

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 28th, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Supervisor - Jennifer Tarnowski
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 2 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:09 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the board meeting on December 14th, 2021, a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the December 14th, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$29,797.36			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
MN Revenue – Disparity Reduction Aid	\$26,160.00		
MN Revenue – Township Aid	\$1,016.50		
MN Revenue- Market Value Credit – Agriculture	\$302.17		
Canister site coupons sold	\$1,875.00		
Community Center Rent	\$200.00		
Life insurance reimbursed	\$32.72		
Sales Tax on Case Loader	\$184.37		
Twp. Residents Copy machine usage for 2021	\$26.60		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$259,866.17
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$72,629.36
Community Center Account	\$46,241.34
Building Project Account	\$5,064.26
COVID -19 account	\$45,264.14
Total	\$429,065.27

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

Debit Card usage: \$51.39 from Walmart for a case of copy paper and sheets of magnets

Transfers completed:

1. Transferred \$255.00 from checking to the community center account for Nov. 2021 community center rent.

Recommended transfers: none

A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on December 28th, 2021, and ordered paid in the amount of \$9,956.86. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Tarnowski, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for December 28th, 2021 (payroll period December 12th – December 25th, 2021), in the amount of \$8,539.52. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The newsletters went out on Monday, December 20th, 2021 to residents. The clerk turned them in to the post office on Friday, December 17th, 2021.
 - b. The clerk met with Shari Fisher regarding grant writing on Dec. 17th, 2021. Shari was asked what compensation she would expect.
 - c. Santa Time open house on Dec. 19th went well. There were 31 children who attended. The total cost for the event was \$154.41. The clerk sent out thank-you's to the committee members who put the event together. Many people brought decorations for the community center and donated time and other items. The VerSteeg's donated all of the cookies for the event.
 - d. The annual township election is coming up. The clerk has been planning and getting prepared for the election and pre-election duties.
 - e. Kimberly from WA Fisher, has a solution to archiving out minutes and agendas on the website. She is preparing it to go live soon.
 - f. A letter to the canister site attendants announcing Balkan will pay for high-visibility winter jackets for these employees, as Balkan requires, they wear a high-visibility clothing. The announcement was put up in the canister site shack on Dec. 22nd, 2021 by Supervisor VerSteeg. The employees can purchase a high-visibility winter jacket and turn in their receipt to the Balkan office for reimbursement.
 - g. The fender on the 2001 International dump truck broke into pieces when the tire blew in early December. The used fender was found and donated by Brad Nosie.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. There's a cracked rim on the front tire of the 1990 International Truck. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar to purchase and install a new rim for the 1990 International Truck, for approximately \$300. This was supported by Supervisor Tarnowski and passed unanimously.**
 - b. Cemetery Road was brush-cut on Dec. 13th.
 - c. On Latick, Briski, Baich and Salonen Roads the sunken culvert bumps were filled with class five on Dec. 14th. There was a flat tire on the T-24 2001 International dump truck, two front tires were installed on the T-24 2001 International dump truck. The canister site was snow plowed.
 - d. A new cutting edge was installed on the grader. A new fender was found for the 2001 International dump truck and the wing/plow was installed on the on Dec. 15th.
 - e. Baich Road had water flooding across the road on Dec. 16th. The employees tried to mitigate the water problem. Some trees on Johnson, Franti and Long Lake were cut down, due to leaning into the roads.
 - f. All roads and driveways were snow plowed on Dec. 17th.
 - g. Ice on the flooded roads was cut on Baich, Cooper, Salonen, Krogerus, Sever and Long Lake Roads on Dec. 20th.
 - h. New blades were installed on the V-plow pickup on Dec. 21st. The shop yard was snow plowed and windows cleaned on the T-22 dump truck.
 - i. More snow plowing was done on the all routes and driveways on Dec. 22nd.
 - j. Christmas Eve holiday and Christmas day holidays were observed Dec. 23rd and 24th.
3. Community Center Report:
 - a. Snowmobiles have been driving on the septic at the community center. It's possible Balkan may have to put up the snow fence again this winter to deter snowmobilers from driving over the septic and pushing the frost farther down.
4. Canister Site Report :
 - a. Supervisor VerSteeg and Steve Johnson have an idea to make brackets for the loader to pick up the canisters to clean under them when they are clearing the site.
5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. On Dec. 16th, 2021, Balkan received a list of tax forfeited properties. They are offered for local government acquisition first, then to prior owners for repurchase. Balkan does not have use for any of these properties, at this time.
2. St Louis County Environmental Services sent a rate increase sheet listing the new prices for 2022 garbage tickets.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The pancake breakfasts proceeds were compiled by the treasurer. Balkan's net profit for the breakfasts was \$1,929.82, for the year. The question was brought up to increase the price of the breakfasts for 2022. Since Balkan was able to make a decent profit on the breakfasts in

2021, there will be no increase in price for the breakfasts in 2022. It's not so much about the money, as it is a community event that many enjoy.

2. Canister site costs for 2021 were reviewed and discussed. This was in preparation for the meeting on Jan. 11th, 2022 at the community center Chisholm's council will be there to discuss the fire protection agreement and the canister site agreement. The clerk will prepare a breakdown of expenses for this next meeting with the City of Chisholm.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. Joel from RMS in Virginia stopped by the office to give two buy-out prices for the new Komatsu Loader. Balkan planned on renting the loader until we could purchase it out-right in the new year. All of the rent payments go toward the principle amount owed. **A motion was made by Supervisor Tarnowski and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg to purchase the loader. This was passed unanimously.** The clerk will call RMS to get a new buyout price for the next meeting. The treasurer provided in-house financing options for the supervisors.
3. The treasurer asked the supervisors what account they would like the township aid of \$1,016.50 to be put in. The treasurer suggested the money be put in the capital expenditures account to use to help finance the loader purchase.
4. Supervisor VerSteeg will talk with the canister site attendants. There was a personnel issue. A new role of manager/scheduler for the canister site could be made for Dave Pajunen.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on January 11th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar