

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 26th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 5 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **June 12th, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor Wilson**, supported by **Supervisor Strgar**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes June 12th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$135,668.36		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00	
Community Center rent	\$60.00	
Pancake breakfast proceeds*	\$601.68	
Life Insurance reimbursement	\$98.16	
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement	\$1,709.07	
St Louis County property tax advance	\$131,525.00	
Refunds/Reimbursements – MN Secretary of State PNP election	\$1,174.45	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$334,138.16
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,549.63
Community Center Account	\$ 60,032.12
Building Project Account	\$ 1,084.22
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,136.39
Total	\$444,940.52

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. \$5.08 to USPS for a certified letter sent

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$455.59 from checking to the community center fund for pancake breakfast net profit 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 \$106.26 from the community center fund to checking for motion detector lights and the pavilion repair was completed.
2. The 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 completed.
3. The transfer of \$575.00 from checking to the community center fund for community center rent from 5/14-6/10/24 was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on June 26th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$15,223.58. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for June 26th, 2024 (payroll period June 9th, 2024, to June 22nd, 2024) , in the amount of \$9,440.93. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. Supervisor VerSteeg brought up that the roads need fixing before any calcium chloride should be sprayed to keep down dust. The clerk emailed Envirotech to cancel the calcium chloride order until further notice or the roads are fixed.
 - b. The clerk emailed Josh Brinkman, St Louis County Disaster manager, to include Balkan Township in the damaged areas seeking financial help from FEMA and HSEM. He said he is waiting on the state but soon there should be a meeting to discuss damage to our townships.
 - c. The clerk asked for permission to make two sets of keys for the canister site. **A motion was made to approve making two sets of keys for the canister site by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Supervisor VerSteeg reported the door on the gray building, behind the garage, fell off in the storm last week. He purchased some trolley rollers to put the door back on the building.
 - b. Supervisor VerSteeg asked if Balkan could rent a skid steer for a month to use when reclaiming ditching material. The rubber-tired backhoe is too heavy on the sides of the roads and sink when working to load up the reclaimed material.
 - c. There have been beaver problems on Sever, Laitala and Pozar Roads. The beaver dam and house have been dug out on Laitala Road.
 - d. North Baich Road and Hyvarinen Road have deep washouts that need repairs.
 - e. Reclaimed material was hauled off Latick Road and graded on June 10th.
 - f. The excavator was moved to Baich Road on June 11th. The beaver screens were cleaned out on Sever, Latick and Salo Roads. The 2018 International Plow truck was cleaned up.
 - g. Baich, Latick and Kekke were graded on June 12th. Ditching was done on Baich on June 12th, 13th and 14th.

- h. Supplies were picked up in Hibbing and Supervisor VerSteeg stopped by the sheriff's office for some paperwork. Class five was hauled to Bicanich Road on June 17th.
 - i. Repair work was done on the 1996 grader on June 18th. Beaver problems were checked on. The shop was cleaned up. A washout on Salo Road was worked on. The cold storage (gray building behind the garage) door fell off the track.
 - j. Flooding day – June 19th: Class five was hauled to Long Lake Road and Haiskanen Road to make road passable. Washouts on every road in Balkan. Johnson, Kekke, Lake, Countryside Lane, and Long Lake Roads were the worst. Culverts washed out and needed fill on top.
 - k. Salo Road had two thirty-inch culverts that washed out. Residents were stranded on the other side of the washout. Latick Road was under water in a few spots. Pit run gravel and class five were hauled to these roads.
 - l. Washouts on Salo, Sawmill and Sever Roads were mitigated on June 21st.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Supervisor VerSteeg and Steve Johnson will be picking up the new donated playground set from Chisholm on Friday, June 28th, 2024.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. The schedule for canister site attendants was discussed.
 - b. Supervisor Strgar left a message with John Strukel, SLC environmental services manager, asking they pick up the metal at the canister site soon as it is becoming unmanageable.
 - c. St Louis County is offering free flood-damaged items drop off at the canister sites in the area. This will last until July 31st, 2024.

The Other Reports:

- 1. none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- 1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. May's Chisholm Ambulance runs were reviewed by the supervisors.
- 2. MATIT sent the annual bill for the commercial liability coverage for auto, buildings and plant. The supervisors were asked to review the items covered. Two vehicles will be removed from the insurance. One classification will be changed. This will be sent to MATIT, and a new bill will be issued with the changes requested.
- 3. A phone message from St Louis County regarding the flood damage was left on the answering machine at the office on June 25th. They are asking for private property damage reports to be made on their website.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The community center rental rates were discussed. The clerk was asked to prepare the rates with a \$50 increase across the board. **A motion was made to approve the new rates effective immediately by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
- 2. Three oven thermometers and a griddle frying pan are needed for the community center. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the purchase of the three oven thermometers and the griddle frying pan. This motion passed unanimously.**

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, finish Bicanich.

- e. Finish reclaiming from ditches on Baich Road when weather permits.
 - 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. After some discussion about possibly selling the 1979 Ford Tandem, a decision was made to keep it until Balkan doesn't need it anymore.
 3. Playground equipment from Chisholm's middle school was taken down due to the construction needed for the new building for the Chisholm school district recently. Chisholm didn't need this playground set. The Chisholm school district decided to make a donation to Balkan Township of the used playground equipment. The playground equipment will be picked up on Friday, June 28th, 2024 and hauled to Balkan Township to store until it can be reinstalled on the community center property. Thank you Chisholm School District!
 4. A contract hauling agreement was signed by the chairman and Frank Sever Dirt Works, LLC. Frank Sever helped Balkan's employee during the flood on June 19th and 20th to get some roads opened.
 5. A letter from a resident was discussed by the board. A supervisor showed the letter to the sheriff and Balkan will abide by what the sheriff suggests doing about this letter.
 6. Supervisor VerSteege suggested Balkan purchase pit run from John Rolle for \$5 per yard to fill holes instead of using class five. **A motion to approve the purchase of pit run at \$5 per yard from John Rolle was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Household Hazardous Waste Day in Balkan – July 17th, 2024 10am – 1pm
2. Pancake Breakfast – July 20th, 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

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar