

Belgrade Township  
Minutes for board meeting on February 8, 2022  
Nicollet County Satellite Office

1

Present:

Supervisors: Sandy Howe, Cheryl Michels, Mary Milbrath, Craig Smith, Geri Krueger  
Town Treasurer: Ashley Hanley  
Employee: Harlan and Edward Olson

Residents:

Karen Smith, 41296 Judson Bottom Road  
Dale Hoehn, Timber Lane, St. Peter  
Chris Howe, 38886 506th St., North Mankato

Cheryl Michels called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Pledge of allegiance said by all.

Approval of agenda-

Cheryl motion, Mary second, all vote to approve 5-0

Approval of minutes:

Craig- yes  
Cheryl- yes  
Mary yes  
Sandy-yes  
Geri- yes

Treasurer's Report-Ashley Hanley

Savings- \$9,976.57  
ICS- \$634, 131.75  
Checking- \$9,697.29  
Passes 5-0

Approval of claims:

Cheryl motion, Mary second  
Craig-yes  
Cheryl-yes  
Mary-yes  
Geri-yes  
Sandy-yes

Payroll-

Cheryl motion, Mary second  
Craig- yes  
Cheryl-yes

1

Mary-yes  
Geri- yes  
Sandy-yes

2

## REMINDER OF TOWN BOARD ETIQUETTE

### Old Business:

Culverts: Broken culvert, John Krone. John will be fixing -in the spring.

Fire – nothing

Employees – nothing

Equipment – nothing

Damage & missing signs – Cheryl reported Sheriff reports signs are missing all over the county  
Bank CD

### New Business:

Culverts & Ditches - Joan Timm requesting culvert for driveway on #01.023.125 on 498<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mike Roen requesting culvert for driveway on South Side of 490<sup>th</sup>. Not planning on building until next fall.

Employees - nothing

Equipment:

FREIGHTLINER: Issues with the freightliner and it is in the shop. Estimated cost of \$4,900 \$700x35 hours of labor. \$4200+parts Submitted to insurance and they will pay. Harlan said the wing hooked the end of a driveway.

Dale Hoehn asked if we were going to bump back the replacement of the freightliner from 2025. Hoehn is concerned about the amount of money that has been put into it the last couple of years.

Looking at the equipment fund schedule including this year 2022. Mary stated the dollar amounts is what we should have in the fund. Mary pointed out the International Truck replaced the Dodge listed and that we need to correct the date to reflect the International. It was agreed to put the year 2030 as the projected replacement. Mary also noted that the annual equipment funding of \$3000/annually is too low. Resident Hoehn asked what we paid for the International. Employee Harlan Olson stated it was around \$90,000. Employee Edward Olson commented that by the time it is to replace the International a new one would probably be \$100,000/or more and to consider inflation. Chair Michels suggested we put the projected replacement at purchase amount of \$90,000 for a starting point. It was decided to bump up the annual funding to \$10,000. Will discuss over equipment at the budget meeting.

Bank- Pioneer has new CD- waiting to hear from the Clerk regarding new accounts.

Fire report: Supervisor Smith reported the Fire Department ordered a tanker truck. Belgrade Townships share is \$100,387.53 for a new tanker truck. Smith stated it needed to be paid soon. Smith reported the fire department wanted the money up front to avoid paying another 3% if we waited with it. Belgrade Township will be getting a bill in the next few weeks. H. Olson wanted to know why Belgrade Township did not have a say in this. Smith stated it was a joint powers



decision/conglomerate. Belgrade Township has the most residents and most calls. Belgrade Township is paying 1/3, City of Nicollet 1/3 and the other 1/3 is being split by the other townships. Belgrade Township pays Nicollet Fire \$25,000/year for services in addition to any equipment that they buy. Resident Hoehn asked what the other townships pay. Smith stated it is based on their population. Mary questioned the longevity of the new truck. Smith stated he assumed it would be around 30 years. Mary asked if the Fire Dept was going to take a loan out on the truck so that we could make payments on it, Smith stated NO. Mary & Sandy attended a Fire Meeting in December 2021 & the Pumper Truck was listed as 3 years out.

H.Olson stated since he came on, Belgrade townships equipment replacement has been pushed back every year and the Fire dept. is getting funded every year. Michels stated when she came on, the Freightliner and the grater were due in 2020.

ARPA FUNDS applied for and we are receiving them. Resolution has to be made to use ARPA Funds for "Lost Revenue." The township will be able to use the money for our own equipment. The Township was quoted an initial amount of \$102,000

Cheryl motion, Sandy second...

Roll call- all approved.

#### Replacing the Freightliner

Mary says we have our name on the list -to be on the list- for a Chassis @ International ( no money down). Crysteel does the customizing. If we pay for half of the customizing now, when the Chassis comes, the parts will also be there. If we do not order the customizing now, when the chassis arrives it could sit for 6-9 months before the customized parts arrive. Customized Parts Price is locked in at Crysteel estimated cost of half is \$66,840, due upon ordering. Total amount is \$133,679.

Mary motions to pay \$66,840 from the ARPA fund to pay for the customized parts: Sandy seconds.

Mary-yes

Cheryl-yes

Sandy-yes

Craig-no

Geri-yes

Hoehn makes comment that Smith says no to everything here, but to the fire department- Yes. Michels wonders if we would get pushed up on the list at International if we put down half of the money. Mary will check it out.

Harlan Olson asks Smith why he is against replacing any equipment? Smith responds that Olson has told him at least a dozen times "don't let this board buy a new truck to replace the Freightliner, because you want to maintain that truck the way it is." Smith said the truck has 100,000 miles on it. Olson says it has 270,000 miles on it. Smith stated "is still low miles, passes inspection every time it is inspected, it is a 1999 which is not terribly old for a truck. SEEMS TO WORK WHEN WE NEED IT, Smith acknowledged it has had some breakdowns and has been abused over the years, we've been keeping it up, equipment is expensive, it is



expensive to keep it maintained, that is just the way it is. I'm not against new equipment, but I am against it if it is not ready to be traded yet. That's my opinion."

Olson stated he said that we ran into all the huge expenses. He had no way of knowing since it was rusting from the inside out. Olson stated Smith made previous comment of waiting until it does not pass inspection.

Smith stated he had been called by NUMEROUS residents about the Freightliner. Mary asked who called him? SMITH STATED HE DID NOT NEED TO GIVE NAMES OUT.

H. Olson asked Smith where he wanted the ARPA money to go. Smith replied, "I suppose we have expenses to be paid, probably your wages."

Hoehn asked Smith why he voted no to everything? Hoehn asked Smith what his agenda was. Smith replied, "I've been around a long time and I know what goes on around here. Hoehn tells Smith he needs to start taking stands, this is for the township, your benefit. "Smith asks Hoehn how it is for his benefit. Hoehn responds, "Your stupid road at the bottom of the hill". Hoehn stated the township needs someone with a backbone on the fire dept. since he doesn't think Smith is doing a good job. Hoehn accused Smith of sitting like a bump on a log always saying "no" Smith stated he did not think he was sitting like a bump on a log

Hoehn asks why Craig always votes no on everything? Craigs reply was it doesn't benefit him. Dale requested a new representative for fire board. Says we need fire department but doesn't think we should pay 1/3.

Signs- vandalism of signs. Cheryl notes on 478th Street and 411th, the Yield Sign was taken down. Cheryl called the sheriff and he said we aren't the only township. Also noted is the street sign was taken down on 490th. Cheryl said if anyone sees who may be doing this to let the sheriff & township know.

Need wheel weights for Kubota says Harlan. Approximate cost is \$1,200 for two sets. Also need new studs. Also includes labor costs from Arnold's. Mary motioned to approve, Cheryl second.

Roll call vote:

all voted yes.

Reminder to lock in fuel price with Crystal Valley- from Edward.

Note that garbage cans can't be on roads. Front of garbage cans should be even with the Mail box pole. Garbage cans should be removed from the edge of the road, after they are emptied.

SIGNS: Sandy talked to the sign guy is out of Glencoe Harlan will get a number of sign that needed to be replaced..

Annual meeting location at BELGRAE SHOP 50975 421<sup>st</sup> Avenue, North Mankato. Bring your own chair. Date is March 8, 2022 @ 7 p.m. Michels suggests going to the shop. Michaels does not want to spend \$100.00 to rent NMFD. Bigger space for social distancing, need to wear a mask. Smith asks why the meeting cannot be held at Howard drive Location. Michels asks Smith how many people are going to be there. Bigger space for social distancing, need to wear a mask. Smith Does not respond. Notice in Free Press and notices on the Howard Drive door.

Annexation- got a notice from North Mankato. Lawyer said we have no way to fight it. Mary sent it to Sen. Frentz and Rep. Ackland to help with and be aware of another annexation in which the township has no say. Location is Steve Burnett 7.8 acres parcel east of county road 41 and south of Pleasant View Drive.

Change budget meeting from February 9 to February 23 at 7 p.m. at Howard Drive location.

Feb. 24 MAT having a legislative meeting. March 16 is Supervisors, Clerk, Treasure; short course in Mankato. Need to register. March 17 is LTAP road class in Mankato. Mary motions for both Harlan and Edward to take class. Cheryl second. All voted yes.

Kern's progress is steady with paper/legal work being done.

Mary motioned to adjourn

Geri second. All agreed.

All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Cheryl Michels chair 3/15/2022

AKM Kern 3/15/2022