

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 8th, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar  
 Supervisor – Dirk VerSteeg  
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson  
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen  
 Moderator - Jeff Hendrickson  
 Visitors – 26 people attended  
 Absent: Supervisor – Jennifer Tarnowski

The clerk and treasurer posted the Annual Audit, the Road Report, the annual meeting minutes from 2021, and the bank balances a half hour before the annual meeting started, per Minn. Statute 366.22. The receipts and disbursement registers were provided to the public.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Canvass meeting was called to order by Chairman Strgar at 8:17 pm. Supervisor Strgar asked for a motion to recess the Board of Canvass until after the annual meeting. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

The clerk called the Annual meeting to order at 8:20 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**Announcements:** The clerk asked if there was any interest in forming a Wildfire Protection Plan Workshop for our township. She asked that interested parties sign up on a sign-up sheet provided.

Per Minn. Statute 365.56, subdivision 4, the clerk asked if there were any nominations for a moderator to preside over the meeting. Jeff Hendrickson was chosen by the electors to lead the meeting. There were no other nominations. The moderator reviewed the agenda and set the order of business for the meeting. This is provided for in Minn. Statute 365.56.

The moderator asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the Elector’s Annual Meeting. Joe Jance motioned to approve the agenda. This was supported by Shari Fisher and passed.

**THE TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORT:** The treasurer, Kent Fredeen, summarized the Board of Audit for the audience as required by Minn. Statute 366.22. The Board of Audit report was posted on Balkan’s website and at the annual meeting.

Next, the treasurer went over the bank account balances, provided in the packet. See below.

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$223,096.24</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$8,948.52
Community Center Account	\$47,225.04
Building Project Account	\$1,065.61
COVID -19 account	\$8,436.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$288,772.02</b>

The treasurer, Kent Fredeen, explained the Yearly Summary of money coming into Balkan and when Balkan can expect the money. He asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. No one had any questions.

Next, the treasurer went over the Other Miscellaneous Receipts for 2021. The receipts were delineated with amounts and explained how they are divided into certain accounts. There were no questions from the audience.

Supervisor VerSteege gave a summary of the Road Report that lists the proposed projects for 2022. Supervisor VerSteege told the congregation Balkan purchased the Class V and 1.5” crushed rock in 2021. The township had most of the townships’ road signs replaced and installed by St Louis County in 2021. Calcium chloride was sprayed at a 38% solution to all roads at a cost of \$27,304.00. Culverts were replaced on Salo, Laitala, Baich, Franti and Briski Roads. Roadside mowing began on the west side of Balkan then started on the east side, at the end of the summer. Road ditching was done on Long Lake Road where water from ditches often flooded the road. Some proposed projects for 2022 were discussed. A culvert that was needed on Tomsich Road will be replaced this year. Road repairs on Franti, Baich, Long Lake, Colombe, Tomsich and Smolcich Roads are planned for 2022. Supervisor VerSteege asked if anyone had any questions or suggestions. Linda Sutton asked if Balkan can put some sand on Baich Road’s hill by John Chuk’s house, due to it being very slippery. Supervisor VerSteege said they will do this. Jerry Forsberg suggested Balkan spray calcium chloride earlier in the summer than previously done. Also, to spray a wider area on the roads. Balkan has a plan to go directly to the two calcium chloride providers, Edwards Oil and Envirotech, to get Balkan sprayed earlier this year and ask that they honor St Louis County’s bid amount for an earlier spraying.

The treasurer explained the significant spending in 2021 and early 2022. These were listed and supplied to the audience in the meeting packet for all to follow along. A 2018 Komatsu loader was rented in October 2021, after the 1987 CASE loader was determined to be unusable and cost too much to repair. The Komatsu Loader was negotiated on a rent-to-own purchase package. All rent paid towards the Komatsu loader went toward the purchase price of \$119,500.00, plus a minor financing charge. Culverts were purchased and installed in 2021. Commercial insurance was \$11,495.00 for the year. Workers’ Compensation was \$5,852.00 for the year. Calcium chloride was provided on the roads. Class V and 1.5” crushed rock was purchased for \$67,155.00 plus royalties and annual fee of \$30,553.00. There were no mobilization costs. The total for significant spending in 2021 was \$167,907.72.

The 2021 Fixed Monthly Expenses were detailed to the audience by the treasurer. The expenses included officers’ wages, canister site wages, medical insurance to past employees and current employees, fire contract costs, mileage and cell phone stipends, phone charges and electric services charges. There weren’t any questions about the fixed monthly expenses.

The **recommendation of the town board is a 4% increase to the current tax levy of \$331,500.** This recommendation was given by the treasurer of Balkan, Kent Fredeen. It was explained to the congregation that the Mining Effects Tax and American Rescue Plan funds helped the township in 2021, but the township cannot depend on that money every year as it fluctuates based on mining in Balkan by year and the American Rescue Plan funds will not come in every year. However, Balkan expects to receive approximately \$45,000 more American Rescue Plan income in 2022. Inflation and the cost of road equipment, tires, gas and supplies were the main reasons the increase in the levy was recommended. Linda Sutton suggested the township explain to the residents the levy will be discussed at the annual meeting in the newsletter, so more people may attend the annual meeting.

A paper vote for the increase in the levy was performed. There were 17 residents who voted in favor of raising the levy and 7 votes not in favor of raising the levy. The increase in the levy was passed after some discussion. Penny Vlasich motioned to increase the levy to \$344,760.00 for 2023, this was supported by Linda Sutton. The division of the levy, as proposed by Kent Fredeen, would be the General fund, the Road and Bridge fund, the Capital Expenditures fund, the Fire fund and the PERA fund. The break out of the funds and the percentages suggested were provided.

The **Fire and EMS services resolution** was discussed with residents who attended. The moderator asked for a motion to approve the Fire and EMS services resolution. A motion was made by Shari Fisher to approve the resolution for Fire and EMS services. This was supported by Larry Nosie. The motion passed.

A **resolution to set the date and time for the 2023 annual meeting** came next. The annual town meeting will be held at the Balkan Community Center, no later than one hour following the closing of the polls for the Township election on the second Tuesday of March 2023. The posting places at the Balkan Township canister site, Balkan Community Center and Lucky Seven in Chisholm were also approved with this resolution. Penny Vlasich motioned to approve the 2023 annual meeting place and posting places. This was supported by Larry Nosie. The motion passed.

The moderator asked if there was any resolution from the floor. No one voiced any.

A motion was asked for by the moderator to adjourn the meeting of electors at 9:40 PM. Joe Jance moved to adjourn the meeting. This was supported by Larry Nosie. Motion passed.

The Board of Canvass was reconvened with a motion by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg. The results of the election were announced by Supervisor Strgar as follows:

Supervisor (3-year term): Frank Sever received 29 out 90 votes. Garth Wilson received 61 out of 90 votes. Garth Wilson triumphed.

Clerk (2-year term): Misty Hendrickson received 86 votes out of 90. Misty Hendrickson won unopposed.

**Thank you, election judges, for all of your hard work and dedication to the Township election!**

Chairman Strgar moved to approve the newly elected officials. This motion was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

Supervisor Strgar moved to adjourn the Board of Canvas at 9:50 PM. This was supported by Supervisor VerSteeg and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Moderator) Jeff Hendrickson

