar, Cemetery, Sever and Long Lake were graded on Oct. 5th.
 - c. Equipment was moved to Franti Road in preparation of the culvert job on October 6th.

- d. The failed culvert was removed and a new culvert was installed on Franti Road on October 7th.
 - e. The backhoe and excavator were retrieved from Franti Road. Trees were pushed back from the ditch on Johnson Road. Krogerus Road was graded on October 8th.
 - f. Class five was put on Franti Road, near the new culvert. Franti Road was spot-graded. Class five was put on Sawmill and Cooper Roads on October 11th. A washout was fixed on Pozar Road.
 - g. The excavator was moved to Briski Road on October 12th. Material was put on the canister site, graded and crowned. The shop road was graded after material was put on.
 - h. Briski Road soft spots were dug out on October 13th and 14th. A road lift was done on Krogerus Road and graded. Cooper Road's hill was graded to reduce potholes.
 - i. Class five was brought to Briski and Krogerus Roads on October 14th.
 - j. Baich, Cooper, Long Lake, Haiskanen, and Vlasich Roads were graded October 15th.
 - k. Maturi Road was brush-cut and graded on October 15th. Class five was retrieved from Sunset pit to stockpile at the garage for winter.
3. Community Center Report:
 - a. Supervisor Tarnowski provided an email listing the price to license a movie for showing at the community center. The license amount is based on the viewing audience number, proximity to a local theater, and the movie selection. For 50 people the range of cost will be from \$250 to \$285 to show your own legal copy of the movie. If a rental is needed, they will send you one for \$30, round-trip shipping.
 - b. The pavilion has been winterized. The water heater was giving off a sulfur smell. **Supervisor VerSteege motioned to purchase a new water heater to replace the existing one at the pavilion for approximately \$500. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
 4. Canister Site Report :
 - a. Material was brought in the canister site to shore up the site for winter. The site was graded and crowned.
 5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 10/6/21 – Marie Tolonen sent an email explaining there will be no more stand-alone Chisholm Tribune after October 1st, 2021. There will instead be a Chisholm section in the Mesabi Tribune.
2. 10/11/21 – Jon Mocol, MATIT, says the 2018 loader will be insured as of 10/12/21.
3. 10/12/21 – A resident suggested Balkan send out the snow plow agreements earlier next year, due to “snowbirds” leaving for the winter.
4. 10/12/21 – A resident called to ask if the Balkan Community Center has availability from Nov. 4th to March 10th to use a meeting room for the St Louis County Horse Committee. The board said they could rent the room once per week at a flat rate of \$50. Balkan will wait to hear back.
5. 10/1/21 – St Louis County Environmental Services sent a letter of increase to the tipping fees for 2022. New prices include a \$0.50 increase per punch on a punch card. The new price for a large black bag of garbage is \$2/bag. The board asked the clerk to call Dave Fink to clarify how long SLC will honor the punch cards purchased before the increase goes into effect on January 1st, 2022. The clerk was asked to provide our vendors, Casey's Do it Best Hardware and Keyboard Liquor, with a copy of the increase.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Due to increased internet scams and phishing, the clerk asked the board if they would authorize purchasing an anti-virus and internet protection. Supervisor Tarnowski will check on Century Link free internet protection or McAfee virus protection software or downloads. The clerk was asked to call Mark Wilcox to ask about a good internet protection software.
2. The severance letter will be sent to Dan Manick, Union representative for the 49ers.
3. Ben Crosby, from Superior Fuel, requested we send him the winning propane bid. The board chooses not to furnish him with the information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed. Supervisor VerSteeg provided an updated road inspection sheet listing the roads and where they are on grading and maintenance.
2. A resident suggested Balkan put a sign up at the community center letting people know only service dogs are welcome inside. Supervisor Tarnowski will look up the Minnesota rules regarding service dogs. A window cling can be put on doors or a window to establish this rule.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

1. Snow plow agreements have been put on the website available for printing from home.
2. The Fall 2021 newsletter has been put on the website.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on November 2nd, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar