

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 4th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar
 Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson
 Visitors – 3 guests
 Absent: Supervisor - Garth Wilson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for August 21st, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the regular board meeting minutes August 21st, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$66,058.94			
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest	
Canister Site coupons	\$ 500.00		
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement – Sept. 2024	\$ 1,709.07	FNB-C MET Interest – August 2024	\$ 2.27
St Louis County Taconite Production Tax (MET)	\$37,426.00	FNB-C Comm. Center Interest – August 2024	\$53.83
MN Revenue – Disparity Reduction Aid	\$25,427.00	FNB-C Cap. Exp. Interest – August 2024	\$ 0.97
Culvert installation and Permit fee	\$ 810.00	FNB-C C-19/ARPA Interest – August 2024	\$42.00
		FNB-C Checking account Interest – August 2024	\$87.80

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$320,860.41
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 2,556.36
Community Center Account	\$ 60,542.59
Building Project Account	\$ 1,087.09
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,261.26
Total	\$432,307.71

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: none

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$24,426.09 from the checking to the MET fund for the \$37,426.00 in MET proceeds received, less \$9,021.97 in culverts purchased from Radko 5/15/24 claim # 64368 and culverts purchases 8/19/24 for \$3,977.94 was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$25.00 from the checking to the community center account for the community center rent from 8/6/24- 9/3/24 was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
3. A transfer of \$60.64 from checking to the community center account for the water softener and furnace filters purchased for the community center was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the transfer as recommended. This motion passed unanimously.**
4. A transfer of \$91.30 from the community center fund to checking for the Balkan Animal Fair expenses submitted by Deb VerSteege was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve this recommended transfer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Transfers completed :

1. The transfer of \$59.38 from the community center fund to checking for the quick concrete for the community center basketball hoop was completed.
2. The transfer of \$321.37 from the checking to the community center account for the pancake breakfast net profit was completed.

A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on September 4th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$11,159.50. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to accept the payroll for September 4th, 2024 (payroll period August 18th to August 31st, 2024), in the amount of \$4,417.97. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The Balkan Animal Fair postcards went out in the mail Thursday, August 29th, 2024.
 - b. The clerk has been working on the Age Friendly Lunch and Learns, setting up dates with Cheryl Killien. We talked about putting the Age Friendly Survey in the newsletter, along with the snowplow agreement to save money.
 - c. The clerk asked what dates work good for the board to meet with Chisholm about the Fire Protection and Canister site agreements, which will be held according to the contract, 60-90 days before the end of 2024. The board thought October would work to get together for a meeting. Maybe a Monday or Tuesday to meet due to the board meetings being held on Wednesdays.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. A beaver dam was dug out of a property on Salo Road, which would have caused flooding of the road without mitigation.
 - b. Culverts were dropped off on Long Lake and Cooper Roads on August 20th. Part of Long Lake Road was graded.
 - c. A culvert was installed on Salo Road on August 21st and 22nd.
 - d. A beaver dam was dug out on a property on Salo Road on August 23rd. Class five was hauled to Salo Road.

- e. A beaver dam on Sever Road was dug out on August 26th. Vitali, Laitala, Bicanich and Salo Roads were mowed.
 - f. The mower broke down. It was discovered the belts were shot. New belts were found after many tries at Applied in Hibbing on August 27th.
 - g. A collapsed culvert was dug out on Sever Road on August 28th. It was filled with class five. More beaver screens were made.
 - h. More beaver dams were dug out on Sever Road on August 29th, bigger screens were put in the culverts. The mower needed parts and was put back together.
 - i. Baich, Latick, Cooper, Salonen, Briski, Tolonen, Frider and Nettle Roads were mowed on August 30th.
 - j. The canister site was mowed on July 28th and trimmed on 7/29/24. It was mowed and trimmed again on August 13th. The dry hydrants were mowed on August 18th. The community center grass was trimmed on August 19th and the dry hydrants were mowed on August 29th.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Supervisor VerSteege mentioned the cattle panels are up for the Balkan Animal Fair.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. Too many people are digging in the metal scrap pile at the canister site, was reported. Supervisor Strgar will reach out to John Strukel to ask if St Louis County can get a sign to say no taking the scrap or something official.
5. Other Reports:
- a. none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- 1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. The MN Department of Revenue sent the taconite municipal aid distribution paperwork on August 26th, 2024. On September 15th, 2024, Balkan will receive \$7,940.00 in Taconite Municipal Aid. In 2023, Balkan received \$15,501.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The Age Friendly Lunch and Learns in Balkan are being scheduled and planned. The clerk asked St Louis County if they could provide lunch money for these meetings. They responded they don't have any extra money in their budget for Balkan to provide lunches. The board suggested the Age Friendly committee use a potluck style or bag lunches to supply food for the meetings. Another possibility is to use American Rescue Plan (ARPA) money for this community meeting. More discussion is needed to address this need.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Roadside mowing.
 - b. Finish cleaning up washouts on Long Lake Road and install two culverts.
 - c. Continue cleaning up the washouts and grade other roads as needed.
 - d. Grade roads when weather permits.
 - e. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
 - f. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - g. Haul class five to a few roads.
 - 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. Shari Fisher, head of the Balkan Broadband group, asked for an update on the Paul Bunyan Broadband project scheduled for 2025. Patti Horazuk, Regulatory compliance specialist at Paul Bunyan, replied. She said the MN Border-to-Border low-density grant was signed at the

end of August. Locations within the grant are being built in their records system. Soon residents will be able to submit their applications to Paul Bunyan for the services they wish to subscribe to. This will be completed online, over the phone or in person at their office. There is also a choice to schedule a “PBC Road Show” where residents can come sign up and have their questions answered. Paul Bunyan expects to start construction in the Spring of 2025 with services operational to residents by the end of 2025.

3. The clerk researched some Minnesota election judge wages and presented these to the supervisors. She asks the supervisors if Balkan can provide a dinner for the election judges during an election as an incentive to retain and bring in other election judges. The supervisors replied to ask the MN Association of Townships attorneys if the township can provide meals before they rule on this. The clerk will look into this.
4. The 2024-2025 Snowplow agreement was discussed. After looking over the costs of providing this service to the people of the township, it was suggested that an increase in the fee is necessary. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the snowplow agreement with changes that were discussed and to offer the annual service for \$350.00. This motion passed.**
5. The Fall Newsletter is in progress.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. **Balkan Animal Fair – 9/7/2024 12-4pm**
2. **Pancake Breakfast – 9/21/24 830a-11am**

NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on September 18th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar