

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for August was held on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices, 2070 Howard Drive in North Mankato, MN. Chairperson Mary Milbrath, Supervisor Craig Smith, Supervisor Cheryl Michels, Supervisor Tom Langdon, Treasurer Konnie Pierson and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Eric Miller (Nicollet Soil & Water), Dave Chambers, Bob Lorentz (Lorentz Const) and 6 township residents as listed on sign-in sheet. Supervisor Tim Lorentz was Absent.

The meeting opened with The Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order @ 7:00pm by Mary Milbrath.

Craig made a motion to approve the agenda. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Craig made a motion to approve August 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes with one brief addition requested by Mary. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom made a motion to approve the August Claims. Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Craig made a motion to approve the August Payroll. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tom abstained because had a claim for payment included.

Konnie gave the Treasurer's Report for August. There was \$5,833.01 in Simple Checking and \$18,268.44 in the Platinum account as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. There was \$275,533.95 in the ICS account as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Interest for the month of August for the Platinum Account was \$1.03. Interest for the month of August in the ICS Account was \$723.45. Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mary reminded everyone of Board Meeting Etiquette. The meeting was recorded only to assist in preparing minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS** – There were no additions or corrections to the following old business:

Culverts & Ditches - Ditch at top of 490<sup>th</sup> (High Hill); Virginia LaFrance – Timber Lane; Spillway (Smith); Fee and Voucher system for culverts

Employees - Time Card breakdowns; MAT Annual Conference

Equipment - Lights on Trucks; Printer/Copier for Treasurer; Tool Inventory List

FEMA- FEMA 1; FEMA 2

Fire Report - Craig

Roads - 492<sup>nd</sup> between 169 & Old River Bluff; Michaletz Minimum Maintenance Road; Oshawa shared road claim; Kristin Gunsolus email

Tabled Items - Harlan asked about making some of the roads; 10-ton roads; 409<sup>th</sup> Ave Culvert hole; 391<sup>st</sup> Lane Culvert issue – maybe needs an 8' piece and aprons put back on; Quotes for a new truck to replace; Dodge

Other - Vandalism – Tim

**NEW BUSINESS**

## **Culverts & Ditches**

Over the past month we have received requests for two gas lines. Robert Ruppe, MAT attorney recommended making an ordinance to set in place, including fees for permits. Nicollet County said that they highly recommend putting these procedures (an ordinance) in place. We need to formally propose an ordinance. Mary read the guidelines the board needs to follow. This Ordinance will give the board authority to approve and to specify the location/placement of such a request. The ordinance is being proposed by Mary to require these businesses request a permit from us (public right-of-way permit must be filled out). Reimbursement for all board expenses. Tom made a motion for the creation of a Town Ordinance requiring utility companies to request a permit and permission from the board before placing any utility lines in Belgrade Township. Craig seconded. The motion passed. Craig added to the ordinance a motion that will include a \$75,000 Bond to be secured to pay any and all Board, Attorney and any other unforeseen costs involved in the placement of such lines. Tom seconded. The motion passed. Eric said if they are far enough in the public utilizes commission that they may be grandfathered in. They must apply in person at a Board Meeting. Cheryl made motion for applicant to apply in person so we can have our lawyer here. Tom seconded. The motion passed. The newly adopted Ordinance will be published in the Free Press and a copy of the Ordinance will be available for viewing at the North Mankato Library as soon as possible.

Seven Mile Creek Watershed program – Eric Miller – Eric brought a hand-out for board and residents. He updated us on the watershed grant money we invested. Houston Engineering did studies on the watershed project. They did a priority focus to see where they need to start. He is putting together the final report. The grant expires in December of 2019. Eric offered to come to our Annual Meeting. The board invited him to that meeting. They are looking at upstream producers to reduce flow coming into the ravine. Regarding funding for future projects and practices, the report was not finalized in time to apply for funding for that.

Mary spoke with Bart Weelborg about a culvert under his driveway on Old River Bluff Road. He just purchased the property in June. He said there are three property owners that might be willing to cooperatively put in a larger culvert. He wants to be sure

that repairs are done in concert with the township. He would like to see it done before winter. Tom said it may be beneficial for the township to contribute some toward this project because of the potential of the road being washed out. A larger culvert should be used. Dave Chambers will look at it and see what he recommends. Bart would like to finish the project yet this fall.

Dave Chambers will look at 409<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 490<sup>th</sup> Street Dave to evaluate what needs to be done to address some issues. Lori pointed out that when Bob Lorentz did work on the top of High Hill that the slope was brought right down to the road with no ditch and it's caused nothing but problems for the road.

## Employees

No discussion.

## Equipment

Tom looked at lights for the Freightliner. Tom will take Harlan with him so they can discuss which options would give them the most visibility. That is the goal.

Harlan and Tom will work on updating the tool inventory list.

Tom addressed the Dodge replacement truck quotes. He has looked at the Ford 550 and a Chevy Kodiak. The Chevy is a medium duty truck that will sit higher and potentially has a better turning radius than the Ford. Craig asked about considering getting a stainless-steel back. Tom said the Crysteel strongly recommended not getting that. He will write down the reasons why.

## FEMA

Mary explained that now FEMA(1) is requesting she send in receipts that total the amount FEMA is willing to give us. They denied our Kerns request. Mary submitted an appeal and FEMA has 60 days to respond. Craig is working on getting money through the state and is working with Seth from Nicollet County to get some funds which should be available. The Township would still have a percentage to pay. Mary suggested it might be a good idea to place yellow caution tape by the Kerns culverts.

Mary updated the board that FEMA finally initiated the process for FEMA (2). Mary said they are requesting before, during and after.

## Fire Report

Craig reported that the Fire Dept. meeting was last month. The new washing machine is installed, and they love it. The washing machine was about \$10,000. They've already had 98 calls this year. They do a fantastic job for our county.

## Roads

Harlan and Tom are requesting that people keep a watch for some sort of 4-wheelers who are tearing up the roads by doing donuts on the road. Dave Chambers said he's seen some dune buggies driving recklessly on our roads.

Matt Michaletz and Todd Becker asked if the township would haul some gravel in for their minimum maintenance road and blade it. They also inquired if the board would be willing to abandon/vacate that road and turn it over to them to maintain. Tom pointed out that it is currently illegally gated. Mary called LeSeuer County to see if there are any legal issue. Mary said the board does not want to get involved in any legal issues. Todd said there are no other property owners down there. Tom said he, too, would like to check on legal issues first. Craig said he is not in favor of abandoning the road. Todd said they would just like it bladed if no gravel is put on. Harlan will go down and blade it providing he can access it. They opened their culvert. They asked if they could put gravel on it when needed. The board said that would be fine. Tom asked that it be tabled.

Mary spoke with Mrs. Boody on Deerwood Trail. She said they can go on her property to get the work done if needed. She also spoke with the resident on the other side (Keize?) and he said it would be fine. He did, however, express concern regarding his neighbor and the pipe that they laid from their back yard to our ditch. Tom will look at it to make sure it's not causing further ditch erosion.

Craig has not anything more from Bolten and Menk on the spillway. He said it's getting late in the season for getting that project done. It's tabled until next month.

Bob said he will clean the ditch along Timber Trail on the side that needs it. Bob asked if they are hauling debris away or dumping it on the other side. Bob and Bart Weelborg will communicate about possibly dumping some of the fill on his property. Loren noticed there is a large tree that is partially blocking part of the boxed culvert.

Konnie will put the Dodge Title, which had been held by Geislason & Hunter, in our safety deposit box.

## Adjourn

Tom made a motion to adjourn. Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

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Mary Milbrath, Chair

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Date

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Lori Cullen, Clerk