

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 16th, 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 6:06 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on November 2nd, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar to approve the November 2nd, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$3,081.68			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Snow plowing 2021-2022	\$3,000.00	FNB- C checking interest – October 2021	\$8.96
Community Center Rent	\$40.00		
Life Insurance Reimbursed	\$32.72		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$113,017.90
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
Total	\$377,861.42

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$152.10 – Staples office supplies

Voided checks: check # 62618 and check # 62619

Transfers completed:

1. \$676.43 was transferred from the checking account to the community center account for October 2021 rent, Balkan Animal Fair donations and costs.

Recommended transfers:

1. Transfer \$67,155 from MET to the Road and Bridge fund for gravel crushing in 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to approve the transfer of \$67,155.00 from the MET fund to the checking account. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.

2. \$332.10 to be transferred from the community center account to the general account for the community center's pavilion water heater replacement.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski to approve the transfer of \$332.10 from the community center fund to the general fund. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on November 16th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$79,442.34. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for November 16th, 2021 (payroll period– October 31st – November 13th, 2021), in the amount of \$4,072.13. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson

- a. The clerk reported most of the snow plowing agreements are in. Supervisor VerSteeg inspected driveways on Thursday, November 11th.
- b. A committee will be formed to put on a community event on December 19th at the community center. The first meeting will be held at the community center on Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021 at 6pm. A resident will call committee members.
- c. The website was updated to include the Balkan Holiday Bazaar. The community center rental papers were mailed to the hostess of the Bazaar in October 2021.
- d. On Wednesday, November 10th, the clerk talked with Chris Ismil, from IRRRB, to ask about the infrastructure grant and if it would fit with our oil/water separator project. He said that grant is only for big projects over \$1 million. He said to wait to hear about the "earmarks" which is our best bet for funding this project.
- e. Shari Fisher, broadband committee member, wrote Ida Rukavina to ask about the "earmarks" (Direct Congressional Spending) and if they have been awarded yet. Ida wrote that the "earmarks" are in the appropriations committee process now. The clerk had written Amy Klobuchar's office requesting a timeline on awarding the "earmarks". There has been no response yet.

2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. **Supervisor Strgar made a motion to approve purchasing a shop-vac for the garage. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
- b. An offer was made on the Case Loader to purchase for \$2500. Due to the condition of the loader, the supervisors feel it is in the best interests of the township to sell the loader. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to sell the Case loader for \$2500. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed unanimously.**
- c. Charlie Leustek will be bringing in money to pay royalties on his portion of class five at Sunset Pit. Balkan will include his royalties in with the royalties Balkan owes to Hibbing Taconite. The clerk will prepare the calculation of royalties owed at the next board meeting.
- d. The wing mounts were installed on the grader on November 1st.
- e. New tires were installed on the F-350 yellow pickup at Chisholm Tire.

