

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
July 14th, 2020
MINUTES

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for July was held on July 14th, 2020 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 (arrived 17 minutes into meeting), Supervisor Andy Goettlicher, Treasurer Konnie Pierson and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Harlan Olson, Edward Olson and Christopher Frederick. Supervisor Tom Langdon was absent.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm by Mary Milbrath.

Andy made a motion to approve the agenda. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0.

Craig made a motion to approve June 9th Meeting Minutes. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0.

Craig made a motion to approve the June Claims. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0.

Craig made a motion to approve the June Payroll. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0.

Konnie gave the Treasurer's Report for June. There was \$13,113.66 in Simple Checking and \$9,717.56 in the Platinum account as of June 30th, 2020. There was \$232,758.80 in the ICS account as of June 30th, 2020. Interest for the month of June for the Platinum Account was \$1.08 Interest for the month of June in the ICS Account was \$25.11. Craig made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3-0.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Culverts & Ditches - Ditches and Culverts – 409th & 490th; Weed Inspector for Township; Kerns Tree Trimming; Roadside Vegetation Management

Employees - Unemployment filing by Tom

Equipment - Tires for Kubota

FEMA - Bond petition

Fire Report - Craig

Roads - TC 193 (Township Cartway); Road Tour ; Bridge Repair; Hill Lights; MMR Spending Limit

Tabled Items - Timber Trail ditches

Other - NSP (Huntley Wilmarth/Xcel Energy) update

NEW BUSINESS

Culverts & Ditches

Last week Mary, Tom, Harlan, Seth Greenwood and Dave Sandvick from Nicollet County met at the Kerns Culvert. They evaluated what needs to be done. Nicollet County said they will do the work required to correct the issues. Belgrade Township will have to pay \$10,000-\$20,000 of the total cost. The township has already spent close to \$10,000 with Bolten and Menk to get the engineer's report. Seth also said Nicollet County will trim the trees in Kerns as part of the project. Harlan & Tom will do a minimum amount of trimming, just to give clearance for equipment. Nicollet County will probably start the work this coming spring.

We can start mowing ditches after July 31st. Harlan said after Labor Day they will start mowing the ditches on the West and North sides of the roads. Ditches on the East & South sides will get one pass, not the entire ditch. It is done this way to help with snow control in the winter.

A resident emailed the board concerning the abundance of ditch spraying and that there was no signage or postings along the roadside indicating where and when spraying was done. Andy suggested putting a sign up prior to spraying warning residents when spraying will occur. This will be readdressed in the spring. Mary discovered there is a grant \$10,000 for weed control (according to Nate Henry with Nicollet County). Any township can apply for it. It is not a guaranty that we'll receive it. It has to be filled out in December or January. Mary will get the information to Andy.

Benco is going to start burying some overhead wires. They will try to get as many wires buried as possible. They were working on wires along 526th and 409th for starters. This also means they will be trimming the trees on 409th as well. They were informed by Mary that they need to fill out a permit to do utility work in our township and that the permit specifies work is to be done on the shoulder of the road, not in the ditch.

Mary called Minnesota Association of Townships and they said townships can't mow crops in the Right of Way. However, it is a misdemeanor for farmers to have crops in the ROW according to Statute #160.2715.

Employees

Part Time employment in our township is considered temporary, incidental and an on-call position. Craig said PT employees should sign a form stating that they understand there are No regular and No guaranteed hours. It is an "as

needed” position. This position is not eligible for unemployment. Cheryl, Craig and Mary said Presidents Day and MLK Day get straight pay. There should be a change Christmas Eve pay so it’s not holiday pay for PT employees.

The township received a bill from MN Unemployment Insurance of \$537.32 for Tom’s unemployment claim.

Harlan couldn’t get rides from Tom or vendors during the COVID shutdown and restrictions. His wife, Cheryl Olson, gave him rides when needed. This expense can come out of the CARES account. Mary made motion to pay Cheryl (and Cathy Langdon if applicable) a rate of \$20 per hour plus \$0.50 per mile for the rides. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Equipment

Tires for the Kubota, originally tabled until August, need to be ordered now because it will take time for them to come in. They will be ordered from Pumps Tire (formerly Tire Associates). Harlan checked D&K, but they were more expensive.

Harlan took the Freightliner to Crysteel for some repair. They complimented Michel’s Repair on the excellent job they did on repairing the frame.

FEMA

FEMA 2 - Mary was able to make contact with Christian Nordeng from FEMA. He told her that we have been approved for \$114,744.71. We’ll get 75% FEMA and the State of MN pays balance. He is coming tomorrow to look at the submitted sites at 2:00pm. The property owner who has a white pipe that drains from their property into the Timber Lane ditch needs to change where there pipe drains because it is contributing to washouts. Ditch cleaning still needs to be reestablished. Harlan will have to continue to clean it out. Craig said the real answer is to slope it way back, but it’s not going to happen. Mary, Harlan and Andy will meet him there to look at the washout. Craig said might be available, but only by phone.

FEMA 3. We had several roads that needed to be closed due to flooding on the road during the recent 8+ inches of rainfall event. Nicollet is waiting to see if it will be declared a disaster.

Fire Report

Craig said there was no meeting to report on.

Roads

Belgrade Township received a bill from Oshawa township, similar to one we received 11 months ago, for 416 tons of rock applied on 470th. That is a shared road between our two townships. The board discussed the claim and agreed we should pay it. Craig made a motion to pay Oshawa Township. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

MNDOT wants us to lower the culvert on Old River Bluff Road just south of Lorentz Construction. The culvert is located in the state’s Right-Of-Way, so the board will not consider that project. MNDOT cleaned out the grate on Timber Lane. We will need to pay that claim from them when we receive it.

Other

COVID - Mary filed for money from the CARES fund. They will put \$26,650 in our account when it’s processed. We can use it, but have to account for it. We will need to repay any portion not used for COVID expenses.

Lori shared that Gisalason and Hunter continues to charge us every month for looking at emails regarding the EXCEL Energy project. She suggested the board make a motion to have the law firm removed from that correspondence. Andy made a motion to remove Gisalason & Hunter from that correspondence. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Tabled Items

Timber Trail discussion for spring of 2021. Andy took pictures and documented the flow of water there following a heavy rainfall. There was an area from the first corner (on the west) that was sitting. The area is swampy, but the water does flow.

Adjourn

Craig made a motion to adjourn. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Mary Milbrath, Chair

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk