

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 18th, 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 – 1 guest

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for September 4th, 2024, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the regular board meeting minutes September 4th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Shari Fisher

Receipts: \$9,149.50		
Revenues:		First National Bank – Interest
Canister Site coupons	\$ 500.00	
Community Center rent	\$ 550.00	
Donations received from the Balkan Animal Fair	\$ 159.50	
St Louis County Taconite Municipal Aid	\$7,940.00	

First National Bank - Account Balances	
Checking Account	\$292,674.73
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 26,982.45
Community Center Account	\$ 60,415.65
Building Project Account	\$ 1,087.09
COVID -19 account	\$ 47,261.26
Total	\$428,421.18

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. \$38.81 to Straight Talk for the canister site telephone
2. \$150.00 to USPS for mailing postcards for the Balkan Animal Fair
3. \$47.84 to Walmart for pop, popcorn, and buns for the Balkan Animal Fair
4. \$25.52 to Sullivan Supply for popcorn bags for the Balkan Animal Fair

Voided Receipts: none

Voided checks : none

Recommended Transfers:

1. A transfer of \$48.74 for the community center drive bit set and paper towels from the community center to the checking account was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, and passed unanimously.**
2. A 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 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 \$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 completed.
2. The 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 completed.
3. The transfer of \$60.64 from checking to the community center account for the water softener salt and furnace filters purchased for the community center was completed.
4. The transfer of \$91.30 from the community center fund to checking for the Balkan Animal Fair expenses submitted by Deb VerSteeg was completed.

The treasurer, Shari Fisher, compiled the expenses for the Balkan Animal Fair. The cost of the event was \$492.45 paid on this claims list, and included postcards and mailing. Donations were received in the amount of \$159.50. Thank you to those of you who donated.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the bills for payment on September 18th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$3,951.32. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Supervisor Wilson, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the payroll for September 18th, 2024 (payroll period September 1st – September 14th, 2024), in the amount of \$9,006.54. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
 - a. The clerk heard back from Express Print about the shortage of postcards for the Balkan Animal Fair. He said 252 were printed instead of 370 postcards. He volunteered to give 10% off the bill to make up for this mistake.
 - b. Two culverts that are scheduled to be replaced on driveways haven't been paid for yet.
 - c. A resident said there is a big hole on Salonen Road by the 3rd mailbox coming from Highway 73. This hole will be filled when workers are up there.
2. Shop & Road Report:
 - a. Pozar, Colombe, Haanpaa and Franti Roads were mowed on September 3rd.
 - b. Kekke, Pozar, Koshere, Smolcich, Johnson and Briski Roads were mowed on September 4th.
 - c. Baich, Hyvarinen, Centa, Long Lake, Cooper and Krogerus Roads were mowed on Sept. 5th.
 - d. Long Lake, Latick, Baich and Lake Roads were mowed on Sept. 6th.
 - e. Latick, Baich, Korpi, Haiskanen, Cemetery, Sever, and 3rd Street in Chisholm was mowed on September 9th.

- f. Cemetery, Sever and Haiskanen Roads were mowed on September 10th. A canister was moved in the canister site. One call was called for the first Long Lake Road culvert that will be installed the following week.
 - g. Briski and Hyvarinen Roads were graded on September 11th.
 - h. The playground equipment that was in poor shape at the community center was removed on September 11th. A beaver dam on Salo Road was dug out and a culvert installed on Salo Road.
 - i. A second culvert was installed on Salo Road on September 12th. Class five was hauled to Salo Road to cover the culvert and smooth out the road surface.
 - j. Long Lake, Sawmill and Haiskanen Roads were graded on September 13th.
 - k. Class five was hauled to Salo Road and graded on September 13th.
 - l. Salo Road's beaver dam has been dug out and the water level was reduced by about six feet.
 - m. North Long Lake Road is next for repairs and maintenance.
3. Community Center Report:
- a. Supervisor Wilson changed the sign to read Pancake Breakfast on Saturday.
 - b. The pavilion's hand-washing sink has been fixed. The sink has been inoperable for a few years. Thanks Supervisor VerSteege and Jeff Hendrickson.
4. Canister Site Report:
- a. Supervisor VerSteege talked to a local contractor about replacing the entry door on the warming shack.
 - b. A few potholes in the canister site have been filled.
5. Other Reports:
- a. The school bus has a hard time turning around on Salonen Road, according to one resident. The resident asked if Balkan Township could widen the road for the bus or if they have plans to in the future. This issue was discussed but no solution was evident.
 - b. The clerk brought up the Fire Protection and Canister Site Agreements. The Balkan Board and Chisholm's city council will arrange for a date to meet in October to negotiate the agreements.

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

- 1. none

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. Couri & Ruppe PLLP sent a notice of a rate increase for development work from \$275 per hour to \$300 per hour. This notice was reviewed.
- 2. Youth In Action, YMCA Youth group, sent a request for the Make a Difference campaign's sponsor. This was reviewed and no action was taken.
- 3. Madeline Cash, MAT attorney, was asked about food provided by the township for public activities such as election judge incentives and the Age-Friendly activities. She responded by saying food provided by the township for election judges is a form of gift and shouldn't be given, per statute. There were exceptions to these rules, and she provided a list of them. This subject was discussed again.
- 4. St Louis County sent the conclusions and decisions to the township regarding the storage container business going in off of Highway 84 near Krogerus Road. This was reviewed and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The clerk asked if the board would support applying for a Culture and Tourism grant offered by IRRRB to put up the playground next year. After some discussion, it was decided the clerk will call IRRRB and ask about the funding options and report back to the board. Jeff Hendrickson volunteered to help get the playground up and to help order any needed poles or parts that are missing or in need of repair.

2. The building behind the garage is used for cold storage and to house some township equipment. The sliding doors were blown off during the storm on June 18th. Is there a plan to put the doors back on, or should this be turned into insurance? Supervisor Strgar has a plan to put up the doors.

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. Install culverts on Salo Road.
 - f. Haul excavator to Long Lake Road.
 - g. Work on beaver problems on Sever Road.
 - h. When the weather permits, start replacing bad culverts.
 - i. Haul class five to a few roads.
 - j. Brushing when time permits.
 - k. Service equipment as needed.
 - l. When time permits, change the box on the International.
 - m. Clean up shop as time allows.
2. The Fall 2024 Newsletter is ready for approval. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor Wilson, to approve the newsletter to send to the printer and approve \$150 marketing mail deposit. Motion passed unanimously.**
3. The Balkan Animal Fair brought in 57 pounds of donated food for the Chisholm Food Shelf. A receipt for the 57 pounds of food was presented and reviewed by the supervisors.
4. Salonen Road is narrow compared to some other Balkan roads. A complaint was made and investigated about a mailbox sticking out too far into the road and a garbage container not being brought back into a yard but left on the road during the week. Supervisor Strgar will talk with the residents in question and ask them to remove the garbage container from the road and bring it back in their yard during the week.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

1. Pancake Breakfast – 9/21/24 830a-11am
2. Pie Social – October 12th, 2024, 1-3pm

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 7:26 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on October 2nd, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar