

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**June 12th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar  
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson  
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher  
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson  
 Visitors – 4 guests  
 Absent: Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:02 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **May 29th, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor Wilson**, supported by **Supervisor Strgar**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **May 29th, 2024**. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Shari Fisher

<b>Receipts: \$899.51</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>	
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00		
Community Center rent	\$125.00	FNB-C MET interest – May 2024	\$2.27
Community Center Rent (returnable)	\$100.00	FNB-C Comm. Center Interest – May 2024	\$53.18
		FNB-C Cap. Exp. interest – May 2024	\$0.96
		FNB-C C-19/ARPA interest – May 2024	\$42.79
		FNB-C Checking account interest – May 2024	\$75.31

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$221,992.13</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,549.63
Community Center Account	\$ 59,563.38
Building Project Account	\$ 1,084.22
COVID -19 account	\$ 48,152.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$333,341.75</b>

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

**Debit Card usage:**

1. (\$280.98) voided DEB24-21 Staples Advantage check #64391 was issued.

2. \$150.00 to the Postmaster to refill the marketing mail deposit balance.
3. \$50.24 to Amazon for motion detection lights (8)
4. \$48.01 to MN DVS for the 1999 Kenworth Tandem truck registration/tabs
5. \$56.02 to Lowes for materials for the pavilion repair
6. \$999.00 to AED Superstore for 3 AED batteries and electrodes
7. \$104.97 to Amazon for 3 – 2 packs of Narcan nasal sprays to be stored with the AED machines.

**Voided Receipts:** none

**Voided checks :** none

**Recommended Transfers:**

1. A transfer of \$106.26 from the community center fund to checking for motion detector lights and the pavilion repair was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$1,016.00 from the Covid-19/ARPA account to checking for the fitness class held by Angela Tresemer and the postcards to announce the free exercise class was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
3. A transfer of \$575.00 from checking to the community center fund for community center rent from 5/14-6/10/24 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**

**Transfers completed :**

1. The transfer of \$154.40 from checking to the community center fund for the Pancake Breakfast net profit was completed.
2. The transfer of \$73.81 from the community center account to checking for community center's flagpole repair materials was completed.
3. The transfer of \$781.50 from the community center fund to checking for the pavilion's ruptured water line repair was completed.

**A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on June 12th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$4,373.30. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for June 12th, 2024 (payroll period May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024) , in the amount of \$4,749.81. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
  - a. Bill Hanegmon called to ask if anyone from the town board would be attending the meeting at St Louis County on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9am regarding the storage container facility being proposed for 5684 HWY 84, Chisholm, MN. All the neighbors are opposed to the business coming in there. There is a Webex meeting and facts about this project provided on the St Louis County website.
  - b. The clerk made up the letter to the Bicanich Road resident that has road obstruction in the right-of-way. Some wording will be changed and updated then approved again and sent out.
  - c. The clerk received an email back regarding the question asked about the American Rescue Plan's obligated projects and if they can be changed or updated. The email

said the report cannot be edited after the report deadline has passed. The update to the obligated projects will need to be added to the next scheduled report next year.

- d. The phone line was impossible to hear anyone on the line in early June. The clerk called for a repair and asked for a refund. The clerk received a refund from Century Link for the 7/3/24 bill for \$60.50 plus applicable taxes.
2. Shop & Road Report:
- a. Roads were graded on May 28<sup>th</sup> on Laitala, Salo, Pozar and Colombe Roads.
  - b. Ditching was done on North Long Lake Road on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. More beaver activity in the culverts by Sever Road.
  - c. Krogerus, Long Lake and Latick Roads were graded on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Dirt was hauled on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Long Lake Road was graded.
  - e. The North Long Lake Road project was finished on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The excavator was moved to Laitala Road. A beaver dam on North Long Lake Road was dug out. Gopher One locate was called for Laitala Road. A culvert was marked for replacement and ditching on Baich Road.
  - f. While working on the drain at the community center, parts were fetched in Hibbing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tires were loaded.
  - g. Fire extinguishers were checked by LVC, an annual check on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - h. A beaver dam on Laitala Road was dug out on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Haiskanen, Sever, and Vlasich Roads were graded.
  - i. A beaver dam on Sever and Laitala Road was watched on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The 2018 International Truck was power washed.
  - j. The employee helped Iron Range Tire's technician with filling up the loader's tire with air on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Beaver dams were dug out on Salo, Laitala and Sever Roads. Beaver motion detection lights were installed to mitigate the beavers. They are working.
  - k. Baich and Long Lake Road were graded on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The beaver issues were checked.
  - l. Lawn trimming was done at the community center. Mowing and trimming was done at the canister site May 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Supervisor VerSteeg fixed the leak in the mechanical room at the community center. The basin was pulled off the floor to fix the drain.
  - b. The sign is set up for the next pancake breakfast on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - c. The community center caretaker said the suckers from the new trees need to be cut off and "tarred". The new general laborer will take care of this.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. Dave Pajunen reported Quad City needs to pick up the scrap metal at the canister site. It's been about four weeks since they picked up the metal.

The Other Reports:

1. A report came in that Johnson Road is rough and needs material added to the roadbed.
2. Deb VerSteeg reported the defensive driving class she has been setting up will be held at the Balkan Community Center on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, from 9am to 1 pm. The class will be four hours. The eight-hour version of this class is not necessary after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The course will be valid for 3 years. The clerk sent the flyer to Express Print for making postcards to send out to residents to announce the new class.

**CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

1. none

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. M.A.T. sent new membership cards for board members on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
2. The Census Bureau sent new population information for Balkan Township. Currently, there is a population of 787 and 337 households as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Steve Johnson, full-time operator for Balkan Township, will allow Balkan to use his skid steer for \$75 per hour plus a fill up for his fuel oil tank per use. This contract will be signed once a few words are changed on the contract.
2. The oven diagnosis at the community center was discussed. All three ovens are heating up appropriately, however, they take up to 20 minutes to warm up. A&D Appliance Repair diagnosed the ovens. The last oven that was tested heated up slower than the others.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
  - a. Roads will be graded as weather permits to get ready for chloride applications.
  - b. Take out beaver dams on the south side of Vlasich Road and keep an eye on others.
  - c. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
  - d. Haul class five to a few roads.
  - e. Get the loader to Sunset Pit.
  - f. Brushing when time permits.
  - g. Service equipment as needed.
  - h. When time permits, change the box on the International.
  - i. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. A general laborer application was reviewed by the board. However, all open positions have been filled and there is no need now with minimal hours available. Balkan cannot guarantee any work for this individual. The application will be held on file until something opens up.
3. A ratified contract representing the rest of the approved classes for exercise by Angela Tresemer was presented to the supervisors for their signatures. There will be 12 sessions left after the exercise class is restarted on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Supervisor Strgar and Wilson signed the contract.
4. The community center rental amounts need to be increased due to higher electric costs. After some discussion, and more research needed, this idea will be brought up again next meeting for approval.
5. The community center caretaker found some holes in the ground that needed to be filled before someone gets hurt or a horse steps in it. The holes were filled.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

1. Pancake Breakfast – June 22nd, 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 7:46 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on June 26th, 2024.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Board Chair) Brad Strgar