

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 30th, 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 - Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on November 16th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar to approve the November 16th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$13,723.60			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Snow plowing 2021-2022	\$600.00		
Community Center Rent	\$90.00		
Garbage Coupons Sold	\$375.00		
Case Loader sale	\$2,500.00		
Gravel Royalty from Leustek	\$8,724.00		
MN Revenue – ARPA additional funds	\$1,434.60		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$149,903.98
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$103,182.36
Community Center Account	\$45,986.34
Building Project Account	\$5,064.26
COVID -19 account	\$45,264.74
Total	\$349,401.68

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. \$89.10 – Staples office supplies: W-2 forms and a desk calendar

Transfers completed:

1. Transferred \$67,155.00 from MET to the R&B for gravel crushing.
2. Transferred \$332.10 from the Community Center fund to the general account for the community center’s pavilion water heater.

Recommended transfers:

1. A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor Strgar to allow a transfer of \$1,434.00 from checking to the COVID-19/ARPA fund. This passed unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor Strgar to allow a transfer of \$30,553.00 from the MET Fund to the checking for royalties to Hibbing Taconite for gravel crushing. This passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on November 30th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$35,611.85. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for November 30th, 2021 (payroll period– November 14th – November 27th, 2021), in the amount of \$8,323.67. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. On Nov. 23rd, 2021, the community center planning committee met to discuss the plan for the Santa time on Dec. 19th, 2021. The plan is to offer hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and cookies, with candy canes to the kids. There will be music provided by Ann Palmquist, Santa will be Gerry Palmquist. The next meeting for Santa Time will be on Dec. 9th at the community center at 6pm.
 - b. The clerk asked when the Winter 2021 Newsletter should go out. The supervisors suggested the newsletter go out to residents before the filing period starts on Dec. 28th, 2021.
 - c. The office has received some calls asking for updates on the broadband project. The clerk will put an article in the newsletter about the broadband project.
 - d. The clerk ordered W-2 forms for printing W-2s from Staples on Nov. 24th, 2021. It might take some adjusting on the printer to line up the forms.
 - e. The clerk tried to archive 2020 Minutes on the website. She is not sure how to do this and asked the supervisors if a call can be made to WA Fisher to help with this.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Kekke, Johnson, Krogerus, Latick, Long Lake, and Sawmill Roads were brush-cut on Nov. 15th, due to the sagging trees from the storm.
 - b. The canister site and the shop yard were plowed and sanded on Nov. 15th.
 - c. A back window on the grader was shattered and replaced on Nov. 15th by Range Glass. The headlights were repaired on the grader.
 - d. A leak was fixed on the air compressor on Nov. 16th. The John Deere mower has an antifreeze leak in a hose which was repaired on Nov. 17th.
 - e. A new operator was trained in on Nov. 16th by Supervisor VerSteeg.
 - f. Trees were cut down on Franti and Barrett Roads on Nov. 17th.
 - g. The east and west routes in Balkan were scraped with the grader to cut through the ice on the roads.
 - h. Trees and brush were cut on Hyvarinen, Long Lake, Cemetery and Baich Roads on Nov. 18th.
 - i. The culvert on Tomsich Road was temporarily fixed and will be replaced in the spring.
 - j. Krogerus, Laitala, Latick, Salo, Vlasich and Cooper Roads were scraped to increase traction on the icy roads on Nov. 19th.
 - k. The plow was put on the white shop truck on Nov. 19th.
 - l. All routes were sanded on Nov. 19th.
 - m. The brush-cutter's heater was installed into the cab on Nov. 22nd.
 - n. A new strobe light was installed on the brush-cutter on Nov. 23rd and on Nov. 24th. The tank for the new oil separator was set in place.
 - o. The starter was put in the Case Loader and the cab was cleaned out on Nov. 23rd. The battery was taken out of the yellow pick-up and stored.
3. Community Center Report:
 - a. The septic at the community center needs a new lower float and timer. This will be installed when the float and timer come in.
4. Canister Site Report :
 - a. Supervisor Strgar spoke with Dave Fink, St Louis County Environmental Services head, about a garbage compactor for the Balkan Canister site. SLC is looking for long-term cost savings. SLC pays for each canister tipping. It's getting harder to find vendors who will empty 6-yard canisters. The Balkan Canister site has increased the volume of garbage in previous years due to the joint venture with Chisholm allowing Chisholm's residents to bring their garbage and recyclables to the site.
5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Balkan's feedback was requested for the long-term planning and possible rezoning of the Redhead Trail. The clerk will remit Balkan's feedback to Tim Pastika, MN DNR.
2. The invasive species end of year report listing possible infestations of noxious weeds in Balkan Township was received on Nov. 19th, 2021. The report is due back by 12/31/21. The

clerk will send the report when finished to Kristin Fogard, St Louis Co. Agriculture Inspector.

3. Burning permits are still required where there is less than 3 inches of snow surrounding the burn pile. The DNR sent an update to Balkan on Nov. 23rd, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The snow plow receipts for 2021-2022 Winter snow plowing came in at \$22,200., after one resident wished for a refund. There could possibly be two more refunds this year, depending on the condition and turn-around space of the driveway.
2. The Town Board meeting dates for 2022 have been updated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. A new snow scoop is needed for the canister site to get under canisters' fronts where the snow blower can't get in. The supervisors support getting a new scoop for the canister site.
3. Additional ARPA money in the amount of \$1,434.60 came into Balkan's bank account. This was due to other townships not requesting their share of funds.
4. The community center committee requested funds for the Santa Time activity planned for Dec. 19th from 2-4pm. **Supervisor Strgar motioned to allow up to \$250 for expense reimbursements for the event. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed.**

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 7:18 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on December 14th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar