

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 13, 2022  
Belgrade Township Shop

Present: Supervisors: Sandy Howe, Gerri Krueger, Cheryl Michels, Mary Milbrath, and Craig Smith  
Town Clerk: Joan Untiedt  
Town Treas: Ashley Hanley  
Employee: Harlan Olson  
Residents: Edward Olson – 48805 387<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Karen Smith – 41296 Judson Bottom Rd  
Steve Burnett – 53042 Rockford Rd  
Alex Melvin – 50605 Birch Bluff Dr.  
Keith Burg – 53555 Rockford Rd

Meeting called to order by Chair Michels at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance. Reminder of town meeting etiquette was recited.

Additions to the printed agenda include Herrley – 496<sup>th</sup> St. and culvert on Purrier Court. Milbrath/Howe move/second to approve the agenda as revised, approved by all supervisors in attendance. Milbrath/Michels move/second to approve the previous month's minutes, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Hanley reported all Pioneer bank accounts have been closed. The cash balances for all accounts total \$475,469.26. Howe/Michels move/second to approve the treasurer's report, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Milbrath/Michels move/second to approve the claims as presented, approved by all supervisors in attendance. Howe/Michels move/second to approve the payroll as presented, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

Old Business

1. Culverts & Ditches

- Pre-construction meeting was held on the Kern's culvert project. Trees have been cut, cleared, and land graded. Utilities are to be relocated starting September 15<sup>th</sup>. Seeding and erosion control will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. Installation of the box culvert will be done in 2023.
- Neubert culvert has no update.
- Aprons on Birch Bluff are done but they still need to cut the ditch down and seed.
- Timmerman culvert has no update.

2. Employees

- Edward Olson, part-time employee has not started his approved CDL training.

### 3. Equipment

- Backup sign for the grader has been received, waiting for the other signs.
- Replacement for Freightliner has no further update.
- Equipment stickers have been mailed and should receive soon.

### 4. Roads

- ID Sign Solutions submitted an estimate of \$7,351.70 for replacement and new signs. An invoice has been received for \$5,193.70 for the materials. Labor will be charged when the signs are installed.

### 5. Other

- No update on ordinances.
- No update on building repairs and painting.
- Building proposal discussion will be put on the annual meeting agenda.
- Only contract received for review is with the City of North Mankato. Milbrath/Michels move/second to forward the contract to the town attorney for review and recommendations, approved by Howe, Krueger, Michels, and Milbrath. Smith dissented.
- MAT annual conference will be held October 14 and 15 in St. Cloud. No supervisors are available to attend. Discussion to send Untiedt. Motion rescinded for authorization until the next meeting to review the agenda.
- District 4 meeting held on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Saint Peter. Presentations were given from MAT on being a resource for townships and Nicollet County on elections. A new attorney has been hired by MAT. Also working on annexation issues for townships in the state. If townships have any pictures of roads in need of repair, they should be submitted to MAT to seek more funding from the state.
- MAT has posted training webinars on their web site.

## New Business

### 1. Culverts & Ditches

- Jess Morsching from Purrier Court has requested installation of an additional driveway on her property. An application will be submitted in 2023.
- Deichman Construction is building at the end of Birch Bluff on the cul-de-sac. They were seeking information on township requirements.

### 2. Employees

- Hanley submitted her resignation from the position of Treasurer effective immediately. She is moving from the township. An appointment will be considered at the next meeting of any interested person for the position.

- LTAP workshops were reviewed for Olson to attend. December 13 will be held in Mankato on culvert maintenance and January 2023 is a virtual workshop on signs. Howe/Michels move/second to approve the registration for Olson, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

### 3. Fire Report

- Smith attended the department's quarterly meeting. Highlights from the meeting:
  - New tanker truck chassis is finished and moving to the next stage.
  - So far in 2022, 99 calls have been received.
  - Need two firefighters for the department and two individuals have applied.
  - Working on a plan to get in the Kern's subdivision during the culvert installation.
  - Next meeting will be November 28 at 7:00 p.m.

### 4. Roads

- MAT is looking for township officials to be nominated for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) committee. Applications are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Michels/Howe move/second to nominate Milbrath to apply for the LRIP committee, approved by all supervisors in attendance.
- MAT Insider magazine had an article on tree cutting rules and regulations. We need to provide our employees with the necessary safety equipment. Olson will need special boots and additional first aid kit items. Milbrath will check on the first aid necessities and get them ordered. There is also training requirements. Milbrath will call the number in the article to find out how to get the training.
- Jeff Wood, Valley View Road, is concerned about the dust control running down and making a path in his grass. His neighbor had it applied so Wood will need to contact him to discuss the application. The township did not pay for this dust control.
- John Herrley on 496<sup>th</sup> St. has rocks in the roadway next to his driveway. They are 4-5 feet off the driving surface and in the right-of-way. Township equipment could hit these rocks and damage equipment. Michels/Howe move/second to have Untiedt send a certified letter to him to move the rocks off the right-of-way which is 33 feet from the center of the road, approved by all supervisors in attendance.

### 5. Other

- A call was received from an individual at the State of Minnesota regarding the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization (LBAE). She was asking if the township was treated respectfully and satisfied with the results of the recent meetings. She noticed the controversy from meeting minutes. Individuals from the county should have answered questions with a written response. The individuals involved with the recent meetings are no longer with the county. There is now a new person with little experience. Discussion on what happened and future actions.
- Milbrath attended the legislative and research meeting via zoom. Highlights of the meeting:
  - Discussion of electric vehicles.
  - Confusion on appointed positions in townships and working on a solution for a change in the process.
  - For townships with pull-tab sales, the word "city" was changed to "municipality."
  - Townships decisions to vote in-person or by mail.

- Broadband needs a boost in rural areas for faster internet transmission.
- Local township officials cannot be harassed by the county LBAE and cannot be corrected by the county.
- Counties can prohibit local assessors, looking into this issue further.
- Townships have no authority for annexations, looking on an improvement in the process.
- Letter from attorney along with a Property Damage Release was received regarding the legal claim from David/Shayna Koppendrayer and Azad/Karen Mesrobian. The residents sued for damages on trees removed on Timber Lane.
- Letter received from Blethen Berens (retained by Craig Smith Jr. and Craig Smith Sr.) regarding Township Cartway 130. Michels/Howe move/second to forward the letter to the town attorney for review and response, approved by Howe, Krueger, Michels, and Milbrath. Smith was recused from voting due to conflict.
- Candidacy applications received for the November 8, 2022 election:
  - Supervisor A – Sandy Howe and Shane Nelson
  - Supervisor C – Cheryl Michels and Bryan Bode
  - Supervisor D – Corky Berdan, Greg Borchert, and Christopher Frederick
  - Town Clerk – Joan Untiedt
- A special election may be held in February 2023 for the Treasurer position. The county records were not accurate for the term of our Treasurer position. Konnie Pierson was appointed to the position in 2018 when Scott Weilage (who had won the election) could not assume the role due to conflict with his employer. The position was put on the ballot in 2020 at which time Hanley was elected for a two-year term. However, the county had her term listed for 4 years. The Treasurer should have been on the ballot in 2022 for a new 4-year term. Consultation is being held with the town attorney on how to proceed with the error.
- Michels read portions of a letter written by MAT Executive Director Jeff Krueger which was in the MAT Insider. It cited distractions and personal vendettas by members of the board. A board can lose focus on what really matters.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the town shop unless the North Mankato building is open. If so, a notice will be posted on the doors showing the change of location.

Milbrath/Krueger move/second to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., approved by all supervisors in attendance.

  
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 Cheryl Michels, Chair

10-11-2022  
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 Date

  
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 Joan Untiedt, Town Clerk

10-11-22  
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 Date