

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 – 4 guests

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **July 10th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the regular board meeting minutes July 10th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$17,720.83		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister site coupons sold	\$500.00	
Community Center rent	\$125.00	
Pancake breakfast proceeds	\$576.71	
Sweatshirts/T-shirts sold	\$30.00	
Life Insurance Reimbursed	\$12.27	
St Louis County – Federal PILT	\$15,510.10	
MN Revenue – Township aid	\$946.50	
Refund: DVS for 2001 International Plow truck sold	\$20.25	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$366,314.25
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,551.82
Community Center Account	\$ 60,548.08
Building Project Account	\$ 1,085.16
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,177.31
Total	\$477,676.62

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 \$576.71 from the checking to the community center fund for the pancake breakfast from 7/20/2024 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$31.00 from the community center account to the checking for community center can liners was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$126.19 from the community center fund to checking for the griddle/frying pan, oven gauges and can liners were completed.
2. The transfer of \$135.00 from checking to the community center account for community center rent from 6/11-7/8/2024 was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on July 24th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$21,235.59. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to accept the payroll for July 24th, 2024 (payroll period July 7th, 2024, to July 20th, 2024), in the amount of \$10,167.58. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The primary election will be held on August 13th from 7am-8pm. The clerk has been working on getting the election judges trained and the election materials picked up. The Public Accuracy Test is scheduled for August 5th, 2024, at 1 pm at the Community Center.
 - b. The FEMA/HSEM applicant briefing was held on July 23rd, 2024, at the Virginia Public Works training room. We met to sign up for Public Assistance and to have a representative assigned to help with the reporting.
 - c. The Defensive driving class was Monday, July 22nd from 9am – 1pm. Erich Moshkau, the instructor, asked to see the facility July 16th so he is prepared for the class.
 - d. Deb VerSteeg, Cheryl Killien and the clerk met to talk about age friendly activities and/or projects that would benefit the township. A representative from St Louis County will be able to talk to the Board on August 7th and educate all about the project. This is a long-term project lasting approximately 5 years. The project needs supervisor support and resolutions going forward.
 - e. The clerk asked Susan Trunk, from Chisholm, to look to see if they have the titles for two vehicles that were on Balkan's liability insurance. She will report back if she finds the titles.
 - f. The clerk received an email from WA Fisher regarding the hosting portion of the website they do for Balkan Township. Next year's price will reflect an increase from \$300 to \$325 as they are upgrading their server with a more powerful processor.
 - g. Lester Johnson expressed interest in the part-time equipment operator position. He completed a job application for the supervisors to review.
 - h. An ant infestation was observed in the community center kitchen. The clerk was asked to call an exterminator. Range Quality Pest Control came to spray the ants on July 24th. Their work is guaranteed and if we see any ants in 2-3 weeks, they will come spray again to eradicate the ants.

2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. Mitigation work was done on the areas being watched for beavers on Sever Road on July 8th.
- b. Class five was hauled to Franti Road on July 8th. Fill was hauled to Sever Road to mitigate the beaver situation.
- c. Class five was hauled to fill washouts on Latick Road on July 9th.
- d. More beaver mitigation on Sever Road was performed on July 10th. Tires were brought to Pomp's to install the rims for the 1979 Ford. Sever Road was graded.
- e. Ditching on Long Lake Road was done on July 11th and 12th. Ditching materials were hauled from Long Lake Road to the community center.
- f. Beaver screens were welded together on July 15th.
- g. More ditching was done on Long Lake Road on July 15th.
- h. Washouts were filled on Haiskanen and Johnson Roads on July 16th. Six loads of class five went to Haiskanen Road, one load of class five went to Johnson Road and one load to the shop.
- i. Washouts on Kekke Road were repaired with class five on July 17th, the 18th, and 19th. Class five was hauled to Pozar Road and the shop also.
- j. Laitala, Salo, North Long Lake, and Baich Roads were spot graded on July 19th to smooth out the class five used to even out the road from washouts.
- k. The canister site was mowed on July 9th. The community center lawn was trimmed on July 16th, 18th, and 19th.
- l. Supervisor Versteeg reported the Briski Road culvert needs replacing. There's a hole in it.
- m. On July 29th, a skid steer will be rented from L&L Rental to pick up the reclaimed material drying along the roadsides.
- n. The second pile of class five at the Sunset Pit will be gone by Fall, Supervisor VerSteeg reported.
- o. The newly purchased rims are back from Pomp's.
- p. Fuel has been ordered for the trucks.

3. Community Center Report:

- a. Supervisor VerSteeg filled in some holes by the south side of the container at the community center.
- b. Weeds are popping through the bocce ball court.
- c. The garbage canister will be emptied by A-1 Disposal Friday, July 26th, 2024.

4. Canister Site Report:

- a. The scrap iron has been picked up.
- b. There are lots of TVs in the TV recycling container that are not stacked. Canister site attendants have been calling for those TVs to be cleared out for a while. They should keep calling until someone comes.
- c. Dave Pajunen asked if Supervisor VerSteeg can bring in some class five to fill in by the metal container and the black garbage containers where there is a dip in the surface.
- d. Another metal container is needed to replace the currently damaged one.
- e. The general laborer, Paul, will be asked to stack the TVs in the container at the canister site by the supervisors.

5. Other Reports:

1. Deb VerSteeg, Activity Director, presented a budget for the National Night Out. The planning committee will meet July 25th, 2024, at 4pm at the BCC. Deb suggested purchasing \$180.00 of McDonald's money to give away as prizes for the event and possibly the Balkan Animal Fair. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar,**

supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve approximately \$950.00 for the budget for the National Night Out. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Deb V. gave a summary of the Defensive driving class that was held on July 22nd, 2024, at the Community Center. 15 people attended and the meeting was very informative. The next defensive driving class will be held on August 20th, 2024, at the Community Center. There is still room to sign up.
3. Supervisor Wilson talked with Ellen Mankus about filling in for Deb V. as Activity Director if she needs some help.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Larry Folstad and Susan Trunk from Chisholm have been looking for information on a 1983 Mack fire tender and a 1985 Dodge 1 ton pick up Balkan has insured. The titles haven't been found for either vehicle. Balkan is looking for a refund from the insurance company for these two vehicles that were removed from the policy. The 1985 Dodge one ton has been sold by the City of Chisholm and shouldn't have been insured by Balkan. A bill of sale is requested from Chisholm to get a refund from MATIT for this vehicle going back to when it was sold. This is a work in progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. none

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Fix roads due to washouts from the storm – Long Lake Road needs class five – other roads need grading.
 - 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 National Night Out postcards are ordered and printed. They will be mailed on July 31st. Postage needs to be added to the marketing mail account. **A motion to approve a \$150.00 deposit in the marketing mail account was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
3. A resolution appointing election judges was presented to the supervisors for approval. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the appointed election judges for the Primary election on August 13th, 2024. This motion passed unanimously.**
4. An application for Equipment Operator was presented to the supervisors for review. **After some discussion a motion was made to add Lester Johnson to the equipment operator list by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. National Night Out planning meeting – July 25th, 2024, 4pm at the B.C.C.

2. Primary Election – Public Accuracy Test (PAT) – August 5th, 2024, 1pm at the BCC
3. National Night Out 2024 – August 6th, 2024, 430p-730pm
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 Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on August 7th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar