

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Brian Bresette, Trustee
Kirsten Englund, Clerk

Susan Kerst, Treasurer
Sarah Redmond, Trustee

Members Absent: None

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Sarah Redmond
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to add that due to Supervisor Pihlainen's absence at the December meeting, Trustee Sarah Redmond ran the meeting, the minutes were then accepted as amended.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

Treasurer Kerst presented the bills for payment.

A motion was made to pay the bills as presented for payment for \$8,592.06 for the general fund checks #2832 to #2869; \$535.15 for the fire fund, checks #1491 to #1494; and \$5089.84 for the solid waste fund check #1099.

Motion: Sarah Redmond
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the balance sheet and profit and loss statements for the general fund, fire fund, solid waste fund and tax fund as presented by Clerk Englund for January 2015.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Sarah Redmond
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Terry Pihlainen
Sarah Redmond
Brian Bresette
Susan Kerst
Kirsten Englund

B. Assessor Report

Clerk Englund read Assessor Schmidt's monthly report dated November 30, 2014. A copy is on file.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

N/A Currently vacant

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar stated there were no calls in December.

She also stated James Short is enrolled in EMT training to begin on January 6, 2015.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette stated that a request would need to be made to the township to re-zone the Rock River Resort property.

He also discussed the ongoing AuTrain Trail rental:

-Our attorney has been notified

-Suggests stronger definition for vacation rental (wording)

-Will review documentation from ads

He also announced that Greg Quinn will be resigning as Chair.

F. Supervisor Report

Supervisor Pihlainen stated he's spoken to Bob Lindbeck about upcoming matching funds to the County, and asked to add to next month's agenda to set a figure of what the township will do.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Englund stated to the board that a file folder is available for members to view newsletters from the month, there was nothing needing action. Also that new W4s were available if any changes needed to be made for board member withholdings for the year.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:13 p.m.

Comment was received from Terry Lane, stating that the new blower was working well, ramp is clear.

Public Comment was closed at 7:15 p.m.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Water Line Repair

It was decided that actions mentioned at the December meeting were the right thing to do and to continue keeping the line covered and the water on trickle as needed. The project will need to resume in the spring.

B. Security Camera

Supervisor Pihlainen stated the camera has been up and working.

He requested a new monitor for use with the system as it needs a keyboard to setup and function properly. It was approved to purchase a new monitor not to exceed \$150 to come from account #265-973 Building and Grounds Equipment Purchase.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen

Support: Brian Bresette

Motion Carried.

C. Website Discussion

It was decided that ongoing items such as meeting minutes and reports etc. that are standard to add to the site would continue to be added. Any new items must come before the board first before putting on the website, done through notification to all board members so they are aware.

Supervisor Pihlainen also noted he contacted MTA regarding the Fire Department site and they stated the separate site does need to come in under the Township's website. He noted the page Catherine did was well done- it just needs to be brought under one site. Catherine stated if she is not able to transfer it over we will get an estimate of what Kelley Marketing will cost to change over the Fire Department site under the Township site.

D. Fire Department Recruitment Update

Fire Chief Kimar noted she talked to a few potentials at elections. It was noted that we will bring up again in next month's report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Zoning Administrator Interview

The board was given the opportunity to review applicant Wil Christensen's resume as well as ask questions of him. Supervisor Pihlainen questioned Will on his experience and outlook on the township, what he sees as challenges, opportunity for growth, and water frontage and keeping the balance while allowing for growth.

Supervisor Pihlainen then recommended Wil Christensen for the Zoning Administrator position.

Motion: Brian Bresette

Support: Kirsten Englund

Motion Carried.

B. Planning Commission Pay Interval

The current pay interval for the Planning Commission is only once per year. It was approved to change the pay interval to quarterly versus once per year.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen

Support: Sarah Redmond

Motion Carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:46 p.m.

Public comment was received from Mary Henricksen who hadn't realized the Planning Commission was paid for meeting attendance.

Public comment was closed at 7:47 p.m.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Susan Kerst: Noted that she was contacted by a traveler whom she allowed to park off to the side of our lot for a day at a time, in case anyone has concerns of him being there.

Brian Bresette: Budget dates should be set for next month.

Terry Pihlainen: Would like to see an updated phone listing.

Sarah Redmond: Asked if there were going to be any budget adjustments; Supervisor Pihlainen and Clerk Englund will plan on getting together prior to the February meeting to recommend adjustments.

Kirsten Englund: Brought up the fact that the posted meeting schedule for the year lists the March meeting to be on March 3rd which is a Tuesday. The board agreed this was an error and the meeting will be held as usual on the first Monday of the month, March 2nd.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirsten Englund
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 01/05/2015
Approved: 02/02/2015