

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 3rd, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 3 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 regular board meeting on April 19th, 2022, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson to approve the April 19th, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$1,763.03			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Community Center Rent	\$700.00	FNB-C MET account 2022 April 2022 interest	\$6.17
Pancake Breakfast proceeds 4/23/22 (gross)	\$511.11	FNB-C Community Center account 2022 April 2022 interest	\$9.30
Pancake Breakfast donations	\$35.00	FNB-C Cap. Expenditures account 2022 April 2022 interest	\$0.20
Canister Site Coupons sold	\$500.00	FNB-C COVID-19/ARPA account 2022 April 2022 interest	\$1.25

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$138,965.11
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$32,188.43
Community Center Account	\$48,745.62
Building Project Account	\$1,065.95
COVID -19 account	\$6,495.61
Total	\$227,460.72

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$200.00 for marketing mail postage for newsletters

Transfers completed: none

Recommended transfers:

1. Transfer \$2,300 from COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for lost revenue in 2020 due to COVID shutdown. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve transfer of \$2,300 from the COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for lost revenue in 2020 due to COVID shutdown. This was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed unanimously.**
2. Transfer \$1,036.68 from COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for the new computer and extra monitor. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve transfer of \$1,036.68 from the COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for purchase of the new computer and monitor. This was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed unanimously.**
3. Transfer \$1,015.00 from checking to the Community Center account for April 2022 community center rent. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve transfer of \$1,015.00 from checking to the Community Center account. This was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the bills for payment on May 3rd, 2022, and ordered paid in the amount of \$6,514.37. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for May 3rd, 2022 (payroll period April 17th – April 30th, 2022), in the amount of \$4,506.82. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The American Rescue Plan Act annual reporting was completed on April 21st, 2022.
 - b. The second monitor was installed on April 21st, 2022 on the clerk's desk.
 - c. The clerk called PERA to ask what happens to the money the township pays in for employees who aren't vested (which takes 5 years). She was told the matching money the township pays in for employees into PERA is forfeited to PERA to pay other PERA benefits. The money an employee invests in PERA each paycheck can be refunded to the unvested employee.
 - d. The election equipment (DS200 and the Automark) was brought to Hibbing Court House for scheduled maintenance on April 25th, 2022.
 - e. The newsletters went out in the mail on April 28th, 2022.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Supervisor VerSteeg has put in a lot of time with the Road and Bridge crew. He is always available to help take off wings, troubleshoot problems, search for parts and equipment or pitch in and grade or plow, when needed. Thanks Supervisor VerSteeg!
 - b. Seals were replaced on the hydraulic cylinder for the packer on April 19th and 20th, 2022. Tools were put away and the shop cleaned.
 - c. Smolcich, Cooper and Latick roads were graded on April 20th.
 - d. The oil was changed and the air filter replaced on the air compressor on April 21st. The "L" shaped fuel tank on the 2012 Ford was picked up from RC Fabricators. The truck box and the fuel tank were pressure washed for undercoating on April 21st.
 - e. The inside of the pickup box was sprayed with undercoating. It was then discovered the fuel tank still had a hole in it. The wings were taken off the graders and the

graders windows were washed. Water was pumped out of the floor drain tank outside the garage on April 22nd.

- f. Culverts were opened up on Johnson, Colombe, and Cooper Roads on April 24th.
 - g. More culverts on Salo, Latick, Johnson and North Long Lake Roads were worked on April 25th. Rock and Class V were used to fill holes on Salo and Latick Roads.
 - h. Culverts on Johnson, Salo and Latick were checked again on April 25th. Washouts and pot holes were patched on Laitala, North Long Lake, Cemetery, Sever, Haiskanen, and Korpi Roads after a road inspection.
 - i. Culverts were steamed on Johnson, Sever and Cemetery Roads on April 26th. Ice was broken up and ditches were dammed up.
 - j. Rock and Class V were put on Johnson Road's culvert on April 27th.
 - k. Washouts were fixed on Sever and Johnson Roads on April 27th. Colombe, Franti, Salo, Bicanich and Laitala Roads were graded.
 - l. Pot holes were cut and Baich, Latick (east), and Cooper (east) were recrowned on April 27th.
 - m. Pot holes were cut on Salonen, Briski, Long Lake to Cooper Road on April 28th.
 - n. North Long Lake, Haiskanen, Korpi, Krogerus and the south end of Long Lake Roads were graded on April 28th.
 - o. Pot holes were cut on Cooper, Latick, Hyvarinen, Vlasich, and Salonen Roads and recrowned on April 29th.
 - p. Cemetery, Sever, Johnson, Nettle, Smolich, Tolonen, Kekke, and Lake Roads were graded on April 29th. New picks were installed on the grader.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. The canister at the Community Center has been emptied by General Waste.
 - b. Some of the frying griddles used for the pancake breakfasts need replacing. Four of the griddles will be ordered this week. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve purchasing 4 new griddles for the community center, not to exceed \$275.00.**
 - c. The playground equipment will need to be checked for safety again this spring.
 - d. The basketball hoops placement was discussed. The supervisors agreed on a location. The hoop needs to be 10 feet high.
 - e. Dave Pajunen finished waxing the community center's large room with 4 coats of wax last week.
 - f. The treasurer went over the proceeds and expenses for the Pancake Breakfast on April 23rd, 2022. The total profit for this pancake breakfast was \$182.33. There were donations of \$35.00. Three kids participated in helping with the cleanup and service. There were 137 adults and 6 children under 5 years old who attended.

4. Canister Site Report :

- a. Dave Pajunen picked up garbage surrounding the canister site on May 3rd. Thanks Dave!
- b. An ad will be put in the Chisholm section of the Mesabi Tribune May 11th asking for canister site attendants. Balkan is looking for an alternate canister site attendant.

5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Town Law Review is scheduled for May 25th, 2022 in Otsego, MN, from 9am to 3pm. This costs \$65 per attendee.
2. The 13th Annual Township Legal Seminar will be offered in Cotton, MN on October 1st, 2022. This is a free seminar to all township officials put on by Couri and Ruppe, PLLP.

3. The Mineral Hearing for unmined ore assessments will be held on May 23rd, 2022 from 10 am via Webex.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Katie Betterers brought in estimates for a new drilled well for her property. One of Balkan's plow drivers hit her hand-dug well cover in November of 2019. Balkan will remit this claim to MATTT.
2. The supervisors were able to help two residents decrease their property valuations for 2023 during the annual local board of appeal and equalization meeting on April 28th, 2022. More residents showed up and asked questions about the new valuations. Accurate accounts of the taxed property help St Louis County determine the correct amount to tax a property. The land is graded in 4 levels: good, average, fair and poor.
3. The supervisors agreed to throw out the old typewriter and older computer equipment that has been replaced. The clerk will attempt to see what is on the old tower.
4. A Balkan supervisor voted not to pay SLCAT dues earlier this year due to not getting the materials and zoom links last year after repeatedly asking for them. St Louis County Association of Townships dues paid are a requirement to participate in the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust, who is Balkan's insurance provider. Balkan will pay the dues to be in MATTT. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to pay the SLCAT dues for 2022. This was passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to purchase road salt for 2022-2023 winter season at the going rate. This passed unanimously.** The clerk will order road salt via MN procurement site in order to get St Louis County pricing on the salt.
3. A resident suggested Balkan have a shredding service at the annual hazardous household waste collection in July. This idea was tabled until we can see if there is any interest from residents.
4. The Balkan Saddle Club lease has been updated and is ready to present to Karen Pender by June 2022.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES: none

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on May 17th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar