

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 15th, 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 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **May 1st, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor Wilson**, supported by **Supervisor VerSteeg**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **May 1st, 2024**. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$4,919.02			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00		
Community Center rent 4/16-5/13/24	\$665.00	FNB-C MET interest – April 2024	\$2.19
Community Center Rent (returnable)	\$100.00	FNB-C Comm. Center interest – April 2024	\$50.42
Community Center Garbage fee	\$25.00	FNB-C Cap. Exp. interest – April 2024	\$0.93
Sweatshirts/T-shirts sold	\$30.00	FNB-C C-19/ARPA interest – April 2024	\$41.37
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement – April & May	\$3,418.14	FNB-C checking account interest – April 2024	\$85.97

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$240,626.62
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,547.36
Community Center Account	\$ 59,642.90
Building Project Account	\$ 1,083.26
COVID -19 account	\$ 48,109.60
Total	\$352,009.74

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. \$96.79 to L&M Supply for the pavilion water faucet spigot
2. \$254.57 to Amazon for a Meeting Minutes Book

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$96.79 from the community center fund to checking for the pavilion water spigot was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$665.00 from checking to the community center account for community center rent from 4/16/24- 5/13/24 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$586.61 from checking to the community center fund for pancake breakfast net was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on May 15th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$74,171.57. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for May 15th, 2024 (payroll period April 28th through May 11th, 2024) , in the amount of \$4,306.34. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The Facebook administrator, Amy Tanko, has been working on the veteran's plaque project. She would like to post that the name labels have been received by Bark Design and are ready to put on the blocks of wood. She would like to make a master list of the names and add that time to her timecard.
 - b. The clerk received an email from a resident concerned about the playground equipment. He included photos of the areas on the playground that need fixing or replacing. This was discussed and a solution was agreed on. They will put thick plywood over the plastic that has deteriorated so it is safer. The clerk will email the concerned resident about the solution the board discussed at the meeting. Donations are always welcome. IRRRB will be checked for grants available for playground equipment and a grant writer.
 - c. Julia from Minnesota Power called about permitting for a new residence going up on Krogerus Road. Balkan Township doesn't issue permits for building. She said she will proceed with getting power to the new property.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. The water spigots were changed on the pavilion on April 29th. The Husky mower was serviced.
 - b. The DR trimmer and the Gravelly were serviced on April 30th. The culvert on Cooper Road and Baich was unplugged, and the screen repositioned.
 - c. Supervisor VerSteeg and Steve Johnson went to Longville, MN to look at a tandem dump truck for sale on May 1st.
 - d. Work was done to mitigate the flooding on Vlasich Road due to beaver issues on May 2nd.
 - e. Culverts were unloaded from Radko's trucks on May 2nd.
 - f. Tailings and class five were hauled to Vlasich to fix up the road on May 3rd.
 - g. A culvert was replaced on Justin Hawk's easement on May 3rd after it was discovered it was damaged.

- h. Long Lake, Haiskanen, Vlasich, Laitala, Salo and Pozar Roads were graded on May 6th.
 - i. The ditching bucket was replaced on the excavator and the excavator was serviced on May 7th.
 - j. The servicing of the excavator was finished on May 8th. The sander was removed from the Sterling L9500. The beaver issues were monitored on Vlasich, McNiven and Laitala Roads.
 - k. Maturi Road was graded on May 9th. Vlasich Road was called in to locate MN and marked with lathe markers.
 - l. The class five reclaimer was installed on the grader on May 10th and part of Baich and Latick Roads were reclaimed.
 - m. Rocks were raked up at the community center on May 6th. Sticks were picked up too.
 - n. The check is ready to be sent to Rihm Kenworth for the 1999 Tandem Kenworth truck. The clerk and Supervisor VerSteege will call Chuck Rugar to arrange picking up the vehicle once the check clears their bank.
 - o. A culvert on Baich has been identified that is plugged with class five from the winter plowing.
 - p. The beaver dams on Vlasich have been checked. A new beaver dam on Vitali Road was recently identified. An explosives license is needed to blow up the beaver dams to eradicate so the roads do not flood. Supervisor Wilson and VerSteege will look into getting the explosives license.
 - q. A culvert will be changed on North Long Lake Road on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024, from 10am – 2pm. The clerk was asked to laminate two road closure signs for the ends of the roads where the roads will be temporarily closed.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Supervisor Wilson and his wife will be putting flowers in the flowerpots at the community center in time for the graduations in June.
 - b. A possible water leak was found in the mechanical room in the community center. Some searching for the origin must be done.
 - c. A water leak was found in the pavilion. Anderson Plumbing was called to find and fix the leak. They found the first leak, but then found another leak too. This is being worked on. We hope to clean and open the pavilion this coming weekend in time for the Balkan Saddle Club Playdate on Sunday.
 - d. The flags are up at the community center after the ropes were repaired with help from Chisholm's bucket truck.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. The schedule for the canister site employees was discussed.

The Other Reports:

- 1. none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- 1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. Minnesota Power sent a proposed rate increase and welcomes comments about the rate increase. The clerk sent a comment about this proposed rate being the second rate increase of the year and people cannot afford it.
- 2. Textmygov.com administrator Kadance Anderson contacted the clerk to ask if their service can be a fit for Balkan Township. The service texts a message to the residents in your area and they can text back to the government agency to have two-way communication. This form of communication could cost as much as \$1500 per year. This was not a good fit for Balkan Township and the idea will be tabled due to the high cost.

3. The Minnesota Dept. of Revenue sent the mineral hearing on iron ore assessments for the board's review.
4. NCPers life insurance is offering open enrollment now. The benefits were discussed.
5. The city of Chisholm sent a request for donations for ISD 695 Golf Scramble offered at Wolf Ridge Golf Course. The board doesn't make donations with taxpayer money.
6. The calcium chloride bid for St Louis County was received. Envirotech received the winning bid for calcium chloride at \$1.37/gallon. Edwards Oil received the winning bid for magnesium chloride at \$1.369. **A motion to use Envirotech at \$1.37 per gallon of calcium chloride was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
7. A cooperative service agreement from Grand Rapids for beaver eradication was received by email. They ask for \$ 3,000.00 per quarter to eradicate the beaver in the area. This would cost too much; it will be handled in-house.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A quote for networking the computers in the office and a new computer were presented to the supervisors for discussion and approval. The networking will be covered by American Rescue Plan Account money that has been obligated for this purpose. **A motion to approve the networking and extra computer was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to not exceed \$1906.02 per the quote and to recycle the old laptop computer. This motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. The Compensation Resolution for non-bargaining unit employees was discussed. A two percent increase was budgeted for 2024. **A motion to approve a 2% increase from last year's wages was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
3. The Spring 2024 newsletter was reviewed and discussed. After some changes, **a motion was made to approve the newsletter for mailing by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
4. **A motion was made to approve adding \$150 to the marketing mail account at the Post office to mail the newsletter by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
5. The ovens at the community center are running 100 degrees off from the set temperature. Supervisor Strgar will contact Kennan or Perpich TV to ask them if they service ovens and how much for the visit. New ovens may need to be purchased and installed if they ovens can't be repaired.
6. The big clock at the community center needs fixing. The hour hand needs to be reset. A new clock will be found to replace the big clock at the community center.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. **Pancake Breakfast – May 18th, 2024, 8:30am – 11am**

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on May 29th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar