

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**October 2nd, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

In attendance: Chairman – Brad Strgar  
 Supervisor - Garth Wilson  
 Treasurer – Shari Fisher  
 Clerk – Misty Hendrickson  
 Visitors – 4 guests  
 Absent: Supervisor - Dirk VerSteeg

**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 **September 18th, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor Wilson**, supported by **Supervisor Strgar**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **September 18th, 2024**. Motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Shari Fisher

<b>Receipts: \$12,030.38</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>	
Canister Site coupons	\$ 500.00		
Community Center rent	\$ 365.00	FNB-C MET Interest – Sept. 2024	\$20.42
Pancake Breakfast Proceeds	\$462.71	FNB-C Comm. Center Fund Interest – Sept. 2024	\$51.87
Sweatshirts/T-shirts sold	\$35.00	FNB-C Cap. Exp. Interest – Sept. 2024	\$0.93
St Louis County – Mineral Rents/Royalties	\$10,406.95	FNB-C Covid 19/ARPA Interest – Sept. 2024	\$40.67
St Louis County – Mineral Lease Excess Revenue	\$71.18	FNB-C checking account Interest – Sept. 2024	\$75.65

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$294,211.05</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 27,002.87
Community Center Account	\$ 60,065.56
Building Project Account	\$ 1,088.02
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,301.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$429,669.43</b>

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson 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 :** #64639

**Recommended Transfers:**

1. A transfer of \$193.00 from the checking to the community center for the pancake breakfast net profit was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**
2. A transfer of \$915.00 from checking to the community center for community center rent from 9/4-9/30/2024 was recommended. **A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson to approve the transfer, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**

**Transfers completed :**

1. The transfer of \$48.74 for the community center drive bit set and paper towels from the community center to the checking account was completed.
2. The transfer of \$353.22 for Balkan Animal Fair net expenses (\$332.95) and National Night Out expenses (\$20.27) from the community center to checking was completed.

**A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on October 2nd, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$5,778.23. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the payroll for October 2nd, 2024 (payroll period September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024), in the amount of \$5,038.90. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
  - a. The clerk met with Phil Grooms from FEMA on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Steve was able to sit in for a while.
  - b. The clerk worked on the canister site's costs for the contract meeting scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. This was reviewed by the supervisors.
  - c. A resident called to ask about how to replace her fire number. She said they replace those numbers by calling the Sheriff's office, Holly Olson, to request it. They charge a \$35 fee. The phone number is 218-726-2921.
  - d. The clerk has been busy with election planning, FEMA project input, and Age Friendly chores.
  - e. The clerk applied for a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) for putting together the donated playground set October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
2. Shop & Road Report:
  - a. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, a beaver dam was dug out by Salo Road. A new culvert was installed on a Long Lake Road driveway.
  - b. A beaver dam was dug out on Sever Road on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Class five was put in mud puddles at the canister site to fix it. Ditching was done on Long Lake Road.
  - c. Pozar, Colombe, Franti, Krogerus, Cooper, Salonen and Vlasich Roads were graded on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Long Lake Road was ditched on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Parts of Long Lake were spot graded on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Beaver screens were dug out on Sever, Latick and Krogerus Roads on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. A new beaver dam problem was found near the Simon property off of Laitala Road.
  - f. Culvert cleaning and ditching was done on Long Lake Road on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- g. Locates were called in for North Long Lake Road on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Culverts were dropped off in anticipation of the projects. More ditching was done on Long Lake Road Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - h. A new tire was put on the 1979 Tandem truck on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Steve met with the FEMA guy to discuss the FEMA project. Krogerus Road was graded after someone tore up the road.
  - i. The operators attended a safety meeting at Hibbing Taconite on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> in order to haul free tailings in the future. Class five was hauled to Laitala Road.
  - j. Long Lake Road was graded Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. Community Center Report:
    - a. Supervisor Wilson will be repainting the post in front of the doors at the community center this year. He said he will be pulling the flowers from the planters soon, then maybe sprucing them up with Christmas decorations.
  4. Canister Site Report:
    - a. Supervisor Strgar reported most of the tires at the canister site were picked up freeing up some space.
  5. Other Reports:
    - a. Deb VerSteeg, Activity Director, reported the Fitness Class will be running out of approved money. She asked for more funding. The clerk was asked if any more ARPA money was available. The clerk will report back about the ARPA money at the next meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - b. The Treasurer was asked for a compilation of Pancake breakfast and Pie Social money earned this year. She will present it at the next meeting also.

#### CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

1. none

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The township received a request for annual membership for 2025 from the International League of Cities. This was reviewed and no action was taken.
2. The July and August ambulance calls were reviewed by the board.
3. The MN Dept. of Health has checked the community center's water for coliform on 9/19/24. There was no coliform found at the site. The tester, Kilen Klimek, said he will look up information on the additional well at the community center and relay that information. He mentioned the well can be filled in, if Balkan has no use for the well. They have grants available for filling in the well, when Balkan is ready.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Age Friendly classes are starting in October. The clerk asked the board if they would approve postcards and mailing them for the three classes. **A motion was made to approve sending the information to Express Print to make postcards and allow \$150 for marketing mail deposit was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
2. FYI: The Part-time operators have used 17 days as of the end of this pay period.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
  - a. Work on North Long Lake Road – change 2 culverts.
  - b. Haul class five to Laitala and Haanpaa Roads and touch up with grader.
  - c. Finish cleaning up washouts on Long Lake Road and haul class five to Long Lake Road.
  - d. Continue cleaning up the washouts and grade other roads as needed.
  - e. Grade roads when weather permits.
  - f. Install culverts on Salo Road.

- g. Haul excavator to Long Lake Road.
  - h. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
  - i. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
  - j. Haul class five to a few roads.
  - 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. Bridgit Maruska, Parks and Rec. from the city of Chisholm, emailed the township to ask if Balkan could use a free swing set. They had an issue with the swing set at Memorial Park near the curling club and it didn't fit with their upgrades. The swing set will be picked up Friday.
  3. An application for work was reviewed by the board. **A motion was made to add the applicant to the part-time general laborer list by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson. The motion passed.** The clerk will supply the applicant with the employment paperwork and a job description.
  4. The clerk's notary public renewal is in the payables and will expire 1/31/2025. **A motion was made to allow the clerk to renew the notary public's stamp by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, and passed unanimously.**
  5. Krogerus Road recently had damage done to it by a destructive motorist. The sheriff asked what the township would like to do if this person is caught. No one was caught.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

1. **Pie Social – October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 1-3pm**

**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 7:23 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on October 16th, 2024.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

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(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

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(Board Chair) Brad Strgar