

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 31st, 2022, 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteege
 Treasurer – Kent Fredeen
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 5 guests

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 regular board meeting on May 17th, 2022, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Wilson to approve the May 17th, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent Fredeen

Receipts: \$1,189.72			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Community Center Rent	\$275.00	FNB-C MET account 2022 May 2022 interest	\$6.17
Community Center garbage	\$25.00	FNB-C Community Center account 2022 May 2022 interest	\$9.47
Pancake Breakfast Proceeds (gross)	\$355.09	FNB-C Cap. Exp. account 2022 May 2022 interest	\$0.20
Pancake Griddles sold	\$15.00	FNB-C COVID-19/ARPA account 2022 May 2022 interest	\$0.79
Balkan Saddle Club 3-year lease fee	\$3.00		
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00		

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$118,865.17
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$32,194.60
Community Center Account	\$49,371.87
Building Project Account	\$1,066.15
COVID -19 account	\$3,159.72
Total	\$204,657.51

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

Voided checks: #62727 for \$117.74, #62744 for \$67.99 employee lost checks – stop payment fee of \$20.00

Debit Card usage:

1. \$371.98 to Amazon for the low-profile oil pan cart
2. \$28.31 Air valve for the diesel truck
3. \$93.94 to Amazon for 6 flags for the Community Center
4. \$56.33 for a USA flag and a treated post to replace a mailbox stand

Transfers completed:

1. The transfer of \$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 was completed.

Recommended transfers:

1. A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege to approve the transfer of \$969.15 from checking to the Community Center account for May community center rent of \$715.00, the Pancake Breakfast net profit of \$318.87, the pancake griddles sold for \$15.00, less the valve for the pavilion of \$29.98, less the additional supplies purchased for the pancake breakfasts (5/21/22) of \$49.74. 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 31st, 2022, and ordered paid in the amount of \$4,607.73. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for May 31st, 2022 (payroll period May 15th – May 28th, 2022), in the amount of \$8,650.36. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. Two employee checks were lost in January. Balkan reissued these checks less a \$20 stop payment fee that was applied to the reissued checks.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Tomsich, Lake, Kekke, Pozar, Tolonen, Koshere, Smolcich, Frider and Johnson Roads were graded May 16th.
 - b. East Cooper, Baich, Hyvarinen, Centa, Briski and Salonen Roads were cut and crowned on May 16th.
 - c. Korpi, Krogerus, and the west end of Latick road were graded on May 16th.
 - d. A battery was put in the Gravely mower and serviced on May 16th.
 - e. Franti, Colombe, Latick, Cooper, Long lake and Baich roads were graded May 17th.
 - f. Sanders and the pick-up plow were taken off vehicles and stored for the summer. The battery for the mower at the community center was installed on May 18th.
 - g. North Long Lake, Sunset Pit Road, and the west side of Pozar were graded on May 18th.
 - h. Motor oil was purchased in Hibbing on May 19th. Oil changing ramps were made. Franti Road was inspected for further damage.
 - i. Kirk and Haiskanen Roads were graded. Mr. Mihelich said not to grade Maturi Road on May 19th.

- j. Oil was changed on the 2012 Ford Pick-up on May 20th. The fuel tank was painted before being reinstalled on the 2012 pick-up and the toolbox was replaced on the truck. Laitala Road's culvert was inspected. The mailbox post on Barrett Road was inspected and needs fixing.
 - k. Beaver dams were dug out on Franti Road on May 23rd. Mattresses and furniture was picked up on Johnson Roadside ditch. The wrong bucket teeth were ordered from H&L Mesabi, the right ones were ordered from Ziegler.
 - l. A resident stopped in to ask the township to check out their culvert on North Long Lake Road to see if it could drain more. A beaver dam was dug out of a culver on Cooper Road on May 24th. Employee picked up the right bucket teeth from Ziegler. Pozar Road was graded.
 - m. New teeth were installed on the excavator on May 25th. The battery was recharged and the excavator ran. The Komatsu Loader was washed. Preparations for installing the post on Barrett Road were made.
 - n. The new post for the mailbox on Barrett Road was installed. Parts were purchased for the Ford dump truck. The new air tailgate switch was installed on the Ford. A beaver dam was dug out from a culvert on Cooper Road on May 26th.
 - o. Batteries were charged in the Ford Dump truck. It started.
 - p. Pozar and Vlasich Roads were graded on May 27th.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Two flags were replaced at the community center before Memorial Day weekend.
 - b. The playground was inspected for safety by Supervisor Wilson. He said there is some of the equipment that was rusted and sticking up. The slide on the south side needs to be raised up and more screened sand added to the playground.

