

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
FEBRUARY 9th, 2021
MINUTES**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for February was held on February 9th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices on Howard Drive in North Mankato. Chairperson Cheryl Michels (arrived late to meeting, reflected in voting numbers), Supervisor Craig Smith, Supervisor Mary Milbrath Supervisor Andy Goettlicher, Supervisor Gerri Krueger, Treasurer Ashley Hanley and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Harlan Olson and Dave Chambers.

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

Craig made a motion to approve the agenda. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Mary made a motion to approve January 12th Meeting Minutes. Gerri seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Mary made a motion to approve the January Claims. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Craig made a motion to approve the January Payroll. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Ashley gave the Treasurer's Report for January. There was \$16,536.61 in Simple Checking and \$13,401.51 in the Platinum account as of January 31st, 2021. The ending balance in the ICS account as of January 31st, 2021 was \$323,109.17. Interest for the month of January for the Platinum Account was \$0.99. Interest for the month of January in the ICS Account was \$75.15. Gerri made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0.

Andy 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:

Culverts & Ditches - Snowmobiles – Board letter & Newsletter

Employees -

Equipment - Heated Wiper Blades

FEMA - Updates

Fire Report - Craig

Roads - Gravel Quotes; Plowing/Grading; Questions regarding work on Birch Bluff; Weight Restrictions on ORBR from Nicollet County

Other – Bonding; Garage/Shed (Photos from Cheryl); Annexation; L&R 2-17-2021 9am sign up; MAT Regular Updates 1st & 3rd Tues @ 10am Conf. Call Planning & Zoning; Annual Town Meeting

Tabled Items - 526th Ditch; Oshawa Shared Road; Timber Trail ditches; Utility Permits; Top of 490th hill

FYI – Andy completed his LBAE Training

NEW BUSINESS

Culverts & Ditches

Mary brought a letter to send to residents, including the MN State Statute number, regarding plowing across road, parking or placing debris on roadways or ditches.

Employees

Nothing new.

Equipment

Harlan made a request for heated wiper blades for the International. The cost through Crysteel is approximately \$400. They are \$525 at NCI. It keeps the window much cleaner and therefore safer during plowing. The Freightliner has them on already and it is very beneficial. They have a plug so you can unplug and remove them during the summer months. Mary made motion to purchase the less expensive blades. Andy seconded. Motion passed. Motion carried 4-0.

Harlan cut an extra groove in one of the tires. Pomp's is selling that tool for \$100. Harlan asked if the board would like to purchase the tool. Craig made a motion to purchase the tool. Mary seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

FEMA

We have another new case rep. This rep said it should be done in the next couple of weeks. Mary reminded him it has been almost 2 years.

Fire Report

Craig attended the meeting. On Feb 22nd @ 7pm there is a budget meeting. All welcome to attend. \$94,900 is their budget; same as last year. They want to get a Gator with trax. It's a \$50,000 unit. He said they raised enough money to purchase it by donations. They want to replace the pumper in 10 years and the water truck in 5 years. The combined total will be around \$800,000. \$264,000 will be Belgrade Township's responsibility. Craig said we need to put away \$20,000 per year to be able to handle that coming expense. Mary said that it would come to \$26,000 per year to achieve that amount. The Fire Department has \$90,000 in savings right now. They will try to apply for FEMA money for those two trucks and any grants possible.

Roads

Mary received a quote from Holtmeier for gravel prices. They said it will be \$7.90/ton for 1" with fines. That is the product we used last year at the same price as last year. Lori brought a price list from Minnesota Paving that was mailed to her. We are trying to cover 1/3 of the town roads each year. Craig told Harlan to watch the roads in the spring in case some really need it, we can still put it on the road even if it isn't on that year's rotation.

Mary received a couple of calls regarding plowing. Mary reminded the residents that we do not custom plow. Craig said we do the best we can to get people plowed out and that is really all we can do. We are out at least as early as the county, and sometimes earlier.

Lori shared that she was called by a resident on Birch Bluff who said they were making too many passes with the plow on her road. She requested the township not overwork her road. The board was surprised since they receive so many requests from residents who live there to do more.

Weight Restriction signs were put on Old River Bluff Road. The county put it on because of the bridge restrictions and the township was billed for the signage. The total was \$689.05

Other

Mary spoke with engineer Kyle Renike from ISG. He said the first time you apply for a bond it is very iffy on whether you will get anything. There are several ways to make your case. They want to see things like "farm to table", helping with equipment, etc. We would need to be able to maintain the road for 10 years. He also explained that the county commissioner and the county engineer make the decision as to who receives the bond. Only one township in each county will get awarded. Oshawa Township is planning to apply for it as well. Mary has been asking how much it would cost per mile to do a 10-ton road. She was told the bond money would only cover one mile of road. The board felt it would not be worth the \$3,500 expense to the township for just one mile. Bolton and Menk had a higher quote of \$8,000 they would charge the township.

Cheryl arrived at the meeting in time to present 8 photos of Oshawa Township's shed for the board to look at. The addition on the shed is roughly 30' X 40'. Mary stopped by the Nicollet County shop. Each vehicle drives in and backs out. There is no stacking of vehicles. There are 5 stalls. It's just an idea right now. Big road projects take priority. This is probably a few years out at this point. It needs to be brought up at the Annual Meeting.

Lori brought a map regarding details of an Annexation that was previously sent to the board. Mary sought counsel from the MAT lawyers. They said this is one annexation that can be objected to. The property to the west of that is still Belgrade Township. Mary made a motion to have the lawyer right a letter on behalf of Belgrade Township. Craig seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mary is going to attend the L&R training. They will be addressing Annexations.

MAT is now having regular updates for town boards via conference calls twice per month on Tuesdays.

Harlan asked about setbacks for the township. The county makes the setbacks. Harlan said that new house on 496th is going to contribute to worse drifting due to its close proximity to the road. Mary will contact the county to inquire about setbacks regarding trees and buildings.

Gerri will check at South Central to see if we could possibly conduct the Annual Town Meeting there to assist in safe social distancing. Harlan suggested if South Central charges too much, we could do it in the shop. Harlan also said if we held it in the summer we would have a better handle on expenses. It used to be a two-meeting process.

General FYI:

Property owner Paul Langworthy wants to make a loop through on his property. He has checked with the board regarding the culvert policy. His property is on Timber Trail.

The previous township treasurer, Richard Timm passed away. The board will send a card now and flowers in the summer for the funeral.

Tabled Items

Timber Trail - spring of 2021; Planning and Zoning; Top of 490th hill; Camera for Harlan; 526th Ditch; Paying off International.

Adjourn

Mary made a motion to adjourn. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Cheryl Michels, Chair

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk

Date