

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**November 13th, 2024 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

- After reviewing the minutes from the regular board meeting for **October 30th, 2024**, a motion was made by **Supervisor VerSteeg**, supported by **Supervisor Strgar**, to approve the regular board meeting minutes **October 30th, 2024**. Motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Shari Fisher

<b>Receipts: \$3,262.76</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>		<b>First National Bank – Interest</b>	
Canister Site coupons	\$ 500.00		
Community Center rent	\$ 550.00	FNB-C October 2024 interest – MET	\$24.01
City of Chisholm Canister site agreement	\$1,709.07	FNB-C October 2024 interest – Comm. Center	\$54.38
MN Revenue Market Value Credit – Agriculture	\$ 306.68	FNB-C October 2024 interest – Cap. Exp.	\$0.97
		FNB-C October 2024 interest – C-19/ARPA	\$42.01
		FNB-C October 2024 interest – Checking acct	\$75.64

<b>First National Bank - Account Balances</b>	
Checking Account	<b>\$259,772.17</b>
MET (Mining Effects Tax) Account	\$ 27,026.88
Community Center Account	\$ 62,550.80
Building Project Account	\$ 1,088.99
COVID -19 account	\$ 45,352.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$395,791.76</b>

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:**

1. \$38.82 to Straight Talk wireless for the Canister site phone – November 2024
2. \$32.78 to Lowes for storage building door repairs
3. \$50.98 to Lowes for storage building door rollers

4. (\$50.98) to Lowes for storage building door rollers (returned)

**Voided Receipts:** none

**Voided checks:** none

**Recommended Transfers:**

1. A transfer of \$24.68 from the community center account to the checking for the community center paper towels was recommended. **A motion to approve the transfer was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, and passed unanimously.**

**Transfers completed:**

1. The transfer of \$1385.00 from the checking to the community center account for the community center rent from 10/1/24 – 10/28/24 was completed.
2. The transfer of \$1991.02 from the COVID19/ARPA account to the checking account for the clerk's computer and networking done in the office was completed.
3. The transfer of \$57.42 for community center forks and parts to winterize the pavilion was completed.

**A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the bills for payment on November 13th, 2024, and ordered paid in the amount of \$7,019.24. Motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteege, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the regular payroll for November 13th, 2024 (payroll period October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024), in the amount of \$4,165.16 and the Election judge payroll of \$1,028.48. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

1. Clerks Report: Misty Hendrickson
  - a. The quilt camp coordinator called to say the seam on the countertop, left of the stove needs caulking. Also, when Balkan purchases new wall ovens for the kitchen, it would be important to get an oven that holds two cookie sheets on one shelf. She also asked if Balkan could install a portico or covered area over the south facing doors to keep the water and snow from rusting the door threshold and more.
  - b. The Community Center Caretaker will be waxing the floors from Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> through Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. No rentals will be that week, due to the waxing of the floors.
2. Shop & Road Report:
  - a. Work was done to mitigate the beaver dams on Korpi, Salo and Laitala Roads on October 28<sup>th</sup>. A tree was removed from Sever Road. A ratchet chain was picked up at Radko. A resident helped get the stuck excavator out of the beaver dam.
  - b. October 29<sup>th</sup>, the excavator was pressure washed to get the muskeg out of the cab. The dump box on the Sterling was also pressure washed to rid it of muskeg.
  - c. The door latch on the grader was fixed on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Beaver screens on Korpi Road were dug out. Equipment was moved around for winter in the shop.
  - d. Beaver screens were made for Sever Road's culverts on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Beaver dams on Sever Road were dug out of the culverts. Krogerus and Haiskanen Roads were graded.
  - e. Class five was hauled and leveled on Sever Road on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Chains were made to tie down the skid steer for moving.
  - f. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th Hyvarinen Road was ditched.
  - g. Colombe, Franti, Johnson, Cemetery and some of Sever Roads were graded on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

- h. Hyvarinen and Baich Roads were ditched on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- i. The silver building's door was put on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Class five was hauled to Haiskanen Road and graded.
- j. The wings will be put on the plow trucks soon in preparation for winter.
- 3. Community Center Report:
  - a. The clerk was asked to call Anderson Plumbing to let them know the toilets at the community center were approved for changing.
- 4. Canister Site Report:
  - a. A dump truck load of class five will need to be put by the fence at the canister site so that water doesn't pool there for the winter causing an unsafe situation.
- 5. Other Reports:
  - a. none

**CONCERNS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- 1. none

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1. The MATIT 2025 workers' compensation premium paperwork was reviewed.
- 2. The Federal Grant Opportunity for energy improvements for rural and remote areas application was reviewed and discussed.
- 3. St Louis County (SLC) sent an update on the Cannabis Ordinance for areas St Louis County does the planning and zoning for. SLC will contact the township if someone applies for a Cannabis license in Balkan Township to have the township's input on governance of this type.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. The canister site agreement and the fire protection agreements were discussed. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the Fire Protection and Canister site agreements for 2025 to 2026. This motion passed.** The clerk will send the agreements to the city of Chisholm for their signatures after all supervisors have signed the agreements.
- 2. Anderson Plumbing gave the town of Balkan a quote for changing out the toilets at the community center. The estimate was reviewed. **A motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve the proposed estimate for changing 3 toilets and seats for \$1,701.00. This motion passed.** Balkan wants the old toilet seats. **In addition to this motion, a motion was made by Supervisor VerSteeg, supported by Supervisor Strgar, to approve purchasing two new toilet seats for the garage bathrooms. This motion passed.**
- 3. A DNR permit is needed for the Salo Road culvert that was installed in addition to the existing culverts. The clerk has been in email contact with Kim Bolander, SLC Hydrologist, regarding the permit. This is needed for the FEMA project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. The work priority sheets were provided for the supervisors and reviewed.
  - a. Finish up on Hyvarinen Road.
  - b. Put doors back on the storage building.
  - c. Put wings on trucks and graders.
  - 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. Service equipment as needed.
  - g. When time permits, change the box on the International.
  - h. Clean up shop as time allows.
- 2. The contract for the Fitness Club was renewed with Angela Tresemer in the amount of \$1,000.00 for exercise classes from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, to May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. **A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteeg, to approve the Fitness**

**club contract extension. This motion passed.** The contract was signed by the supervisors.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

**NEWSLETTERS & MEETING MINUTES:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Strgar, supported by Supervisor VerSteege, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at the Balkan Community Center on November 27th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Misty Hendrickson, Clerk

---

(Clerk) Misty Hendrickson

---

(Board Chair) Brad Strgar