

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 21st, 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 August 7th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the regular board meeting minutes August 7th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$3,896.87		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister Site coupons	\$1,000.00	
Community Center rent	\$ 25.00	
Pancake Breakfast Proceeds*	\$ 515.40	
Donations received – National Night Out 2024	\$ 98.00	
Sweatshirts/T-shirts sold	\$ 65.00	
Life Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 98.16	
MN DNR PILT	\$1991.31	
Refund – MATIT auto insurance	\$ 104.00	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$270,705.00
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,554.09
Community Center Account	\$ 60,226.77
Building Project Account	\$ 1,086.12
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,219.26
Total	\$381,791.24

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. \$16.16 to Lowes for quick concrete for cc basketball hoop
2. \$33.27 to Straight Talk for canister site August telephone
3. \$21.66 to Dunham’s for the cc basketball court net
4. \$21.56 to the Korner store for the propane tank refill

5. \$150 to USPS for marketing mail deposit

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$59.38 from the community center fund to checking for the quick concrete for the community center basketball hoop was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$321.37 from the checking to the community center account for the pancake breakfast net profit was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**

The treasurer provided the board with a breakdown of the money that was received from the pancake breakfast on August 17th, 2024. Five kids ate for free and 134 tickets were sold at \$5 each totaling \$670.00 plus eggs sold at \$44.00 totaling \$714.00 plus extra food sold of \$31.00 less the sausage purchased for \$229.60 less the cost for juice, milk, half n half, pancake mix, foam cups, and plastic cutlery in the amount of \$194.03. The total profit from this pancake breakfast is \$321.37.

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$61.19 from the community center fund to checking for the griddle was completed.
2. The transfer of \$650.00 from the checking to the community center account for community center rent for 7/9-8/5/2024 was completed.
3. The transfer of \$1,002.80 from the community center account to the checking for the 4 new faucets and installation at the pavilion was completed.
4. The transfer of \$506.98 from the community center account to checking for the National Night Out expenses was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the bills for payment on August 21st, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$69,524.37. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the payroll for August 21st, 2024 (payroll period August 3rd to August 17th, 2024), in the amount of \$10,660.34. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to accept the election judge payroll and training at \$1,078.95. This motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. At the pancake breakfast on August 17th, 2024, a poster board was set up to ask folks “What does age-friendly mean to you?”. This brings awareness, interest and participation to the residents and for people to start thinking about being more inclusive.
 - b. The clerk has been working on the FEMA project putting together the damage inventory and GPS coordinates for the damage done on June 19th, 2024.

- c. The Salo Road closure is scheduled for August 21st, 2024, between 10am and 2pm. It was published in the paper on 8/14/24 and 8/20/2024 plus posted at the posting locations. Letters were given to residents on Salo Road by Supervisor Strgar.
 - d. The clerk sent thank you letters and emails to the Chisholm Ambulance, Mayor, Fire Chief, Mr. & Mrs. Wilson, Sarah & Zach Day, the DNR foresters: Jeff Sirjord and Smokey Bear and Walmart.
 - e. The primary election went well on August 13th, 2024. Cheryl Killien was the head judge.
 - f. Karate class rental prices were discussed before they start their season on September 4th, 2024. The rental price for the karate class will remain the same at \$40/month.
 - g. Balkan Animal Fair postcards have been ordered. The clerk asked the supervisors to fund the mailing of the postcards for the Animal Fair. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the order of postcards for the Balkan Animal Fair and to approve \$150 deposit into the marketing mail account at the Post Office. This motion passed unanimously.**
 - h. The clerk asked if Balkan could purchase some vacuum-sealed coffee containers for volunteers. This was discussed and tabled until more information on costs is given.
2. Shop & Road Report:
- a. Krogerus, Korpi, Haiskanen and Baich Road were graded on August 5th. The rented skid steer was returned to L&L Rental.
 - b. Class five was hauled to Korpi and Long Lake Road on August 6th and graded.
 - c. Long Lake Road was ditched on August 7th.
 - d. Class five was hauled to Pozar Road on August 7th and graded.
 - e. Class five was hauled to Long Lake and Cooper Roads on August 8th. Long Lake Road was ditched.
 - f. Long Lake and Cooper Roads were ditched on August 9th. Class five was hauled to Long Lake and Cooper Roads and graded.
 - g. Colombe, Johnson and Franti Roads were graded on August 12th.
 - h. A culvert was installed on Cooper Road and ditched on August 12th.
 - i. Cooper Road was ditched on August 13th.
 - j. Vitali, Vlasich, Laitala, Seppala, Salo and Bicanich Roads were graded August 13th.
 - k. Class five was hauled to Seppala, Long Lake and Cooper Roads on August 13th. A culvert was hauled to Long Lake Road.
 - l. A new culvert was hauled to Baich Road on August 14th. The excavator and culvert were brought to the Salo Road project.
 - m. Class five was hauled to Tomsich Road on August 14th. Tomsich, Lake, Kekke, Tolonen, Koshere, Smolcich and Frider Roads were graded.
 - n. A culvert on Baich Road was installed on August 14th. Class five was hauled to Baich Road. A culvert was hauled to Salo Road.
 - o. The new culverts on Cooper and Baich Roads were graded on August 15th. The mower was serviced. Sawmill Road was mowed with the tractor.
 - p. Class five was hauled to Cooper and Baich Roads on August 16th. LaBarge Road was graded. A tree was cut from the road on Haiskanen Road.
 - q. Grass was cut at the community center on 6/24/24, 7/9/2024, 7/16/2024, 7/19/24, 8/4/2024 and 8/6/2024.
 - r. On Highway 73 and Salonen Road, a culvert is shot. Supervisor VerSteege is aware of this issue, but it may be MnDOT's culvert to replace. He will ask Steve to put a cone on it.
 - s. The equipment trailer needs reinforcements on the bed. Oak wood would hold up well for the bed of the trailer. Currently there is a 20-foot piece that needs replacing.
 - t. The skid steer will be picked up Thursday once the transfer of title is done.

