

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Catherine Kimar, Clerk
Cheryl Lane, Treasurer

Connie Lacko, Trustee
Brian Bresette, Trustee

Absent: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor

A motion was made to appoint Catherine Kimar as the chairperson of the meeting in the absence of the supervisor.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (*remove A. Americans with Disabilities Act compliance project due to supervisor's absence and C. Cemetery - Green Burials due to the delay of files needed from Michigan Township Association. These will be re-added to the agenda next month*).

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
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:

- » \$8,985.91 for the general fund, checks #5235 - 5267;
- » \$131.31 for the fire fund, checks #2078 - 2080; and
- » \$6,082.31 for the solid waste fund, check #1230.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
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: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

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

Gen: 642,466.61
Fire: 316,311.99
SW: 141,918.53
Tax: 1,101.05

B. Assessor Report

The assessor was present and gave a verbal report. Cameron Fuess introduced himself to the board and citizens present. As he has just taken office, he has been familiarizing himself with the files, equalization, and reviewing for updates. He noted this is the busy season for assessing until the mailing of Notice of Assessing Change (February) and Board of Review (March). He has sent out Personal Property Statements and will be mailing Disabled Veterans notices shortly.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*). There is a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding shipping containers, and a public hearing was held in December on this topic.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the fire department report (*copy on file*) - there were no calls in December.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette presented the board with the proposed text amendment language. This will need to be published in the Mining Journal for seven days after approval (as required by law).

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to adopt the text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

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

With the help of Central UP Planning and Development (CUPPAD), the surveys for the Master Plan update will be sent out sometime this month and costs will be billed to the township.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

none

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Schedule Resolution

The clerk presented the board with tentative meeting schedules for the next fiscal year, which is legally required to be adopted by resolution in January. The board will have a Tuesday meeting in July and September this year (Fourth of July & Labor Day holidays).

A motion was made to approve the township board meeting schedule for fiscal year 2022-23.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

B. Attorney Rate Increase

The township attorney sent a letter stating there would be a rate increase this year to \$120/hour. The board felt the attorney gave a reasonable explanation – it is still lower than other local practices and the rate has not been raised in five years.

A motion was made to accept the rate increase as requested by the township attorney.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:23 pm

Comment was received from Terry Lane on the indoor accessibility ramp.

Closed: 7:26 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – looking into ceramic / infrared heater purchase for back office – this would be more energy-efficient than using furnace to increase entire building temperature for office work.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 3-Jan-2022
Approved: 7-Feb-2022