

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Brian Bresette, Trustee
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Susan Kerst, Treasurer
Connie Lacko, Trustee

Members Absent: *none*

II. AGENDA

Clerk Kimar requested the addition of "Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment" under new business.

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Reports

The treasurer presented the monthly bills in the following amounts: \$9,132.38 from the general fund (checks #3562 to #3592); \$4,344.75 for the fire fund (checks #1666 to #1676); and \$5,163.28 for the solid waste fund (checks #1133 to #1135).

A motion was made to pay the bills as presented.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the balance sheet and profit & loss statements for the general fund, fire fund, solid waste fund and tax fund as presented by Clerk Kimar for January 2017.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Susan Kerst
Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko

Nays: *none*

B. Assessor Report

Clerk Kimar read the report from Assessor Schmidt. A copy is on file. The assessor will be in the township on the dates of January 6 & 7, 2017.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

ZA Woolard reported that the owner of the garage in the M28 right-of-way has applied to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for property relinquishment. A copy is on file.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report. A copy is on file.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the planning commission had discussed the following:

- Tiny houses
- The secretary, Cheryl Lane, has not attended a meeting in several months, and the Planning Commission was unable to contact her. Supervisor Pihlainen said he would try to contact her.
- Organization & filing of records: Planning Commission minutes prior to 2003 were unable to be located. The board discussed record retention and Clerk Kimar said she would try to locate earlier Planning Commission minutes within township records or at the NMU archives.

F. Supervisor Report

The following items were reported on:

- There was a complaint about the dumpsters being inaccessible due to cars parked in front of them. Supervisor Pihlainen stated another sign should be added near the dumpsters regarding parking, and that he would look into this. Clerk Kimar mentioned that if it was on a Wednesday night, the township should contact the wood carvers group that leases the hall and that she would add a line to the township lease agreement regarding blocking the dumpsters.
- 40 acres of land are moving to CFR
- Pension fund is in the process of updates. Any former officials who are three years post-retirement should be removed from the pension fund. All forms should be returned to the township, not sent directly to the pension officials.
- The DEQ complained about the Brownstone Creek being unblocked without a permit. A discussion was held as to what could be done to help homeowners with river flooding.
- The March Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for March 7.
- The hazmat barrel is scheduled for pick-up in March.
- The Alger County Sheriff office will enforce local non-emergent issues if paid fees to do so.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Kimar summarized the correspondence that was received from the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET) requesting funds. It was noted that the township cannot donate money without directly receiving services of equal value.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:57 PM.

Comment was received from Terry Lane regarding cell towers.

Public Comment was closed at 8:03 PM.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hall Renovations

The board discussed updating the township bathrooms for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Supervisor Pihlainen will look into bids on materials and labor for door replacement, urinal repair, floor & wall improvement, and vanity replacement, as the budget permits.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017-18 Meeting Schedule

A motion was made to adopt the 2017-2018 Regular Board Meeting Schedule by resolution.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Susan Kerst Nays: *none*
Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko

B. Poverty Exemption Resolution

A motion was made to adopt the 2017 Poverty Exemption Policy & Guidelines by resolution.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Susan Kerst Nays: *none*
Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko

C. Board of Review appointment

A motion was made to reappoint the current Board of Review members (Lori Wycoff, Delores Dolan, Dale Moseler) to a new term (ending in December 2018).

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Susan Kerst Nays: *none*
Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko

D. Budget meetings

The board agreed to hold a special meeting January 11 at 10 am for the budget.

E. Planning Commission meeting for August

Clerk Kimar reported that the Planning Commission members requested to be paid for the Q2 August meeting where there was a quorum but no meeting due to lacking building access.

A motion was made to pay the Planning Commission members for the August 2016 meeting.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

F. 2017 Summer Tax Stamps

Treasurer Kerst stated that because the price of postage was set to rise in January, she would prefer to pre-purchase the stamps for summer taxes at the lower rate to save taxpayer money and that she did have the amount requested available in her line item.

A motion was made to allocate the money for the summer tax postage in the amount of \$450.00.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

G. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Appointment

A motion was made to appoint Brian Bresette to the ZBA as the board representative.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 8:22 PM.

Public comment was received from Delores Dolan regarding documents available on the website.

Public comment was closed at 8:23 PM.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Terry Pihlainen: said he hopes the new board can have a good four years working together.

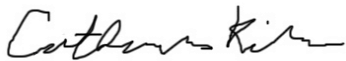
No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Catherine Kimar
Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 1/02/17

Approved: 1/16/17