

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2019

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm (*2/4 meeting was postponed due to inclement weather*).

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

Connie Lacko, Trustee  
Brian Bresette, Trustee

Absent: *none*

**II. AGENDA**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (*remove "Accessibility Ramp" under new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Connie Lacko  
Motion carried.

**III. MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Terry Pihlainen  
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:

- » \$8,067.79 for the general fund, checks #4279 to #4317;
- » \$1,690.00 for the fire fund, checks #1878 to #1881; and
- » \$5,177.53 for the solid waste fund, check #1173.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Brian Bresette  
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: Cheryl Lane  
Terry Pihlainen  
Connie Lacko  
Brian Bresette  
Catherine Kimar

B. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator reported on the following (*copy on file*): One zoning permit application, one application for a remodel, and inquiries about zoning districts. The ZA plans to attend two upcoming educational webinars on vacation rentals and the implications of recreational marijuana on local zoning. He also received the vacation rental info request from Joe Cilc (*the clerk mentioned she had*

*drafted a letter to respond on behalf of the township).*

D. Fire Department Report

The fire chief read the monthly report from the department (*copy on file*). The board discussed the first draft plan of a new station that was received from IDI, and agreed it was too early to take action on the proposed contract at this time. The supervisor had not yet contacted Shauvers about land, but said he would do so in the next month.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission had approved the conditional use permit for the AT&T cell tower (with the conditions being the same as the previous application in 2011-12). The supervisor mentioned he had been discussing related issues with the township attorney and would report back when the attorney advised how to properly fix the technical error in the approval motion (*the conditions of approval were not stated in the motion approving the permit, which is required*).

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Backroad easements – Alger Title expressed that they are still interested in doing the title search despite their lack of action thus far. The owner apologized and said that they would have it done by the end of February.
- \* Boat Launch – the attorney advised neither a public hearing nor a resolution is needed; and from a legal standpoint, the USFS had offered an exceptionally fair, reasonable agreement.
- \* Propane – Ferrellgas has been the only supplier since this last May.
- \* Generator – The generator is installed and the electrical panel upgrade is done. The final task is having a propane line run to the unit; the supervisor will find a contractor to do this.

G. Other Reports

- » FOIA requests: it was agreed that FOIA requests were an item that the board should be made aware of; from now on, the clerk will report monthly if any requests were submitted. In January, two FOIA requests were received for documents related to the cell tower on Onota Hill.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Alger County Building inspector letter – requesting info on vacation rentals in the township

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:25 pm

Comment was received from: Char McDonnell – requesting the name of the county building administrator, and clarification on the topic of the "other" FOIA report.

Closed: 7:26 pm

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*none*

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Meeting Dates

The board scheduled the first special meeting on budget planning for February 11 at 12 pm. The clerk will post notices.

B. Assessor Salary

The assessor did not receive an increase in his compensation when all the other employees did in the past year. The supervisor felt that, as it was planned for in the budget, the assessor should be compensated at the increased rate for the past fiscal year. The current pay rate is \$1,183/month; however, the assessor requested a 5% raise (\$1,242/mo), which was more than planned for in the

budget (\$1,200/mo). The board agreed it was best to wait on taking action until next month when it would be known how much was remaining in the contingency fund.

C. Cemetery plots / cremains

The supervisor reported that the Volkema family had requested information on what the regulations were on placing multiple cremains in one area as a family plot. Trustee Bresette noted that until spring, when the cemetery is clear of snow and accessible for determining the status of their plot as well as those around it, no definitive answer can be provided.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:35 pm

*No comment was received.*

Closed: 7:35 pm

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Catherine – Board of Review budget item may need to be amended; if the salary paid for March is the same as last year, the entire line item will be over budget, as the school/mileage and printing + publishing items have already exceeded their budgeted amounts.

Connie – recommended the board find out if it is necessary to take action on recreational & medical marijuana facilities, as not prohibiting them likely makes the township ineligible for federal grant funds.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 2/06/19  
Approved: 2/11/19