

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 17th, 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 6:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After review of the minutes from the regular board meeting on May 3rd, 2022, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson to approve the May 3rd, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$1,029.62			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Community Center Rent	\$440.00	FNB-C checking account 2022 April 2022 interest	\$6.90
Community Center garbage	\$50.00		
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00		
Life Insurance reimbursed	\$32.72		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$130,917.08
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$32,188.43
Community Center Account	\$49,760.62
Building Project Account	\$1,065.95
COVID -19 account	\$3,158.93
Total	\$217,091.01

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$254.40 to Amazon for 4 pancake griddles for the community center
2. \$143.82 for floor wax for the community center

Transfers completed:

1. The transfer from the checking to the Community Center account for April 2022 rent of \$1,015.00 was completed.

2. The transfer from the COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for lost revenue in 2020 for \$2,300.00 was completed.
3. The transfer from the COVID-19/ARPA fund to checking for the new computer was completed.

Recommended transfers:

1. A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege to transfer \$254.40 for the pancake griddles and \$143.82 for the floor wax from the Community Center account to checking in the total of \$398.22. This motion was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the bills for payment on May 17th, 2022, and ordered paid in the amount of \$7,915.82. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for May 17th, 2022 (payroll period May 1st – May 15th, 2022), in the amount of \$3,999.34. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The salt for roads was ordered on May 4th, 2022. This should follow St Louis County pricing, per Karen McEntire, from MN procurement.
 - b. Duane Shepersky's mailbox is fixed after a hit on April 28th, 2022.
 - c. Floor wax was ordered for the community center on May 5th, 2022.
 - d. The April bank reconciliation was completed on May 9th by the clerk and treasurer. A discrepancy was caught for an employee's PERA reporting. This error was rectified by reporting it to PERA and paying the \$53.54 on May 6th.
 - e. The clerk plugged in the old tower found in the office but was not able to access any files on the tower due to no password to sign in. The supervisors said to pull the hard drive and trash the tower.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Colombe and Pozar Roads were graded May 3rd, 2022.
 - b. Baich, Cooper, and Long Lake Roads were cut, shaped and crowned on May 3rd. Some ditching was done on Cooper and Baich Roads.
 - c. Krogerus, Vlasich, Latick, Hyvarinen and Smolcich Roads were graded and cut on May 4th.
 - d. Baich, Salonen, Briski and Long Lake Roads were cut, shaped and crowned on May 5th.
 - e. Vitali, White, Laitala, Salo and Cemetery Roads were graded on May 5th.
 - f. North Long Lake, Fire, the West side of Latick, Countryside Lane, and the end of Baich Roads were graded on May 6th.
 - g. Long Lake Road was graded on May 9th.
 - h. The wing brackets were removed from the 1996 Grader and the packer was mounted May 9th.
 - i. Smolcich, Johnson and Franti Roads were cut, shaped and crowned on May 10th.
 - j. Sawmill, Tomsich, Lake and Kekke Roads were graded on May 10th.
 - k. The 1990 International plow truck was pressure washed and the sander removed on May 11th. A fallen tree was removed from Hyvarinen Road. Bad culverts were inspected on Long Lake and Krogerus Roads.

- l. The water was turned on in the pavilion on May 12th. The fuel tank was retrieved from R.C. Fabricators. The plow was removed from the 2018 International plow truck. Culverts needing replacement were inventoried with Supervisor VerSteeg.
 - m. Fallen trees on Johnson, Pozar, Long Lake and Hyvarinen Roads were removed and/or cut up on May 13th. Water was pumped out of the holding tank for the water/oil separator.
 - n. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to purchase 7 culverts for approximately \$9,000.00. This motion passed unanimously.**
 - o. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to purchase an oil change cart for under \$400.00. This was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed unanimously.**
 - p. The Road and Bridge employees will be stockpiling some class five in the back pit in anticipation of a bridge replacement on Highway 84 in June.
 - q. Maturi and Kirk Roads need to be inspected for grading.
3. Community Center Report:
 - a. The cold water was turned on in the pavilion by May 15th, however, for hot water, some pipes need to be changed.
 - b. Boards on the windows at the pavilion need to be taken down before June.
 4. Canister Site Report :
 - a. Bill Marino has been cleaning up the garbage around the canister site.
 - b. An extra canister site attendant is needed for Wednesdays starting June 2022.
 - c. The ground rod at the canister site is a tripping hazard. Bill Marino will pound it in.
 5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. RAMS is holding a broadband meeting for township officials on June 16th at noon at the RAMS office in Mountain Iron. This is to get townships together to talk about how we can condense our needs to lobby for broadband for our combined rural areas.
2. Money was requested for approval to put flowers at the community center and garage for the summer. Former-Supervisor Jennifer Tarnowski volunteered to plant the flowers and order them. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to purchase flowers from Cherry Greenhouse in Chisholm for approximately \$250.00.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Supervisor VerSteeg provided culvert quotes from Radko and L&L Rental. Culvert needs and applications were discussed.
2. The Balkan Saddle Club lease has been updated. The clerk will contact Karen Pender to get an updated certificate of liability insurance and send her the lease for her signature. The supervisors will sign at the next board meeting on May 31st, 2022.
3. The Compensation for Township positions was increased 2% for all positions except the supervisors. The treasurer suggested the supervisors get paid \$500/month, as they have many responsibilities and decisions to make that are very difficult. The supervisors do many extra jobs for the township that are never mentioned. This was discussed and compromised at increasing the supervisors pay to \$400/month. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to increase the township positions pay by 2%, except the supervisors, they will receive \$400/month, effective May 31st, 2022.** Mileage reimbursement was discussed for supervisors since the price of gas has increased significantly. The clerk was asked to look up statutes for mileage stipends for supervisors.

She will send this information to the supervisors and put it on the agenda for May 31st to discuss further. This was tabled.

4. The activity director job description and related pay were presented to the supervisors for review. After some discussion, **a motion was made to accept the job description and pay and present it to Ellen Minkus. This motion was made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.** Supervisor Wilson will present Ellen with the job description and pay.
5. Balkan purchased four new pancake griddles for the community center in May. The old pancake griddles will be offered at the Pancake Breakfast on May 21st, 2022 for \$5/griddle. The clerk will make a flyer to sell these griddles.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. The mowers were serviced and ready to go for the summer. Employees can use the fuel in the tanks in back of the garage to fill up the mowers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Pancake Breakfast – May 21st, 2022 830am-11am
2. Election judge training – June 2022

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

1. Trucks and ATVs are tearing up Balkan Roads and intersections.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on May 31st, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar