

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Cheryl Lane, Treasurer
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Connie Lacko, Trustee
Brian Bresette, Trustee

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment.

A motion was made to pay the monthly bills as presented:

- » \$77,962.12 for the general fund, checks #5566-5609 (includes annual road work);
- » \$1,029.15 for the fire fund, checks #2133-37; and
- » \$6,211.14 for the solid waste fund, check #1249.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

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

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

Roll call vote
Ayes: Cheryl Lane
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

Gen: 657,387.65
Fire: 333,233.70
SW: 107,011.42
Tax: 110,349.84

B. Assessor Report

The assessor reported that the December Board of Review was held, and that the person requesting the tax tribunal failed to appear, claimed that he had not received notification, and that the hearing will be rescheduled (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator reported minimal activity for December (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

The fire chief reported no calls for the month of December (*copy on file*).

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission met with CUPPAD about the survey results, which are now publicly available online. The public hearing for the zoning language change was held. The new Brownstone Inn owner, Thomas Dolaskie, attended the Planning Commission meeting – the expected opening date is mid-January.

February meeting with the Planning Commission will solicit input from the public on the survey results.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * **Kitchen/Hall Update** – Waiting for LMAS Health Dept to give requirements on commercial kitchen needs. Bar sink is re-included, the ADA accommodations will be verified, and the door will be widened to 42” with a beveled ramp to the doorway. It is possible the overhead lights in the hall could be replaced as part of the update (exit lights are now required).

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Kelly Sassi – thanked the person that plowed Burning’s Road so that her family could get pets and necessities off their property before the blizzard.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:19 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on the hall door blowing open after the school returned the chairs; and Joan Potter-Sommer on the beavers near her house and the overly bright outdoor lights at the Brownstone Inn.

Closed: 7:28 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Review Re-Appointments

The supervisor stated that the current members wished to continue serving.

A motion was made to reappoint Jarrod Biebel, Dale Moseler, and Edward Wood to the Board of Review.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen

Support: Brian Bresette

Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Master Plan Survey Results

The clerk presented a copy of the survey results for board members to review. There was a response rate of 42%. The traits of the township most valued were nature, beauty, peace/quiet, and water.

The majority of people favored planned and limited growth in the township. In terms of land use, residents were most strongly in favor of protecting natural areas (92%) and most opposed to mobile home parks (85%).

The issues of most concern were future development and blight. Residents also expressed dissatisfaction with internet access and concern about Lake Superior damage and erosion.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:33 pm

Comment was received from:

Joan Potter-Sommer on the possibility of climate change causing people to move to this area; Kelly Sassi on the potential recreational vehicle campground and access to township info/updates; and Terry Lane on building a mobile access ramp within the hall.

Closed: 7:43 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Brian – asked if snowbanks need to be moved back.

Connie – generator status, and ordering MTA books for Planning Commissioners/Board Members.

Catherine – talked to Sandy Drury about holding social events at the township hall. FEMA thanked us for passing the Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Terry – will write a letter to Alger Delta Cooperative thanking them for clearing the lines - the area did not lose power during the blizzard.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 1/2/23

Approved: 2/6/23