

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
MINUTES**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for April was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices on Howard Drive in North Mankato. Chairperson Cheryl Michels, Supervisor Gerri Krueger, Supervisor Craig Smith, Supervisor Mary Milbrath Supervisor, Supervisor Andy Goettlicher, Treasurer Ashley Hanley and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Harlan Olson.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm by Cheryl Michels.

Mary made a motion to approve the agenda. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Andy made a motion to approve March 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

Andy made a motion to approve the March Payroll. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Ashley gave the Treasurer's Report for March. There was \$1,813.35 in Simple Checking and \$14,783.40 in the Platinum account as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The ending balance in the ICS account as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 was \$458,257.88. Interest for the month of March for the Platinum Account was \$0.91. Interest for the month of March in the ICS Account was \$84.73. There were two deposits in March. Both were FEMA reimbursement checks from ACH MN for \$139,218.47 and \$5,736.58. Andy made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Cheryl 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 - ROW 496 & Hwy 13 setback ruling; mail box pipe/pole

Employees - Nothing

Equipment - contract diesel fuel

FEMA- Updates

Fire Report - Craig

Roads - Dust Control; Timber Trail-weight restriction-destruction to road; 490th top of hill/water issue; HAUL roads-Excel Energy- following original agreed maintenance; All 3 hills closed till further notice

Other - Land Use Public Meeting scheduled for 3-15-2021 was postponed due to weather: New date is April 19, 2021 @ 7 pm

Tabled Items - 526<sup>th</sup> Ditch; Oshawa Shared Road; Timber Trail ditches; Utility Permits

FYI - MAT/training for Supervisors, Clerks, Treasurer: March 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Culverts & Ditches**

The Timber Trail ditch has been tabled for 2 years. Harlan said you almost need an excavator to do the work that was discussed at a prior meeting. Harlan suggested asking Dave Chambers to look at it and give a quote. Mary will ask him for a quote. Harlan said cleaning the ditches involved may cause new issues with the ravine by Kloosters, which needs rip rap. Andy said he looked at it and it seems to be mostly out of our right of way. We could ask Dave Chambers to line item that out and potentially ask the property owners by the ravine to cover what's out of the right of way.

409<sup>th</sup> drain tile. Mary and Harlan met a property owner on 409<sup>th</sup>. He claimed the drain tile was damaged by a previous road grader years ago. He would like the township to repair the intake. Could be anywhere from 2' to 6'. It's 3' – 4' onto his private property. Andy thought we should hire it done. Cheryl suggested splitting the cost with the landowner. Gerri will call the landowner (Roger Bruns) and propose sharing the cost of labor and materials. Harlan asked that Gerri call him with the answer.

#### **Employees**

Nothing new.

#### **Equipment**

The board discussed whether to pay the balance of the loan on the International. Craig made a motion to pay off the International. Mary seconded. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **FEMA**

Today \$139,218.47 and \$5,736.58, both FEMA checks, were deposited into our bank account. That is all from 2019. The initial request was for roughly \$282,000. Total received is \$272,046.55. Andy gave Mary great accolades on sticking with it. It was a long, arduous process, which involved working with 7 representative transfers, which meant submitting all the information 7 times over roughly two years.

#### **Fire Report**

Craig attended the meeting. He reported there was nothing new.

## Roads

Harlan gave an update on the roads used by Excel Energy. He worked on half a mile of 510th. He has 8/10ths left to go. Afterwards it will need gravel on the entire road. 405<sup>th</sup> was started last year, more repairs need to be made and then gravel on top of it all. 506<sup>th</sup> needs gravel to repair damages. We are waiting on Excel to give further direction.

Lori was curious why the frost boil on High Hill was worked on the day after the last meeting, when the board decided to wait. Harlan said he was directed by Supervisor Craig Smith to start immediately after last month's meeting had adjourned. He added that it cost the township money in more tons of rock to fix it while it was so wet.

Harlan mentioned that a property owner wants to bring in a heavy tiling machine to tile their field. Ellingson drainage will be doing the work. Troy Hewitt is the farmer contracting them. If it is a track machine instead of hauling by truck it should be ok. Andy will call and maybe email to inform them that road restrictions are on until at least May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The board discussed damage caused by heavy equipment usage on Timber Trail. Repairs cost the township \$4,500. of repairs. The board will look into options for resolving this issue.

There were some complaints by a resident regarding Deerwood Trail. One of the supervisors drove it 4 times and said it is in very good shape.

County Road 13 will be resurfaced this summer. We will need to put dust control on the hills due to the extra traffic. Craig asked if Nicollet County might be willing to reimburse the township for extra road usage. They will be closing the road on June 1<sup>st</sup>, lasting potentially through mid-fall. Andy suggested inquiring if they would reimburse us for dust control. He also thought we should request some of the mulched blacktop that will be available from the work they're doing. Harlan asked for some direction on graveling the roads. The roads east of 13, especially the hills, need rock. They were last graveled in 2018. Harlan would like to gravel them before the CR 13 is closed. Hopefully right after the postings are lifted the beginning of May. Andy will contact Nicollet County regarding the mulched blacktop and reimbursements. Harlan will gravel hills after restrictions lift.

The board agreed that dust control on the hills would help the hills hold up better with the additional traffic. Andy made a motion to have dust control applied on the hills, starting with one application for now, then apply a second application only if needed. Cheryl seconded. Motion carried, 5-0.

## Other

There will be a Land Use Meeting 4/19/21 @ 7pm regarding Hurley, Truebenbach and Mauer. Mary said to protect the township from improper land usage we should make a motion regarding setbacks. Mary made a motion for our setbacks to be the same as Nicollet County. Cheryl seconded. Motion carried, 5-0.

The LBAE (Local Board of Appeal & Equalization) meeting is scheduled on 4/29/21 @ 6:00pm.

Craig would like to see something done with the Smith Spillway in the near future. Mary said that every map she checked said that it is a township cartway. Mary recalled that prior dealings with cartways is that property owners pay for expenses. Mary said that the board never approves work down on the spillway. She added that other townships in the state (ie: Cook, LeSeuer) have decided to turn over maintenance of Township Cartways to the landowners because of the budget issues that occur. She said the township cannot afford to maintain the spillway, which is part of a township cartway. There is a safety concern for our township employees to do work in a flooded area and it causes additional wear on equipment sitting in the water. The landowners can go to the county for possible funding. Cheryl said that is what we did with the Michaeletz township cartway. Gerri shared that when Bump Krueger worked for the township, he never maintained it because it was too expensive. Mary made a motion that no work be done by the township on the spillway and that maintenance is turned over to the landowners. Rollcall vote was taken. Gerri is in favor of the motion because it is too expensive to maintain, Cheryl is in favor of the motion because the spillway is in a waterway that floods and is under water regularly, Mary is in favor of the motion stating it's not fair to the rest of the township with that big of an expense, Andy opposed the motion because he wanted to stay consistent with how he voted previously on a similar issue. Craig was instructed by Supervisor Mary Milbrath and town clerk Lori Cullen that he should abstain due to conflict of interest, since it involves some of his property. Craig chose to vote. He was opposed because he said it's been maintained in the past. Motion carried, 3-2-0A.

The garbage container at the shop needs to be replaced due to the bottom rusting out. It would cost the township \$480 dollars to repair it. E&L has a new one with wheels for \$392. Andy made motion to purchase a new one from E&L. Mary seconded. Motion carried, 5-0.

Paul Johnson has some empty sheds across from the shop. Cheryl is trying to contact him to see if we could use them. Gerri offered to stop by and talk with him regarding whether the township might be able to store some equipment in them.

**General FYI:**

Harlan submitted a note to the clerk regarding a brief conversation he had with Sherriff Dave Lange before the Annual Town Meeting. It will be kept in the 2021 Meeting Minutes binder.

**Tabled Items**

526<sup>th</sup> Ditch; Set back ordinance; Utility Permits

**Adjourn**

Andy made a motion to adjourn. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

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Cheryl Michels, Chair

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Date

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Lori Cullen, Clerk

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Date