

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 5, 2018**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Members present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor  
Susan Kerst, Treasurer  
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Connie Lacko, Trustee  
Brian Bresette, Trustee

Members absent: *none*

**II. AGENDA**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2018-19**

The public hearing for the proposed 2018-2019 budget was opened at 7:01 pm.

Public comment was opened at 7:01 pm.

*No public comment was received.*

Public comment was closed at 7:02 pm.

The public hearing was closed at 7:03 pm.

The board adopted the General Appropriations Act and the 2018-2019 budget by resolution (#2018-03).

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote  
Ayes: Brian Bresette  
Connie Lacko  
Terry Pihlainen  
Susan Kerst  
Catherine Kimar

**IV. MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Susan Kerst  
Support: Connie Lacko  
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, *plus bills from Brian Bresette (snowbanks) & the pension plan to be dated the day after the meeting and audited next month (checks #3998 - 4001):*

- » \$12,941.46 for the general fund, checks #3974 to #3997;
- » \$50,554.99 for the fire fund (*\$50,000 CD purchase*), checks #1792 to #1799; and
- » \$5,195.93 for the solid waste fund, checks #1154-1155.

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: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Susan Kerst  
Terry Pihlainen  
Connie Lacko  
Brian Bresette  
Catherine Kimar

B. Assessor Report

No report was requested from the assessor due to a recent emergency hospitalization.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator gave a verbal report on the following (*copy on file*): a request for a rebuild by Sand River and a cell tower site informational request from AT&T on Onota Hill.

D. Fire Department Report

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

E. Planning Commission Report

No meeting was held in February due to lack of a quorum.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Road Commission: meeting on federal funds - no projects in Onota, only eligible road is H-01.
- \* Alger Co sheriff: plans to make workers available for community service after their jail sentence has been served - this would be helpful for roll-offs
- \* Emergency Management: gave presentation on county preparations/plans/drills for school shooting scenarios
- \* Geographical Info System (GIS): of Alger County is expected to be publicly available in the next two weeks (*according to CUPPAD*).
- \* Burning's Rd: still researching history of roads in area
- \* AuTrain Boat launch: USFS would be open to allowing the township to maintain this site, need to look into estimated costs.

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE

*No correspondence was received.*

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:19 pm.

Comment was received from John Highlen on the spring dumpster rolloff date (*mid-May*).

Closed: 7:20 pm.

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Policy review (§7)

The board continued their discussion and review with section 7 of board policy, covering public works. Only minor changes were made in this section.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Commission resignation(s)

The township board received a letter of resignation from Chris Kimar (effective immediately). A motion was made to accept the resignation of Chris Kimar as a member of the Planning Commission.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

The township board received a letter of resignation from Cheryl Lane (effective date of 3/31). A motion was made to accept the resignation of Cheryl Lane as the secretary of the Planning Commission.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

B. Treasurer appointment

The clerk looked into proper procedures for appointment to an elected position following resignation of a board member. The board may appoint an interested party to the treasurer role up to 30 days prior to the resignation date given by the departing official. A roll call vote is required because the departing official may not vote on the appointment.

A motion was made to appoint Cheryl Lane to the role of treasurer (effective date of 4/1/18).

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Connie Lacko  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Brian Bresette  
Terry Pihlainen  
Connie Lacko  
Catherine Kimar

C. Zoning map amendment request

The board heard from Jason Copeman, who was interested in AuTrain Island zoning being changed from Residential-5 (R-5) to Town Development. He was provided with a copy of the relevant section [11] of the zoning ordinance on requesting a zoning map amendment.

Mr. Copeman presented his reasoning for the change in zoning – parties who are interested in the island feel the zoning is highly restrictive and does not fit the island's characteristics. The potential benefits to the township of the zoning change would include increased tax base, new local development in area, and potential benefits to local businesses. He also answered all questions posed by the board (regarding access, infrastructure, interested parties, etc).

The board informed him that this type of request is a lengthy process, requiring submission of a petition and a fee of \$250 and the involvement of the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Township Board, as well as one or more public hearings on the requested changes.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:57 pm.

*No public comment was received.*

Closed: 7:58 pm.

**XI. BOARD CONCERNS**

Catherine – Darrell Stewart said the GFCI outlet near the small sink has been tripping itself (requires reset when they arrive). The clerk added she had also reset the one near the large sink at least twice (without recent power outages).

Brian/Connie – both suggested increasing the compensation of Planning Commission members (to adequately compensate people for their time) and potentially increase interest in serving.

Terry – thanked Susie for her service.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Connie Lacko  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar  
Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 03/05/18  
Approved: 04/02/18