Canister Site Report :

- a. The canisters need to be moved away from the fence soon.
 - b. The tires are piling up fast. The clerk will call John Strukel to set up a removal schedule.
 - c. A few unauthorized individuals climbed over the fence recently to the canister site and took a couple of mattresses and electronics from the site. It was suggested, a camera may need to be installed to catch perpetrators.
4. Other Reports:
- a. Mr. Barney, from Cooper Road, asked if Balkan will be having their town-wide garage sales this year. Balkan hopes to extend the town-wide rummage sales to be an annual event. Balkan will advertise for this event in the paper and offer maps to residents participating.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- b. A resident called the state department to ask for a street light for the intersection by Highway 73 and Briski Road. Many people have harrowing experiences when turning from Highway 73 onto the roads to the west. There is no turning lane and many people following vehicles who are turning west, don't like to slow down for turners and go around the turner creating a dangerous condition. Balkan would have to pay for the light bill when a street light is installed. The installation may be provided by the state department. This is an on-going issue and updates will be reported here.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 5/18/2022 – Lucky Seven is offering Balkan calcium chloride for \$1.10/gal.
2. 5/23/2022 – MAT membership cards were distributed to officials. This card offers reduced rates for hotel rooms and other services for township officials.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Balkan Saddle Club lease was approved and signed. A copy of the signed lease agreement will be mailed to Karen Pender-Hannan.
2. The Balkan Compensation resolution was discussed. Supervisor Strgar suggested Balkan provide Dave Pajunen with a mileage stipend of \$50 per month due to all his trips to the community center for cleaning and his trips to check on the canister site employees and situations. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to offer Mr. Pajunen a mileage stipend of \$50 per month, effective in June 2022. This motion passed unanimously.** The clerk will update the compensation resolution to reflect this addition. Increased mileage stipends for supervisors were discussed and tabled for another year.
3. The newly created position of Community Activity Director for Balkan Township was posted in all posting boxes, posted on the website, and advertised in the paper in late May 2022.
4. The situation with Katie Betters well was discussed. Katie received quotes for excavating her well in addition to quotes from three area well drillers for a new well to be drilled. In November of 2019, her well cover was hit and pushed by a Balkan's plow truck. She claims she has had problems with her well since. She claims her water is not fit for consumption and ground water is getting into her well making the water smell like "puddle water". Balkan has remitted her claim to MATTT in May of 2022, which has denied the claim for various reasons including not filing the claim when the incident happened. No claim was turned in to MATTT in November of 2019.
Ms. Betters wrote a proposal to Balkan asking for 100% of the new well to be paid by Balkan to fix this issue. After much discussion a decision was made.
A motion, made by Supervisor Strgar and supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve paying for a new well to be drilled, the electric to hook up the well, and excavating not to exceed \$10,000.00. Once Ms. Betters knows when to expect the well to be drilled, she will contact Balkan to set up a payment for the service to be paid directly to Katie Betters with a disclaimer on the letter and check provided at that time.
5. Flowers were planted by Jennifer Tarnowski at the community center and the office. Jennifer will be reimbursed for the cost of the flowers at \$130.25.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. Frontline workers are eligible for up to \$1,500.00 for working during the pandemic from Minnesota. A formatted letter will be available once the sign-up site is open. A basic letter will be provided to send out to employees about how to sign up for this benefit in June.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Pancake Breakfast – June 18th, 2022
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 VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on June 14th, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar