

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 16th, 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 – 3 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 **October 2nd, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor Wilson**, supported by **Supervisor VerSteeg**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **October 2nd, 2024**. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$3,476.34		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister Site coupons	\$ 770.00	
Community Center rent	\$ 550.00	
Community Center Garbage fee	\$ 50.00	
Pie Social proceeds 10/12/24	\$ 385.00	
Life Insurance reimbursement	\$ 12.27	
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement	\$1,709.07	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$283,524.20
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 27,002.87
Community Center Account	\$ 61,173.56
Building Project Account	\$ 1,088.02
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,301.93
Total	\$420,090.58

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:

1. \$38.82 to Straight Talk wireless for the canister site telephone
2. \$150.00 to USPS for newsletter mailing
3. \$150.00 to USPS for Age Friendly postcard mailing

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$145.28 from the checking to the community center account for the pie social (10/12/24) net profit was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$150.00 from the community center account to the checking account for mailing Age-Friendly postcards 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 \$193.00 from the checking to the community center for the pancake breakfast net profit was completed.
2. The transfer of \$915.00 from checking to the community center for community center rent from 9/4-9/30/2024 was completed.

The treasurer, Shari Fisher, summarized the Pie Social net profit breakdown from October 12th, 2024, for the board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on October 16th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$7,781.38. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the payroll for October 16th, 2024 (payroll period September 29th, 2024, to October 12th, 2024), in the amount of \$5,118.99. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk will be on vacation in December from December 15th, 2024, through January 5th, 2025. For the December 26th, 2024, meeting the clerk will prepare only the employee checks, not the payables for the meeting.
 - b. The clerk called Century Link about the telephone bill for the community center. There were directory assistance charges of over \$80 to ask them to remove. The clerk asked for a better deal for the office phone's bill on the caller ID feature. The Century Link representative said there was a bundle business package that would save \$7 per month for 3 features such as Caller ID, call waiting and call forwarding. Balkan has been a Century Link customer since 1976.
 - c. The Balkan Saddle Club used the community center on Monday, October 14th, to make pasties. The wall ovens didn't stay on 350 degrees. The plan for these ovens is to replace them. Supervisor Wilson will call around to get some prices for ovens.
 - d. A contract addendum was presented to the supervisors for the Fitness Class to show the change from Tuesday, Nov. 5th, election day, to Thursday, November 7th. **Supervisor Strgar motioned to allow the date change for the exercise class and signed the addendum. This was supported by Supervisor Wilson and passed.**
 - e. The clerk reported to the board that there is \$1037.17 that is currently obligated to go to the food shelf. However, these funds can be reassigned to the fitness class. See Old Business #1.
 - f. Chris Freeman, from Iron Range Computers, came Wednesday, October 16th to install the new networking for the computers.

2. Shop & Road Report:

- a. A beaver dam was dug out on Laitala Road near the Simon property on September 30th. A culvert was installed on North Long Lake Road and some ditching was done. Class five was hauled to Laitala and Haanpaa Roads.
- b. October 1st Haanpaa, Laitala, Haiskanen and Latick Roads were graded. More ditching work was done on North Long Lake Road.
- c. Ditching was done on Fire Trail Road off of North Long Lake Road on October 2nd.
- d. A culvert was installed on North Long Lake on October 3rd.
- e. On October 4th, a donated swing set was picked up from Memorial Park in Chisholm. The hydraulic cylinder was fixed on the skid steer.
- f. A new culvert on Fire Trail Road was installed and ditched on October 7th & 8th.
- g. Class five was hauled to North Long Lake Road and Fire Trail Roads on October 8th.
- h. North Long Lake, Fire Trail, Cooper, Salonen and Latick Roads were graded on October 9th. A culvert was opened on Cemetery Road, due to beaver activity. Fire Trail Road was ditched, and class five was hauled in.
- i. The Fire Trail, off North Long Lake Road, was given a lift with extra gravel when the employees replaced the culvert on October 3rd.
- j. After some ditching on North Long Lake Road, the road crew will be caught up. They will add some class five to the road.
- k. Laitala Road's beaver dam is maintaining the water level.

3. Community Center Report:

- a. Supervisor VerSteege will winterize the pavilion this week.
- b. The floor heat will be turned on in November or at the end of October, depending on the outside temperatures.
- c. The soap dispensers need to be installed at the community center. Supervisor Wilson will install these.
- d. The board was reminded to check the bathrooms after any events at the community center.
- e. The toilets will be replaced with three new toilets. Supervisor Wilson will contact Sertich or Anderson Plumbing for a quote on replacing these toilets.
- f. The flag at the community center needs replacing again. The clerk will look for a flag in the office.

4. Canister Site Report:

- a. All is well.

5. Other Reports:

- a. none

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Kristen, from Commissioner McDonald's office called October 9th to ask if Balkan would like to host a St Louis County meeting at the community center for September 23rd, 2025. People start arriving at 9:30am. The supervisors thought this was a great idea and support this. If Balkan needs anything from St Louis County, we should try to get on their agenda.
2. The Chisholm Ambulance calls for September 2024 were reviewed and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Fitness Class is in need of funding. The last class covered by ARPA funds will be Nov. 19th. Shari Fisher asked Angela, the instructor, if she will bill Silver Sneakers and One Pass insurance for some people who have this insurance to offset the cost of the class. She said she can bill once per month for those people who have the exercise incentive on their insurance. Also, **a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor**

VerSteeg, to allocate \$1,000.00 to spend on the fitness class. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Shari Fisher reported on the profits from this year's pancake breakfasts and pie socials. These events made Balkan approximately \$2800.00 this year. These profits go into the community center fund to be able to hold events throughout the year.
3. Balkan Township completed a pre-application for a Community Development Block Grant offered through St Louis County. The administrator of the grant called to ask if Balkan plans on making the playground ADA compliant with concrete/paved walkways and accesses. This grant would only be available if the playground was made ADA compliant. More planning has to be done to decide how much Balkan is able to pay for this project.
4. A community center renter was concerned the switches on the south wall at the community center were faulty. The faulty switches were replaced with new 20-amp switches on October 4th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
 - a. Finish work on North Long Lake Road
 - b. Get FEMA papers ready.
 - c. Haul class five to Laitala and Haanpaa Roads and touch up with grader.
 - d. Haul class five to Long Lake Road, Salonen and Cooper Roads
 - e. Continue cleaning up the washouts and grade other roads as needed.
 - f. Grade roads when weather permits.
 - g. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - h. Service equipment as needed.
 - i. When time permits, change the box on the International.
 - j. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. A renter at the community center reported the "night light" by the south door is out. This light was checked, and one light works well there (there are two lights on the south door). However, a battery pack will be checked to see if it needs replacing on the other light there.
3. A beaver trapper is interested in trapping beavers in Balkan. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to pay a bounty of \$10 per beaver. This motion passed unanimously.** The beaver trapper will be provided with Supervisor VerSteeg's number to contact with beaver whereabouts.
4. A resolution appointing election judges for the General election on November 5th was presented to the supervisors for approval. **A motion was made to accept the listed election judges for the general election by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson.** This motion passed unanimously.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Medicare 101 – October 25th, 2024, 11am-12:30p at the Balkan Community Center
2. Public Accuracy Test – October 28th, 2024, 1pm at the Balkan Community Center
3. Meeting with Chisholm regarding the Fire/EMS protection and Canister Site agreements – October 29th, 2024, 5:30pm at the Balkan Community Center
4. General Election – Nov. 5th, 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 7:36 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on October 30th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar