

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Connie Lacko, Trustee

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment. The clerk noted the billing for waste collection has now changed to a company called GFL Environmental, who apparently purchased Great American Disposal.

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

- » \$8,483.73 for the general fund, checks #5268-90;
- » \$1,259.18 for the fire fund, checks #2081-85; and
- » \$5,937.32 for the solid waste fund, check #1231.

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
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

Gen: \$658,901.59
Fire: \$323,157.45
SW: \$146,783.29
Tax: \$1,101.05

B. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor (*copy on file*) who gave details on the status of the office since he had taken over the duties.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*). No zoning permits were issued in January. The shipping container amendment is now part of the Zoning Ordinance, as it was

published in the Mining Journal.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*).

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission had no business last month but the Master Plan surveys would be sent out soon.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Alger County is pursuing brownfield remediation funding for the Tioga Tavern site, but this will require a written plan for the site's future use.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

none

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Door Project

The supervisor requested more specific details of what the exterior door replacement requirements were. The clerk said she would email him the Bureau of Elections document with the exact measurements and requirements listed. This item was then tabled for next month.

B. Cemetery - Green Burials

The clerk provided a frequently asked questions handout on green burials. She said a few residents have asked if the township allows this, but it would need to be specified in the ordinance to be permitted. The clerk said she would contact the Chassell Township official with expertise in green burials if the board wished to pursue this matter. The supervisor and trustee were not in favor of allowing green burials, expressing concerns about disease risks.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Meeting Date

The board agreed to set the first budget meeting date for Wednesday February 16 at 10:30 am.

The board agreed that the potential uses of the American Rescue Plan funds will be on the agenda for discussion at this meeting.

B. Tyoga / DNR Contract Renewal

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be sending the township a new contract for the Tyoga Campground operations. They are not requesting that the township turn over any fees collected from the campground operation. This will be a formal lease agreement that is slightly different from the previous contract, which was designed for a temporary use. The contract needs to be signed before May, when the campground is scheduled to open.

C. Generator Repair

Wolverine Power Systems provided quotes for the generator maintenance and repair.

A motion was made to approve up to \$1,962.21 pending a query to Wolverine Power Systems regarding potential waiver of a duplicated 'non-residential service call' fee if the work can be done in one day.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll call vote
Ayes: Cheryl Lane
Terry Pihlainen

Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

D. Snowbank Removal

The board discussed what heavy equipment in the area would be available to remove snowbanks. Terry Lane suggested an option of moving the dumpsters into the parking lot temporarily so that the snow can be cleared.

A motion was made to approve up to \$500 for snowbank removal at the township hall.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:43 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on snow blowing around the generators prior to the service call and the necessity of covering the handicap ramp to the kitchen because the ice falling from the roof poses a hazard to keeping it clear.

Closed: 7:46 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Terry – looking into a business in Gladstone that will take junk vehicles for scrap.

Catherine – suggested installing a door between the back offices.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 2-7-22
Approved: 2-16-22