

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 20th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 3 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **March 6th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the regular board meeting minutes March 6th, 2024. Motion passed.**
- The **Annual Meeting minutes were presented to the supervisors at the meeting.** There is no law saying they must be approved by the board of supervisors, only that the Annual Meeting minutes be filed in the office of the town clerk two days after the meeting and be presented at the following meeting for review. With this explanation, no motion to approve the Annual Meeting minutes was given.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$1,599.41		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister Site coupons sold	\$500.00	
Community Center rent	\$265.00	
Community Center garbage fee	\$ 50.00	
Pie Social proceeds	\$410.00	
Life Insurance reimbursement	\$ 98.16	
Refund – DVS – 2001 International Plow truck registration	\$ 12.25	
MATIT – removed 2001 International Plow truck from Auto Insurance	\$264.00	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$355,759.98
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 4,040.34
Community Center Account	\$ 57,530.12
Building Project Account	\$ 1,081.37
COVID -19 account	\$ 48,025.52
Total	\$466,437.33

The treasurer, Shari Fisher, reported on the Pie Social from 3/16/2024. Sixty-one tickets were sold at \$5 per person and an additional \$105 in pies was sold. Deb VerSteeg's reported expenses for the pie social were \$201.72 and the net profit was \$208.28.

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$150.00 for USPS Postage for sending Annual Meeting postcards to residents.
2. \$327.70 to Ford of Hibbing for two lockout hubs for Ford F-350

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$208.28 from checking to the community center fund pie social net amount from 3/16/24 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$665.00 from checking to the Community center account for community center rent from 2/20/2024 to 3/18/24 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed.**
3. A transfer of \$1,500.00 from the MET fund to the checking for 2024 Chisholm Summer Recreation Program was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the transfer. This motion passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. A transfer of \$193.99 from the community center fund to checking for the shelving was completed.
2. A transfer of \$26,932.00 from the checking to the MET fund for the first stipend of MET money was completed.
3. A transfer of \$36,878.16 from the MET Fund to the checking for 2024 Fire Protection and EMS services was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the bills for payment on March 20th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$5,860.52. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for March 20th, 2024 (payroll period March 3rd, 2024, to March 16th, 2024) , in the amount of \$8,876.23. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for the election judges from 3/5/24 and 3/12/24 in the amount of \$1,608.23. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk ordered two receipt books from Amazon for \$49.25 each instead of the expensive kind from Deluxe Business.
 - b. The clerk asked if the board had any suggestions for the newsletter. The Chisholm Summer Recreation Program was brought up. Last year there were about 18 Balkan kids who signed up for the program. Great program.

- c. Linda Sutton, deputy clerk, will come into town on Friday, March 22, 2024, for when the clerk will be gone in April.
 - d. The clerk cleaned out half of the voting cabinet and found 2011 and 2012 meeting packets, no minutes. They were stored in binders.
 - e. Amy Tanko headed up a project to update the Veteran's plaque at the community center with more names of folks who have served in the military. She compiled thirty-one names. They were emailed to Bark Design on Monday, March 18th, 2024. Bill Butkovich will need a sample to reproduce the printed names to match what is there. Supervisor Strgar will drop off a sample for Bark Design soon. Some names may be duplicates, however, the person who updates the plaque can make the decision to on what name to put on the board.
2. Shop & Road Report:
- a. Colombe Road was brush-cut on March 4th and 5th, 2024. Ice was graded off of Cemetery Road due to the water running over the road.
 - b. Vlasich Road was brush-cut on March 5th.
 - c. Countryside Lane was brush-cut on March 6th. The shop was cleaned.
 - d. Sever and Haiskanen Roads were brush-cut on March 7th.
 - e. Repair work was done to the 2012 Ford pickup on March 8th and 11th. Hub parts for the pickup were purchased at Ford of Hibbing.
 - f. The pickup was repaired on March 12th. Road inspections were done with the newly repaired pickup.
 - g. The tag trailer was DOT'd and serviced on March 13th.
 - h. Haiskanen, Krogerus, Long Lake and Korpi Roads were graded on March 14th. The chipper was picked up from Chisholm in preparation for the next job.
 - i. Krogerus, Long Lake, Haiskanen and Korpi Roads were graded March 14th.
 - j. Trees were cut and chipped around the township on March 15th. Baich Road was graded.
 - k. The Road and Bridge crew used a chipper from Chisholm on various roads to get rid of some brush and small trees on the right-of-way. They discovered that Chisholm does not own the chipper but rents it from a company who also has other machinery to rent for about \$10 per hour. This is cheap and could work for the township in the future. Supervisor VerSteege will find out how to sign up to be included in this renting equipment.
 - l. Chisholm used the equipment trailer to make a run to Duluth recently.
 - m. The Ford dump truck has some issues with brakes, front motor mount, and steer wheel replacement. Supervisor VerSteege picked up two tires from Iron Range Tire for \$116 to put on the truck.
 - n. Balkan's pole saw did not work. Supervisor VerSteege borrowed his personal pole saw to cut some branches by roads.
 - o. The trucks are being readied for the upcoming snowfall the meteorologists predict is coming next week.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Dave Pajunen, the community center caretaker, asked the supervisors to install the new soap dispensers from Sullivan's in the bathrooms.
 - b. A new sprayer faucet for the community center is needed. Supervisor VerSteege will pick one up to be installed by Supervisor Wilson.
 - c. There are trees to clean up in the yard at the community center. This will be done later this year before lawn mowing.
 - d. The basketball hoops were discussed. It was suggested a portable basketball hoop be purchased for the side of the parking lot where it would be difficult to put a hole in the cement. Supervisor VerSteege will price it and report back to the board soon.

4. Canister Site Report:

- a. A TracPhone is needed for the canister site. The clerk will look into purchasing one.
- b. At the Annual Meeting, a resident asked if there could be a “free” table at the canister site for people to put stuff on that is in good condition and someone else may want. After some discussion, it was decided there will be no “free” table at Balkan’s canister site.
- c. The canisters have been blowing over recently. Supervisor VerSteege talked to the canister site attendant and moved the canisters closer to the fence, so they do not fall over and need to be picked up so much.

The Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. On March 18th, 2024, Balkan received the property taxes payable. The supervisors reviewed the statement.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A refund was received from the MN Dept. of Public Safety for the sold 2001 International Plow truck of \$12.25. They denied the 1990 International Plow truck refund request, due to it not being sold yet.
2. Supervisor VerSteege fixed the sticking door problem at the community center. He said the hinges were loose and he will ask Ed Waters how to adjust the doors so that they do not bang shut now.
3. The supervisors were informed that LVC Companies no longer service the AED machines. There is a superstore on-line to purchase items to update the machines.
4. LVC Companies will service the fire extinguishers in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. A vacuum is needed for the garage and office. A vacuum from MN Industries was suggested. However, that vacuum costs \$752.00. Supervisor VerSteege bought a professional Shark Navigator for the garage and office.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Reorganization meeting – 4/3/24

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on April 3rd, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar