

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

November 9, 2021
Nicollet County Satellite Office

Present:

Supervisors: Sandy Howe, Cheryl Michels, Mary Milbrath and Craig Smith
Town Treas.: Ashley Hanley
Town Clerk: Joan Untiedt
Employee: Harlan Olson
Residents: Linda and Jim Johnson – 40816 Judson Bottom Road
Karen and Azad Mesrobian – 38323 Timber Lane
Scott Umhoefer – 1670 Knights Dr.
Karen Smith – 41296 Judson Bottom Road
Craig Smith Jr. – 41355 Judson Bottom Road
David Koppendrayer – 38371 Timber Lane
Andy Johnson – 53804 Rockford Road
Guests: Susan Akland
Alexia VonRuden

Absent: Supervisors: Gerri Krueger

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

One addition will be listed on the agenda under Culverts & Ditches – change board contact. Milbrath/Howe move/second to approve the agenda as revised, approved.

Michels/Milbrath move/second to approve the October regular meeting minutes as presented, approved.

Treasurer's Report– Ashley Hanley

A list of all deposits made in 2021 were distributed for review. Account balances are as follows:

Checking account - \$8,872.59

Savings account - \$20,024.40

Instant Cash Sweep account - \$407,803.57

Invoices were sent to the residents of Timber Trail for their share of erosion control agreed upon at the last meeting. Five of the eight residents have paid.

Milbrath/Howe move/second to approve the treasurer's report, approved.

Milbrath/Michels move/second to approve the claims as presented, approved.

Michels/Howe move/second to approve the payroll as presented, approved.

Reminder to all in attendance of town board meeting etiquette.

Old Business

1. Culverts & Ditches

- Nicollet County has hired Stonebrooke for engineering the overall project for replacement of the Kern's culvert. They were also asked about the land acquisition the township is responsible for. Their quote is \$9,568 with additional services paid per hour. Evergreen Land Services (Richfield) submitted a quote of \$16,712.50. Milbrath/Smith move/second to accept the quote by Stonebrook for the township's share of the project, approved.
- Abandoned tile on 478th Street is still open. Landowner Nick Peters said he would fix it.
- A letter was sent to John Krohn regarding the broken tile on Timber Lane. He does not have a listed telephone number to call.

2. Employees

- Employee Harlan Olson attended the LTAP seminar on sign maintenance management. He said the board will need to design a manual on signs for liability protection. A virtual presentation of the seminar will be available in January 2022. He suggested board members listen to the webinar. Discussion on contracting with the county to take care of all signage. Howe will contact the county to get an estimate.

3. Equipment

- The pup trailer will be taken to Crysteel to get an estimate on the latch repair when time allows.
- Backup signs are not completed.
- Expenses for Freightliner repairs done in 2020 and 2021 total \$50,780. Estimate of remaining repairs needed is \$20,000-\$30,000. Discussion on alternative to purchase a new truck. Michels recused herself from the discussion because her family has been involved in the repairs. Smith suggested taking the truck to Crysteel to get an estimate of repairs necessary,
- Milbrath researching what is available for diesel equipment grants.

4. Roads – Milbrath

- Tree trimming has been completed on Timber Lane.
 - Olson looked at the job completed and said it was done very well.
 - Mesrobians spoke about the tree trimming. He said tree trimming has only been done by Benco when it interfered with power lines for the 22 years he has lived on the road. Very concerned about a tree that was cut. He also was concerned the residents were not notified about the road closure before the signs went up. He also threatened legal action for the tree removal. Olson responded regarding the road closure procedures done. The tree trimmer, Phil Radel, called Nicollet County Sheriff's Office regarding the day and time the road would be closed for tree trimming. It would only occur during the day hours and would be reopened overnight. He would also notify the Sheriff's office when the road was reopened. Radel also called Olson when the road was closed and again when it was opened. Olson also called the sheriff and stated proper procedure was followed for closing the road.

- Tree trimming on 490th Street has not started.
- Conciliation court date for Timber Trail damage was held. No decision was made at the hearing and the township will be notified by mail.
- Xcel Energy has paid their invoice for road restoration for their Huntley-Wilmarth project. A letter releasing the letter of credit will be sent.

5. Other

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds need to be used by December 31, 2024.
- Michels cited an article in the MAT magazine regarding conflict of interest in the code of ethics question section. Smith again responded that he is representing residents on Cartway 130. Heated discussion, again, on who has a key and decisions made on the cartway. Smith again stated he has affidavits that the cartway has been maintained over 25 years (nothing submitted to the supervisors to review). Linda Johnson wanted to know why residents are not notified if a road will not be maintained. She said there is a conflict between the landowners and the board. The supervisors are elected to represent the residents of the township. Smith again said he has copies of receipts that show regular maintenance of the road (nothing submitted to the supervisors to review). Andy Johnson stated his disappointment in the response by Michels regarding vulnerable adults along the cartway and actions of the board.

New Business

1. Culverts & Ditches

- Supervisor Krueger has ongoing medical issues. Milbrath volunteered to cover the questions regarding culverts and ditches until she returns.
- Culverts installed by Eckberg Tiling on 496th Street did not have prior board approval. When Olson stopped to talk to them during the installation, they said they had a supervisor give them permission. No supervisor at the meeting stated they had talked to them.

2. Employees

- CTAP webinar will be on November 18th on snow and ice control. Board asked Olson to attend.

3. Fire Report - Smith

- Meeting scheduled for November 22.

4. Roads

- Scott Umhoefer purchased a piece of property from Kent Schwickert on Timber Trail. He wants to secure a permit from the township to give access to the cartway installed by a current resident on the road. He hired ISG to put the plans together and decide on the best placement of the access. Mandy Landkamer, Nicollet County, said he needed to contact the township to approve the access off the cartway. He was told to follow the culvert policy set by the township. Milbrath/Michels move/second to approve the request for the resident to have access for building on the property off the current cartway, approved.

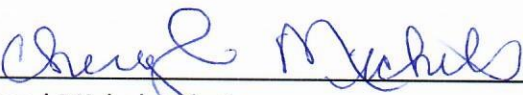
- A request was made by a resident on Valley View that needs to install a new septic system. They were requesting the township mark the right-of-way. The property is located on a cul-de-sac and very tight turnaround. The resident will be told to have it surveyed.
- Township approved setbacks to be the same as Nicollet County. However, the old setback rules for the township are still posted on the materials from the county and on the web site.

5. Other

- Local Board of Appeals and Equalization (LBAE) needs supervisors to be certified. A webinar is available online. It must be completed by February 1, 2022.
- MAT continues with their Tuesday talks along with offering training, seminars, and webinars.
- Discussion on establishment of a polling place. Further discussion on the pros and cons of returning to in-person voting. There is a large expense to purchase new voting machines.
- Rep. Susan Akland provided an introduction as a new legislator and updates of current legislation.
- Akland also brought up the issue regarding "Smith Spillway" (Cartway 130). A resident contacted her regarding the unusual situation, and she had her research department look at the issue. She requested the township reevaluate and reconsider the action taken in previous meetings.
- Akland fielded questions from the board and residents regarding issues of annexation, not enough funding, and climate control.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Milbrath/Howe move/second to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.



 Cheryl Michels, Chair



 Date



 Town Clerk



 Date