

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 10th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 2 guests
 Absent: Supervisor - Garth Wilson

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 **June 26th, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor VerSteeg**, supported by **Supervisor Strgar**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **June 26th, 2024**. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$57,877.48			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Canister site coupons sold	\$1000.00		
Community Center rent	\$75.00	FNB-C June 2024 MET interest	\$2.19
Community Center rent (returnable)	\$75.00	FNB-C June 2024 Comm. Center interest	\$51.56
Life Insurance reimbursement	\$196.32	FNB-C June 2024 Cap. Exp. interest	\$0.94
St Louis County Tax apportionment (May 2024)	\$56,367.36	FNB-C June 2024 Covid19/ARPA interest	\$40.92
		FNB-C June 2024 Checking account interest	\$68.19

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$379,821.40
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,551.82
Community Center Account	\$ 60,539.27
Building Project Account	\$ 1,085.16
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,177.31
Total	\$491,174.96

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$78.96 to Lowe’s for trolley rollers for gray building door repair
2. \$218.00 for the USPS for a roll of stamps and \$150 deposit to the marketing mail account.

3. \$38.69 to Straight Talk for the canister site phone for July.
4. \$85.91 to Amazon for the griddle/frying pan, 4 oven gauges for the community center ovens and sticky notes for the office.
5. \$20.00 to First National Bank of Chisholm to cancel a check that was lost in the mail (#64295).

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : #64295, #64455 - #64462

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$126.19 from the community center fund to checking for the griddle/frying pan, oven gauges and canliners be recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$135.00 from checking to the community center account for community center rent from 6/11-7/8/2024 was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$455.59 from checking to the community center fund for pancake breakfast net profit was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on July 10th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$5,661.43. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for July 10th, 2024 (payroll period June 23rd to July 6th, 2024) , in the amount of \$5,276.03. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The quarterly payroll taxes have been filed for quarter 2 of 2024 on July 2nd, 2024.
 - b. The griddle for the pancake breakfast and the oven thermometers were ordered from Amazon. The oven thermometers were installed in the ovens on July 10th.
 - c. Four cases of water were purchased for the canister site. Two cases of water were brought to the canister site. Two canister site keys were made for an employee and one to keep in the safe.
 - d. The defensive driving class is full for July 22nd. Another class has been added to August on the 20th from 9am – 1pm. We have six people signed up for that class.
 - e. The Balkan cumulative claims totals are provided at all meetings. The clerk calculated the percentage of the budget Balkan Township is currently for the supervisors.
 - f. The quote for installing the newly donated playground from Midwest Playground Contractors was \$24,500.00. Midwest Playground Contractors provided us with a contact to get the manual to put the playground together.
 - g. A person was locked in the pavilion bathrooms on Tuesday, July 9th. She was rescued by the bocce ball coordinator, Connie Jance.
 - h. The oven thermometers have been installed in the ovens at the community center for monitoring.
 - i. The clerk asked if the supervisors know if Balkan still owns the 1983 Mack Truck or the 1985 one-ton Dodge. The Mack fire truck is in Hall #2 but it has Chisholm's decal on it. The clerk and treasurer are reviewing the liability and auto insurance and

hope to get it to a point it is accurate. MATTI is willing to give Balkan a refund for these two vehicles if we can find out when they were taken out of commission or sold.

- j. Rick Holland stopped by the office to ask if Balkan could donate the community center for their veterans' project preserving history. The supervisors were informed that the community center will be used by the veterans for 2-3 hours during the interviews. Rick Holland will coordinate with the clerk on open days for the community center. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to allow the use of the community center for the veterans' project and to coordinate with the clerk on the days available for use. This motion passed.**
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Supervisor VerSteege found two rims for the 1979 Ford Tandem gravel truck so all rims will match. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to purchase the two rims for approximately \$150.00 each rim. This motion passed unanimously.**
 - b. Lots of beaver problems on Sever and Cemetery Roads.
 - c. Washouts were filled in on Pozar, Colombe, Johnson, Franti, Smolcich and Nettle Roads and the west side of Balkan township on June 24th.
 - d. Class five was hauled to Krogerus, Baich, Cooper and Kekke Roads on June 25th. The grader was used to grade out the washouts on both sides of Balkan.
 - e. The washouts were graded on Frider, Koshere and Seppala Roads and on the west side on June 26th and 27th.
 - f. The donated playground was loaded and moved from Chisholm on June 28th. The pump for the portable transfer fuel tank in the pickup was fixed. The backhoe tire was brought to Iron Range Tire in Hibbing. The excavator was moved to Long Lake Road for ditching.
 - g. The west side of Balkan was graded for washouts on July 1st.
 - h. The brush was cut on Long Lake Road where the ditching will be done on July 1st.
 - i. Washouts were graded on Long Lake Road on July 2nd.
 - j. Haiskanen, Sever, North Long Lake, Krogerus, and Long Lake Roads were graded for washouts and bad spots on July 3rd.
 - k. Colombe, Franti, and Johnson Roads were graded for washouts on July 5th. Two loads of class five were hauled to Franti Road.
 - l. The grader's hydraulic hose broke on July 5th. It was repaired. Cemetery and Sever Roads were graded.

3. Community Center Report:

- a. Supervisor Strgar will fill in some holes by the south side of the container at the community center.

4. Canister Site Report:

- a. All is well.

5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. PERA DCP changes were reviewed and discussed.
2. The St Louis County-wide Moratorium on Cannabis business until 12/31/2024 was reviewed and discussed. There will be a meeting at Ely City Hall at 10am on 7/23/2024 to discuss the moratorium.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The skid steer rental prices were reviewed by the supervisors from L&L Rental. A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to approve the rental of a skid steer for a week for approximately \$1,000.00. This motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Fix roads due to washouts from the storm.
 - b. Grade roads when weather permits.
 - c. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
 - d. Take out beaver dams on the south side of Vlasich Road and keep an eye on the others.
 - e. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - f. Haul class five to a few roads, finish Bicanich.
 - g. Finish reclaiming from ditches on Baich Road when the weather permits.
 - h. Brushing when time permits.
 - i. Service equipment as needed.
 - j. When time permits, change the box on the International.
 - k. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. The board discussed putting up the new donated playground and what that would entail. First a plan will be formed. Volunteers will be needed to install the playground. A locate will have to be called in because there is a phone line under the current playground. New pipes need to be purchased or fabricated due to the company that took the playground down, cut the poles at the ground level instead of removing the poles from the concrete. A new layout and staking it will need to be done.
3. Balkan Hall #2 is currently half full of fire tender trucks. Balkan needs that space to house their vehicles. Supervisor Strgar will talk to Chisholm about moving Chisholm's trucks to the south side of the building.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Household Hazardous Waste Day in Balkan – July 17th, 2024, 10am – 1pm
2. Pancake Breakfast – July 20th, 2024, 8:30am – 11am
3. National Night Out 2024 – August 6th, 2024, 430p-7pm
4. Primary Election – August 13th, 2024, 7am-8pm polls are open.

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on July 24th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar