

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 24th, 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 – 6 guests

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 July 24th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the regular board meeting minutes July 24th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$2,456.69			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Community Center rent	\$ 525.00		
Community Center garbage fee	\$ 25.00		
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement	\$1,709.07		
		FNB-C MET account interest – July 2024	\$ 2.27
		FNB-C Comm. Center account interest – July 2024	\$ 53.95
		FNB-C Cap. Exp. account interest – July 2024	\$ 0.96
		FNB-C C-19/ARPA account interest – July 2024	\$ 41.95
		FNB-C Checking account interest – July 2024	\$ 98.49

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$347,209.47
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,554.09
Community Center Account	\$ 61,147.74
Building Project Account	\$ 1,086.12
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,219.26
Total	\$459,216.68

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

Debit Card usage:

1. \$75.18 to Amazon for Community Center griddle (\$61.19) and hole punchers for the canister site (\$13.99).

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$61.19 from the community center fund to checking for the griddle was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$650.00 from the checking to the community center account for community center rent for 7/9-8/5/2024 was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
3. A transfer of \$1,002.80 from the community center account to the checking for the 4 new faucets and installation at the pavilion was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
4. A transfer of \$506.98 from the community center account to checking for the National Night Out expenses was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$576.71 from the checking to the community center fund for the pancake breakfast from 7/20/2024 was completed.
2. The transfer of \$31.00 from the community center account to the checking for community center can liners was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the bills for payment on August 7th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$14,873.51. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for August 7th, 2024 (payroll period July 21st to August 2nd, 2024), in the amount of \$6,002.94. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk sent out the National Night Out postcards in the mail Wednesday, July 31st.
 - b. The defensive driving class on July 22nd, 2024, had 15 people in attendance. The class on 8/20/2024 is almost full with over 18 people signed up. People in our area are very interested in this class to help reduce their car insurance rates by about 10%.
 - c. The clerk started the damage inventory on the FEMA project. This is the first step in the process for applying for FEMA money.
 - d. The clerk was asked by the post office personnel to call Mesabi Tribune to change the address to the PO BOX in order to get the paper on time, since it will be mailed to Balkan. When calling the clerk asked who was paying the bill for the paper. The answer was Balkan gets a complimentary paper for being an advertiser. Great news!
 - e. The clerk ordered and delivered the desk calendar and some new hole punchers for the canister site this week.
2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. Class five was hauled to Baich and Kirk Road on July 22nd, 2024, and Baich, Long Lake, Cooper, Sawmill and Vlasich Roads were graded.
 - b. Long Lake, Cooper, Countryside Lane, Centa and Hyvarinen Roads were graded on July 23rd.
 - c. Class five was hauled to Baich Road on July 24th. Briski and Baich Roads were graded.
 - d. Long Lake and Cooper Roads were ditched with the rented skid steer and reclaimed materials were hauled out on July 29th.
 - e. More ditching and hauling of reclaimed materials were done on Cooper Road on July 30th.
 - f. Ditching was performed and class five was hauled to Long Lake and Baich Roads on July 31st.
 - g. The washout on Baich Road was fixed and roadside dirt was hauled from Baich Road on August 1st.
 - h. Beavers started trouble on Salo Road on August 1st. Salo Road's culverts were dug out to let water pass through. Baich Road was ditched on August 1st.
 - i. Roadside reclaiming and ditching were done on Baich and Pozar Roads on August 2nd.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. National Night Out on August 6th, 2024, went well. There were fewer people than in 2023. The kids' gifts of McDonald's gift certificates were a hit! Balkan received \$98 in donations from the National Night Out.
 - b. Supervisor VerSteeg put up the new basketball hoop. Thanks Supervisor VerSteeg! Next, Balkan will need to purchase a portable basketball hoop for the community center.
 - c. A grill cleaning "brick" and a spare propane tank are needed for the flat top grill.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. The TV's have been picked up.
5. Other Reports: none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Township legal seminar given by Couri & Ruppe Law Office will be held in Cotton on October 12th, 2024, from 9am-4pm.
2. Chris Masucci, Fire Department chief, sent the fire department calls for the second quarter of 2024. This was reviewed by the board.
3. The MN Association of Township's district 10 meeting and election notice in December was provided to the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A resident set up a presentation with St Louis County's Cheryl Elj and the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging's services planner, Georgia Lane. Georgia and Cheryl gave a presentation about how Balkan Township can help residents age well at home and what kind of age-friendly activities would benefit our aging population. These ladies will send the clerk more information to get out to folks and the board. The next step in this project will be to get a letter or resolution ready from the board of Supervisors supporting this project. The clerk, activity director, and two residents will meet to discuss more about this project. Grant money may be available to Balkan for age-friendly activities through this project.
2. Supervisor Wilson would like to be put on the part-time operator list to help with some road projects. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the interest officer resolution and allow Supervisor Wilson to work as a**

part-time operator. This motion passed. The resolution was signed by Chairman Strgar and Clerk Hendrickson.

3. The Town Aid amount for 2024 is \$1893. The Town Aid amount for 2025 will be \$2219. This was for informational purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Pick up skid steer from L&L Rental and return in one week.
 - b. Start cleaning up Baich Road.
 - c. Continue cleaning up the washouts and grade other roads as needed.
 - d. Get a longer tie to open up culverts on Salo Road due to beaver problems.
 - e. Reclaim road materials from Long Lake Road and others.
 - f. Grade roads when weather permits.
 - g. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
 - h. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - i. Haul class five to a few roads, finish Bicanich.
 - j. Finish reclaiming from ditches on Baich Road when the weather permits.
 - k. Brushing when time permits.
 - l. Service equipment as needed.
 - m. When time permits, change the box on the International.
 - n. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. A picture of a 2023 skid steer for sale was discussed by the board. Steve Johnson and Supervisor VerSteege will go view the machine to see if it would work for Balkan's purposes. Supervisor VerSteege found a chipper for sale on an auction website for Balkan. He is watching the auction to see if he can get it for a better price.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. **Primary Election – August 13th, 2024, 7am-8pm polls are open.**
2. **August 16-18, 2024, Balkan-wide Rummage sales**
3. **August 17th, 2024, 830-11am Balkan Pancake Breakfast**
4. **August 20th, 2024 – Defensive driving class at the BCC from 9am-1pm.**

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 8:02 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on August 21st, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar