

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
November 10th, 2020
MINUTES**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for November was held on November 10th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference due to COVID 19 restrictions and inclement weather. The board passed a resolution previously that meetings be conducted by teleconference due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Chairperson Mary Milbrath, Supervisor Craig Smith, Supervisor Cheryl Michels, Supervisor Tom Langdon, Supervisor Andy Goettlicher and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Harlan Olson, John Speckle, Ashley Hanley and Christopher Frederick. Treasurer Konnie Pierson was absent.

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

All motions approved at this meeting were done by a voice, roll call vote by each supervisor and are documented as such.

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

Cheryl made a motion to approve the agenda. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Mary made a motion to approve October 13th Meeting Minutes. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Tom made a motion to approve the October Claims. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Cheryl made a motion to approve the October Payroll. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0-A. Tom abstained because had a claim for payment included.

Lori gave the Treasurer's Report for October. There was \$2,438.08 in Simple Checking and \$5,604.00 in the Platinum account as of October 31st, 2020. Lori was unable to report the ICS account as of October 31st, 2020 due to a password issue. Interest for the month of October for the Platinum Account was \$1.22. Interest for the month of October in the ICS Account was unable to be reported due to the same password issue. The board will readdress the October Treasurer's Report at next month's meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There were no additions or corrections to the following Old Business:

COVID/ CARES - Update

Culverts & Ditches - BENCO, utility permit; Consolidated, utility permit-line in ditch; Stakes for marking under road culverts; Weed of the Week – Grant for spraying weeds

Employees

Equipment - Shop Lawnmower; Camera for Harlan

FEMA – FEMA Update

Fire Report - Andy

Roads - Michaelzelt Blacktop; Road Signs: Missing, damaged, lacking; Speed Limit on gravel roads

Other - Rights of the township; Planning and Zoning; Broad Band

Tabled Items - Timber Trail ditches; Utility Permits; Top of 490th hill

NEW BUSINESS

Election Info

The Board congratulated all those who ran for town board positions and won: Ashley Hanley (Treasurer), Gerry Krueger (Supervisor), Lori Cullen (Clerk), Andy Goettlicher (Supervisor) and Mary Milbrath (Supervisor).

COVID/CARES Funding

Fire Dept submitted \$1,800.00 to the township for CARES support. Nicollet school hired one additional Part-time employee to work 5 days week, 4 hours day, totaling around \$7,000.00. Remaining funds will be donated to the St. Peter Food Shelf. Mary and Lori shared the thoughts of the MAT attorney who said funds could be used for a technology update for the board. After some discussion, the board decided to purchase a laptop for Mary and for Lori because of the volume of online reporting they submit regularly. Tom made a motion to purchase 2 new laptops with the CARES money and to give the remainder of the CARES funds to the St Peter Food Shelf. Cheryl seconded. The motion carried, 3-1-A. Craig was not in favor. Mary Abstained since one computer would go to her.

Culverts & Ditches

FEMA requires a ditch and culvert policy plan. Mary used the MN Bridge and Culvert plan with a check off list of maintenance. The supervisors thought that was a good idea.

Employees – Harlan's review date will be the day of next month's meeting, immediately following the meeting.

Equipment

Harlan went through all the equipment and made a list. We can go over it next month. The one item that couldn't wait was the need for new tires for the John Deere. There were a few quotes. The Board chose to go with the Harvest King 12 ply tires for \$915.00 at Tire Associates. D&K gave a quote for \$1,488.00 for two tires, mounting, and disposal. Also, Tire Associates is now Pomp's. Tom made a motion to purchase the tires at Pomp's. Craig seconded the motion. The Motion carried, 5-0.

The International plow needs a sander, mud flaps, carbide teeth (\$2500 lasts for about 5 years). Harlan said the sander is not the right sander for the way we use it. There will be ongoing repairs with it. The carbide cutting edges for the plow, right and left were discussed. The standard cutting edge runs \$294.81 each side and we go through anywhere from 3 – 5 rights and lefts per winter. It runs \$95.00 for an extended life box kit for each side, which Harlan would need to weld on. The board discussed the benefits of purchasing the carbide teeth. Tom made motion for Harlan to get the carbide teeth. Craig seconded. The motion carried, 5-0.

Paying off the International is tabled until next month.

FEMA

FEMA is challenging with their requests. We had to redo most of the paperwork. Mary and Lori had to drive along Old River Bluff Road and take pictures of 7 different sites and record GPS coordinates.

Fire Report

Andy attended the standard Fire meeting. They welcomed on a couple of new firemen which was good to see.

Roads

Harlan replaced the Hill Lights yesterday. The D Cell batteries keep leaking so Harlan had to spend extra time cleaning the battery case.

Harlan has listened to frustrations from residents regarding the Snow Fence on Honey Suckle Lane. It doesn't seem to matter if he puts it up or not, there are always grievances. Harlan doesn't see a big benefit of having it there and is asking for direction from the board. Tom made motion to not put up snow fence. Craig seconded. The motion carried, 5-0.

The Bonding Bill went through. Instructions were to let the county engineer know if we need anything. Mary let them know about the Kern's Bridge.

Huntley Wilmarth wants Harlan to maintain a road for them that's not in our township, 512th Street. North Mankato stated that 512th is their road, not Belgrade Townships. Now they want Harlan to fix the road for them and bill them. Harlan would only have time to do it if he went to overtime. There would be use of equipment charges. The board asked Harlan if he wanted to take the project on. Harlan said he would like to. Andy made a motion for Harlan to help out the project for the current rate of exchange and charges. Craig seconded. The motion carried, 5-0.

Other

Mary spoke with the MAT lawyer regarding the ditch on 526th. We have the right to put a ditch in to do what's right for our road. John Speckle had a MNDOT hydrologist come and see what he could do for keeping water away from the road bed. John said that a farmer plows well into right of way on the north side of 526th, but some nameless person wants to complain that the ditch on his property is filled in. John asked why the north side road ditch is not expected to abide by anything, but his ditch is continually being brought up. This is tabled until spring.

Cheryl spoke with Jake Yost regarding the maintenance of 470th. They are discussing the suggestion about allowing Belgrade Township to maintain it and bill them for 50% of the cost.

There is a road connecting Old River Bluff Road to Hwy 169 that has no name. It would be beneficial for emergencies to have a name for that road. Mary will check with Nicollet County to see if they would be able to number it for us.

Steve Hiniker contacted Craig regarding taxes on the sawmill, which have more than double in one year. He wants us to be aware. He said he is not allowed to improve his property at all because it is in a flood plain.

Planning and zoning. Mary suggested as a board we need to look at the rules that Nicollet County has set. Mary is expecting an email with a list addressing some of the items to consider. There's a meeting scheduled on 11/11/2020 for planning and zoning and they'll be making a 20 year comprehensive plan. Mary plans to attend and encouraged other board members to attend as well.

General FYI:

MAT will be hosting their Annual Training and Meeting on November 20th – 21st, 2020. Mary encouraged participation!

Tabled Items

Timber Trail - spring of 2021; Planning and Zoning; Top of 490th hill; Camera for Harlan; 526th Ditch; Oshawa Shared Road

Adjourn

Craig made a motion to adjourn. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Mary Milbrath, Chair

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk

Date