- u. The wind took the sliding doors off the building in back of the garage that Balkan uses to house the mower-tractor, the backhoe and other equipment. This issue was discussed. There is a \$1,000.00 deductible if turned into insurance.
- 3. Community Center Report:
 - a. Soap dispensers can be installed.
- 4. Canister Site Report:
 - a. The scrap metal pile was discussed. A new scrap metal holder made of concrete cement blocks as partitions could be used to contain the metal. Cost estimates are needed.
 - b. A new man door for the shack is ready for replacement or fixing. A chain is needed to keep the wind from taking the door.
 - c. September will be the last month Wednesdays will be worked by the two canister site attendants. It was suggested on Saturdays there doesn't need to be two attendants.
- 5. Other Reports:
 - a. The Activity Director, Deb VerSteege, reported there were 13 people who attended the second defensive driving class on August 20th, 2024. She hopes to offer this class annually to help people save money on their car insurance.
 - b. Activity Director, Deb VerSteege, proposed a budget for the Balkan Animal Fair to be held on Sept. 7th, 2024, from 12 – 4pm. She is asking for a budget of \$500.00. She hopes to include Mindy Barto's animals consisting of a calf, a pony, a couple of goats, a couple of ducks, sheep and rabbits. She contacted Precious Paws about having kittens brought to the Fair. Precious Paws said they could possibly bring a litter of kittens and if no kittens, they would have a table up and give away stickers for display. Ramona Harwood said she can show people how to milk a goat. Another demonstrator is on deck for fractal burning. The planning committee will meet Monday, August 26th, 2024, at 3PM at the community center. After some discussion about the activities for the Fair, **a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the budget of \$500.00 for the Balkan Animal Fair. Motion passed unanimously.**

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- 1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. The Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust (MATIT) sent a letter stating the insurance costs for the public buildings will go up about \$335 this year. This was reviewed by the supervisors.
- 2. The final town levy was certified and sent to St Louis County on August 21st, 2024. A copy was reviewed by the supervisors.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. A skid steer is needed for most road jobs in Balkan. Balkan doesn't have one, but we found one to purchase. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to purchase the 2023 Skid steer ST31 for \$66,500.00. This motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. The Resolution authorizing submittal of an application to AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program was discussed and signed by all supervisors and the clerk.
- 3. The Age-Friendly schedule of meeting for 2024 was discussed. They offer Medicare 101 classes, Medical Assistance and long-term care assistance, and the Senior Linkage line offers help learning about scams and frauds that target our seniors. The clerk asked for approval to have postcards made to announce these free classes for residents. **A motion to approve the postcards being sent to residents and a deposit of \$150 to the marketing mail account was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by**

Supervisor Wilson, to approve the ordering of the postcards and the \$150 marketing mail deposit. This motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Put in culverts on Cooper and Baich Roads
 - b. Haul culvert & class five to Salo Road.
 - c. Grade roads.
 - d. Pick up skid steer this week.
 - e. Continue cleaning up the washouts and grade other roads as needed.
 - f. Get a longer tie to open up culverts on Salo Road due to beaver problems.
 - g. Reclaim road materials from Long Lake Road and others.
 - h. Grade roads when weather permits.
 - i. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
 - j. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - k. Haul class five to a few roads, finish Bicanich.
 - l. Finish reclaiming from ditches on Baich Road when the weather permits.
 - m. Brushing when time permits.
 - n. Service equipment as needed.
 - o. When time permits, change the box on the International.
 - p. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. St Louis County sent a letter announcing their gravel crushing program for 2025. Balkan would need to fill out a cooperative agreement with St Louis County by October 1st, 2024. St Louis County also asks that the class five piles be removed from the Sunset Pit by 2027. After some discussion, the board decided they have to do more to ready our pit for crushing in order to see if we should crush gravel in 2025. We will hold off for some considerations.
3. St Louis County Environmental services will now only sell 10-punch cards instead of the 5-punch cards we usually purchase. The 10-punch cards will be \$20 instead of the 5-punch cards selling for \$10 each.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Zumba/Fitness class starts 9/3/2024 Tuesday.
2. Balkan Animal Fair – 9/7/2024 12-4pm
3. Pancake Breakfast – 9/21/24 830a-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 7:38 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on September 4th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar

