

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MAY 1, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Brian Bresette, Trustee
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Susan Kerst, Treasurer
Connie Lacko, Trustee

Members Absent: *none*

II. AGENDA

An item titled 'C. Budget Amendment' was added under New Business.

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

Treasurer Kerst presented the bills for payment.

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

- » \$9,621.53 for the general fund, checks #3690 to #3708;
- » \$4,242.36 for the fire fund, checks #1703 to #1710; and
- » \$5,096.31 for the solid waste fund, check #1140.

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, fire, solid waste, and tax funds as presented by the clerk.

Motion: Connie Lacko
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

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

B. Law Enforcement Report

Alger County Sheriff Todd Brock and the Emergency Manager Steve Webber attended the meeting to introduce themselves to local citizens and share an annual statistical report on duties & activities the sheriff's office is responsible for. A copy of the report is filed with the public packet from this meeting.

C. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor. A copy is on file.

D. Zoning Administrator Report

ZA Mark Woolard was present (a copy of his report is also on file) and reported on the Planning Commission approval of a non-conforming use, the status of the on-going vacation rental issue, and replacement of a sign on Shore Drive.

E. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report. A copy is on file.

A motion was made to approve up to \$750 to purchase a floating strainer for the pumper.

Motion: Connie Lacko
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

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

F. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported:

- A non-conforming use permit was approved for James Hakala.
- A survey regarding local recreation sites and opportunities was being developed to send to township residents. The results would be used in updating the recreation plan, which expires this year. It was requested that the survey be made available on the township website as well. The clerk agreed & said that she would look into the best method of doing so.
- The Planning Commission would like blank copies of application / permit forms for their files, and requested that the Zoning Administrator give them copies of any active or pending applications or permit requests he receives that would require their final approval.

G. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported:

- May 20 & 21 are set for the dumpster roll-offs. All contacts have been made (O'Dovero, Great American Disposal, Hannula, etc) and everything is ready to go. Volunteers are needed to help with this event.
- Hannula (township insurance) conducted a review of the township policy regarding items such as property, equipment, employees, and the public. Amounts were updated to reflect current value of property and non-monetary insurance to cover legal costs was added.
- The national census is scheduled to begin in July.
- Laughing Whitefish Point Road residents made a complaint about the condition of their road; the Road Commission graded it promptly and its condition was significantly improved. No other road complaints were received.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 8:07 pm.

Comment was received from Charlene McDonnell on the planning commission survey topic (*recreation*) and John Highlen on details about the dumpster rolloffs.

Public comment was closed at 8:09 pm.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Postcard Review

The postcard was reviewed by the board. The clerk noted that the Planning Commission had already requested a brief mention of the survey. The supervisor asked that a request for dumpster roll-off volunteers be added as well.

A motion was made to approve the postcard and send it out with the changes that were discussed.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Voting System Resolution

The clerk said that the state was willing to cover the cost of the new voting system, and that this same type of resolution was passed when the township previously acquired new systems.

A motion was made to authorize the clerk to enter the voting system grant agreement with the state of Michigan.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

B. Dumpster Roll-off Worker Wages

A discussion was held regarding paying the people who work at the dumpster roll-off. It was agreed that this is hard physical work that merits compensation. The clerk reported that MTA had recommended that the township make the workers employees for liability reasons, but they had deferred to the accountant regarding taxes & employee forms. The accountant stated that anyone working would need to file W-4s and I-9s with the township (unless already employed).

It was questioned as to why these employees could not be paid in the same manner as election workers, who are not always subject to taxes. The clerk explained that election workers had special rules set by both the Internal Revenue Service as well as the state of Michigan regarding their pay amounts and if they were exempt from social security, medicare, or other payments.

It was uncertain if the people helping with the event would be willing to fill out employee paperwork due to the short amount of time they would be working on an annual basis. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

C. Budget Amendment

The supervisor said that the Alger County Treasurer had sent a bill for the state-mandated Geographic Information System (GIS). The accountant said this item should be listed with assessor software in the budget.

A motion was made to move \$3,591.31 from the contingency fund (850-965) to assessor office supplies (257-727) to cover this cost.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Catherine Kimar
Susan Kerst

Terry Pihlainen
Brian Bresette
Connie Lacko

A motion was made to pay Alger County the amount of \$3,591.31 and audit the bill with next month's financial reports.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 8:26 pm.

Public comment was received from Terry Lane on the importance of paying the dumpster rolloff workers to minimize the risk that large items would be dumped elsewhere in the township, Russ Ault on the potential of internet service UP-wide, Charlene McDonnell on why there were not copies available of last month's minutes (*the clerk explained that she had placed a public notice asking that people request additional records or document copies to minimize waste as it was impossible to make estimates of attendance*), and Delores Dolan on the status of the potential cell tower site.

Public comment was closed at 8:35 pm.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

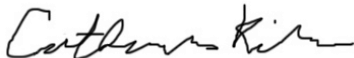
No concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Catherine Kimar
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 5/1/17
Approved: 6/5/17