- f. North Long Lake, the fire trail and Countryside Roads were graded on Nov. 2nd.
 - g. Class five was brought to Baich, Hyvarinen, Latick and Cemetery Roads for lifts on Nov. 3rd and then graded.
 - h. The Case Loader's oil cooler was tested, which showed no leaks.
 - i. Haiskanen, Sever, Latick, and Krogerus Roads were spot-graded on Nov. 4th.
 - j. The pit yard was cleaned up on Nov. 5th.
 - k. Long Lake, Cooper and Pozar Roads were graded on Nov. 5th.
 - l. Two trucks were washed with the pressure washer on Nov. 9th.
 - m. The wings were installed on the graders and on the 2018 International truck on Nov. 9th.
 - n. The backhoe was retrieved and brought to the garage on Nov. 9th.
 - o. The cold storage building was cleaned out to store the backhoe in for the winter on Nov. 10th.
 - p. Sanders were installed on the trucks on Nov. 10th.
 - q. Briski and Tolonen Roads were graded on Nov. 10th.
 - r. The 2018 International truck and both graders were greased and the windows washed on Nov. 11th.
 - s. A new pump was installed for the floor drain tank.
 - t. Snow was plowed on Nov. 12th on all Balkan roads after the storm on Thursday, Nov. 11th.
 - u. The storm caused many trees to be on the roads in Balkan. While plowing snow, a few mailboxes were hit and the culvert on Tomsich Road was ripped up. This culvert needs replacing.
 - v. The floor tank that was ordered for the oil/water separator project is in. The project will start next week.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. The parking lot will be cleaned up of snow soon. There were a few inches of fluffy snow that fell over the weekend that was still on the lot.
 - b. A resident suggested the steps at the community center be shoveled so people can use the hand rail when entering the community center.
4. Canister Site Report :
- a. The canister site needs more sand, due to the icy ground. The canisters will be pulled to remove snow from around them.
5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. A resident called the St Louis County Liaison to ask about showing a movie at the community center and if they know if we can legally show a movie without paying copyright royalties. The liaison directed the resident to call the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber said to ask at the library since they have shown movies there for the public. The library already pays royalties to show and rent their movies to the public. Balkan could rent a movie at the library and show it at the community center for free.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. RAMS sent a notice of nomination of their board of directors to their members. The Balkan town board discussed if anyone would like to join the board of RAMS.
2. Ulland Brothers Construction sent the gravel crushing bill. It came in at \$67,155.00.
3. Balkan received the workers' compensation paperwork from MATTT. It was decided to wait until the December 14th meeting to pay and remit the workers compensation paperwork, since we have to provide payroll data for all employees, it would be better to wait to closer to Jan. 1st, 2022 to get more accurate information for MATTT.

4. The Special Event Food license came from the State of Minnesota. The pancake breakfast dates were decided for 2022. The clerk will fill out the paperwork for the events and submit it to the state at the next board meeting on November 30th, 2021. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, and supported by Supervisor Tarnowski, to approve the pancake breakfast dates in 2022. This passed unanimously.**
5. Balkan received an email asking for feedback on the rezoning at the Redhead Trail behind the Minnesota Discovery Center. This area is rich in ore and they wish to mine it in the future. This mining would benefit Balkan, as we are a major stakeholder in that area. This could result in a windfall of tax forfeit royalties for Balkan township. A letter will be drafted to show the board's opinion supporting mining in the proposed area.
6. A resident wrote an email asking for more information on the budget and expenses for the canister site, as he is writing a paper for his Composition 2 class. The clerk will supply the student with some actual information regarding the canister site operation. This was approved by the town board.
7. Youth In Action, St Louis County YMCA, asked for a donation for their program. This was not supported by the board. No donation will be made.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) for truth in taxation has only one voting Balkan board member trained. Another voting member of the Balkan board of Supervisors need to train for the LBAE before February 2022.
2. The 2018 rental loader included \$1000 for delivery of the machine included in the bill.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. The snow plowing money collected will be put in the Capital Expenditures CTAS this year.
3. The six-foot table roller needs repair. It is making black scuff marks on the floor.
4. The septic alarm light has been on since summer at the community center. The problem has been isolated to be either the bottom float or an electrical relay failure. North American Electric was asked to take a look at it to determine what the issue is.
5. Balkan township purchases garbage tickets and sells them to two businesses in town to sell to customers. Since this money is used for a community purpose, Balkan Township can use Mining Effects Tax money to reimburse the township for this outlay.
6. Garbage that comes into the canister site should stay there. There can be no "dumpster diving" or removing any items from the canister site. Balkan contacted St Louis County to find out what their policy is on taking items out of the canister site for reuse. The operator, Cheryl, at SLC Environmental Services said they aren't allowing salvaging due to COVID and people's personal safety.
7. A resident asked for a refund on snow plowing for this year. She doesn't want the big trucks in her yard to rip up her sod. **Supervisor Strgar motioned to grant the resident a refund on her snow plowing agreement for this year. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
8. St Louis County's planning grant administrator, Brad Gustafson, emailed to say they are awarding Balkan with the planning grant of \$25,000, with a 1:1 grant match, for broadband planning and grant writing. Balkan will have to find someone to look for funding, complete the grant paperwork and do any preliminary work for broadband installation soon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. The next

board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on November 30th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Stgar