

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 2, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Connie Lacko, Trustee

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The public hearing for the proposed 2020-21 budget was opened at 7:03 pm.

Public comment

Opened: 7:03 pm

No public comment was received.

Closed: 7:04 pm

The public hearing was closed at 7:04 pm.

The board adopted the General Appropriations Act and the 2020-21 budget by resolution (#2020-05).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

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

IV. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

V. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment.

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

- » \$8,168.45 for the general fund, checks #4629-58;
- » \$2,406.91 for the fire fund, checks #1955-62; and
- » \$5,548.31 for the solid waste fund, checks #1193-94.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
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

Gen: 625,231.68
Fire: 258,280.32
SW: 134,649.23
Tax: 144,861.81

B. Assessor Report

No report was received.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator was present and gave a verbal summary of his report (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

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

A motion was made to approve up to \$4,300 for a thermal camera and three pagers.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

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

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that there was not much on the agenda at their last meeting – only the meeting schedule for the next year.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Regional government meeting – UPSET representative was present and discussed wanting a liaison (which would be a cost of \$10,000, to be split between the townships and cities). UPSET reported that there is a large amount of drug activity in the county. The sheriff dept asked for support for their advanced life support ambulance service.
- * GIS update – Alger County maps are being updated on a variety of items (zoning, roads, elderly or disabled individuals, etc).
- * Alger Community Recycling – October 1 will be the date when this program is stopped; but on May 27 there will be a meeting with a presentation on the future of recycling in Alger Co (possibly on a county-wide level from a vendor).

G. Tyoga Trail

John Highlen reported there would be a meeting with the DNR on April 16 in regard to the campground and future activity. There are plans to update and replace damaged boardwalks this year, in part due to an anonymous donation for trail maintenance.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:24 pm

Comment was received from: Charlene McDonnell on if the cell tower on Onota Hill would be useful for emergency services via FirstNet and recycling in Alger County; and John Highlen on recycling availability.

Closed: 7:28 pm

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment

A motion was made to amend the budget by moving \$845.00 from (850-965) Contingency Fund to (101-727) Office Supplies to cover the cost of the new computer for the front office.

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support:

Motion carried.

B. FOIA request

The clerk had received a [repeated] FOIA request from an out-of-state group for employee names, wages, hire dates, etc. She asked the supervisor to consult the attorney in regards to the legality of this request, as she felt it was an unnecessarily intrusive request from outsiders, and the data requested was such that it required an excessively time-consuming process involving use of multiple programs, entering data by hand, re-formatting, redaction of protected info, and file conversion.

Previously, she had not charged the group for this request, but they have repeated it every year since 2017 and it takes away time that could be used more productively, typically during a busy period. The supervisor said that the attorney indicated the request was valid and legal, but that there was nothing that prevented the township from charging the group for the information. The clerk said she would work on a payment estimate form.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:35 pm

No public comment was received.

Closed: 7:35 pm

XI. BOARD CONCERNS

Brian – men's bathroom door does not latch, there is ice built up on the roof, and there should be timesheets submitted each month from Terry Lane and Chris Haydon.

Catherine – an external drop/deposit box on the township hall building should be considered – it would allow people to return items (taxes, absentee ballots or applications, hall keys from renters, etc.) even when no one was at the building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support: Brian Bresette

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 3/2/20

Approved: 4/6/20