

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Connie Lacko, Trustee  
Brian Bresette, Trustee

**II. AGENDA**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
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.

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

- » \$93,684.50 for the general fund, checks #5141-61;
- » \$255.00 for the fire fund, checks #2059-60; and
- » \$7,165.31 for the solid waste fund, checks #1219-20.

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  
Catherine Kimar  
Connie Lacko  
Brian Bresette  
Terry Pihlainen

Gen: 624,569.48
Fire: 296,620.63
SW: 139,641.45
Tax: 1,096.05

B. Assessor Report

No report was submitted.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

No report was submitted.

D. Fire Department Report

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

A motion was made to approve \$2,700 for DOT truck inspections, pump testing, and hydraulic tool maintenance.

Motion: Connie Lacko  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission had received the Zoning Ordinances from CUPPAD and had been reviewing them for the next meeting.

Zoning – The supervisor discussed shipping containers being allowed as structures with the Zoning Administrator, who said that anything not directly listed in the ordinance is disallowed. The Planning Commission will review this during the Zoning Ordinance revision.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Applied for American Rescue Act (ARA) funds of approximately \$34,000. This will require reporting, which can be done by the township accountants.
- \* Tyoga Campground – Campsites have been used over the summer. NMU students will be doing cleanup in the beginning of October, so the outhouse will be left in place until then.
- \* Par-plan Risk Management – met with supervisor about risk control on August 9 and made recommendations for liability reduction.
- \* Dumpster Rolloff – everything is set up, boxes are ordered, have certificate of insurance from Hannula. Have 3 workers so far.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

*none*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:21 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on if a dumpster could be placed on Onota Hill; and Gloria Rinne on tourists dumping garbage.

Closed: 7:30 pm

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Custodian Position

The board had discussed splitting the custodian and sexton duties last month. The treasurer pointed out the best practice was to make a job posting prior to hiring any candidates, as it provides public transparency for local government decisions. The board made a motion to hire Gail Krejci as the custodian pending a letter of interest. She submitted a letter of interest.

The treasurer provided documentation of board policy, section 3.4(a) showing that the board needed to post jobs publicly prior to hiring any candidates, regardless of public interest in the position.

A motion was made to amend the motion hiring Gail Krejci from the prior meeting to hire her on an interim basis pending the job posting and final review of candidates at a future meeting.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

The supervisor will write up a job description for review at the next board meeting and the clerk will work on how to equally split the salaried amount between the custodian and sexton positions.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Roads

The Alger County Road Commission (ACRC) had prepared sheets on potential projects for the following year (costs listed are the township share):

- (1) Peter White Road – 1 mi, \$34,100 (*south from northern Laughing Whitefish bridge*)
- (2) Deerton-Onota Road – 0.9 mi, \$31,450 (*east from Onota Hill intersection*)
- (3) Onota Hill Rd – 0.9 mi, \$30,100
- (4) Deerton-Sand Lake Road – 0.4 mi, \$15,500 (*west from pavement near firehall*)
- (5) Sand Lake Road – 0.3 mi, \$9,800 (*near bridge*)

The board discussed the possible road projects. The general consensus was that projects 1, 4, and 5 were more critical. Due to the way ACRC does their budget, next year's project must be chosen by December 1, 2021. This will be placed back on the agenda for next month's meeting.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:53 pm

Comment was received from: Gloria Rinne on the importance of the Sand Lake Road project because of it being an alternate route for M28 closures; and Mat Watkeys on gravel sediment going into the river from the bridge near the Laughing Whitefish lodge.

Closed: 8:00 pm

## X. BOARD CONCERNS

Brian – asked if the dumpster rolloff was listed on the website (the clerk said it had been posted there since August).

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 9/7/21  
Approved: 10/4/21