

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**May 1st, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

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

**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 April 17th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the regular board meeting minutes April 17th, 2024. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Kent Fredeen

<b>Receipts: \$845.65</b>		
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>
Pancake Breakfast proceeds – 4/20/2024	\$685.65	
Sweatshirts/T-shirts sold	\$160.00	

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$316,744.04</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,545.17
Community Center Account	\$ 58,215.87
Building Project Account	\$ 1,082.33
COVID -19 account	\$ 48,068.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$426,655.64</b>

The deputy treasurer reported on the Pancake Breakfast from April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. One hundred forty-eight tickets were sold at \$5 per person and an additional 8 tickets were sold at \$3 per person with no sausage totaling \$24.00, eggs were sold at \$1 per serving to 56 people. The net profit for this pancake breakfast was \$586.61.

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:** none

**Voided Receipts:** none

**Voided checks :** none

**Recommended Transfers:**

1. A transfer of \$586.61 from checking to the community center fund for pancake breakfast net was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**

**Transfers completed:**

1. A transfer of \$790.00 from checking to the community center fund for community center rent was completed.

**A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on May 1st, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$14,459.31. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for May 1st, 2024 (payroll period April 14th through April 27th, 2024) , in the amount of \$4,599.59. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson

- a. The clerk filed the American Rescue Plan Act mandatory annual report on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The treasurer, Shari Fisher, provided ideas for obligating the rest of the federal money. The clerk obligated some funds for the networking of the office computers and a donation to the food shelf. We need to keep the money local.
- b. A new minute's book is needed. The clerk asked for approval to order a minute's book. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the purchase of a new minute's book. This motion was passed unanimously.**
- c. The clerk reported there was a new update to CTAS for 2024. The updates include the Earned sick and safe time reporting on the paycheck and new PERA updates.

2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. A hydraulic cylinder was put on the grader along with the Walk-n-Roll Road packer on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The sander was washed to get ready to take off the plow. Kekke Road was inspected.
- b. Trees were pushed into the ditch on Johnson and Baich Roads on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Walk-n-Roll was finished being installed.
- c. New picks were installed on the grader on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Also installed was a new cutting edge on the 2018 International Plow truck. Steve helped Iron Range Tire install tires on the tractor/mower. These are weighted tires.
- d. Laitala, Salo, Colombe, North Long Lake, the Fire Trail and Latick Roads were graded on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Potholes were filled with the loader on Colombe Road with class five.
- e. Cooper, Salonen, Briski, Vlasich, Bicanich, Seppala, Pozar, Franti, Johnson and White Roads were graded on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- f. Cooper, Krogerus, Long Lake, Tomsich, Lake, Kekke, Tolonen, Koshere, Smolcich, Nettle, Haiskanen and Sever Roads were graded on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- g. Long Lake, Centa, Hyvarinen and Baich Roads were graded on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- h. Baich, Sawmill, Cemetery and Sever Roads were graded on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- i. The 2012 pickup was serviced, and the plow removed. The sander was washed on the 2018 International Plow Truck. Vlasich and Krogerus Roads were inspected for future ditching on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- j. Water was on Vlasich Road on 5/1/2024. Mitigation is needed.
- k. There have been letters written to a resident on Bicanich Road asking for them to move the wood pile, junk, and a trailer from the area around the road on their

property so that Balkan's maintenance trucks won't hit them. This resident hasn't complied. The sheriff went to their house, and nothing changed. A supervisor suggested the township not maintain (plow or grade) this road until the junk, trailer and wood have been removed. The Board will put together a letter stating this action and wait until the resident complies. One supervisor will take pictures of the blight before any action is taken.

1. Supervisor VerSteege and Steve Johnson found a tandem truck for sale. They both went to look at the truck and road tested it. Supervisor VerSteege provided some pictures and details about the truck at the board meeting. After some discussion regarding the 1999 tandem Kenworth gravel truck, **a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to purchase the 1999 truck for \$60,000.** The truck has been DOT'd and is set up to tow our equipment trailer. It has all new tires, new rear brakes, a new heavy-duty box and a 350 Cummins engine. This vehicle should last the township many years.
3. Community Center Report:
  - a. Supervisor VerSteege and Steve Johnson changed the two water faucets on the exterior of the pavilion in anticipation of Sertich Plumbing coming to replace the faucet in the women's bathroom.
  - b. A bag of dish towels was donated by Jonelle Kallio's daughter, Kim Yuretich, to the community center. Thank you, Kim, and Jonelle.
  - c. Supervisor Wilson and wife, Sandra will pull the winter decorations from the flowerpots at the community center and will fill them with flowers for the summer soon.
  - d. During a recent windy day, the flag pole's rope broke. A new rope will be installed once the ground is dryer, in order not to rip up the ground. Supervisors VerSteege and Wilson will work on this.
  - e. The top oven at the community center is not heating up like it should. It says it needs programming. A supervisor will look at this issue.
4. Canister Site Report:
  - a. A ramp will be made by Supervisor VerSteege and Steve Johnson for the storage container at the canister site, for safety.
  - b. A screen door is needed for the canister site shack. The supervisors will ask Gerry Palmquist to help with this project.

#### The Other Reports:

1. Marie Tolonen contacted Deb VerSteege via E-mail regarding the upcoming Pancake Breakfast on April 20th, 2024. Deb e-mailed her the specifics and even though it was only a couple of days before the breakfast, Marie made sure it got in the Community Events section of the paper. Thanks Marie!
2. Deb VerSteege came up with a great idea to coordinate and offer a defensive driving class for seniors at the community center with the help of the state troopers. Taking this class saves people money on their car insurance, up to 10%. Once this is coordinated and set up, it will be listed in the newsletter.

#### **CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

1. A concerned citizen asked if the township could do anything about removing the "Ditch Lady's" trucks on her tax forfeit property. She asked the DNR if there were any fluids from the truck leaching into the ditch water that runs through the property that could potentially run into underground aquifers and contaminate wells in the area. St Louis County usually handles this kind of contamination as the township doesn't have those kinds of resources.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. none

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Canister site issues: The summer work schedule for the canister site was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
2. A Mosquito Squad quote was discussed for the community center. The bill was to spray the community center grounds for \$949.00. This issue was tabled due to its being too expensive.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

1. Pancake Breakfast – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 8:30am – 11am

**NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on May 15th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Board Chair) Brad Strgar