

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 4, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at

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 amended (*add Volkema Grave under new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

**III. MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

**IV. REPORTS**

A. Financial Reports

The treasurer presented the bills for payment.

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

- » \$8,294.65 for the general fund, checks #5162-92;
- » \$453.56 for the fire fund, checks #2061-65; and
- » \$7,022.51 for the solid waste fund, checks #1221-22.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Connie Lacko  
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: 624,104.38
Fire: 296,173.90
SW: 132,624.74
Tax: 41,865.26

B. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*).

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 held their monthly meeting and discussed the Zoning Ordinance. CUPPAD will be attending the next Planning Commission meeting, but requested that it started at 6 pm instead of 7 pm due to the distance they need to commute (from Escanaba). The clerk will post this start time change on the website and it will be posted outside the township hall.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Tyoga Campground – outhouse will be picked up in early November
- \* Boat Launch dock will come out mid-October
- \* Dumpster rolloff was successful but attendance was down considerably, low on workers.
- \* Public has complimented condition of area roads and Whitefish Road.
- \* Military Rd - Alger Co Road Comm will not take care of it, and GAD will not go down it because it is a private road.
- \* Burning's Rd bridge – John Smith has a bridge he would give the township for that location.

G. Tyoga Campground

A work day will be held this Saturday and the NMU conservation crew will be there camping and doing trail maintenance. This year several campers have used this site and all comments have been positive.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

*none*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:14 pm

Comment was received from: Mat Watkeys on the Tyoga campground workday.

Closed: 7:14 pm

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Roads

Continuing from last month, the potential road projects of Peter White Road, Deerton-Sand Lake Rd, and the Sand River Rd were discussed by the board. The deadline for choosing a project is December 1 due to the county road commission budget finalization.

A motion was made to approve for Peter White Road – 1 mi, \$34,100; Deerton-Sand Lake Rd – 0.4 mi, \$15,500; Sand Lake Rd bridge – 0.3 mi, \$9,800 (total being \$55,300).

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

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

B. Zoning Administrator Review

The supervisor discussed the job performance with the zoning administrator. The ZA said he misunderstood that it was a requirement to attend Planning Commission meetings, and would attend in the future.

The supervisor said with the vacant position of assessor, he recommended revisiting the Zoning Administrator role in six months due to the complexity and interrelated nature of these roles. The board liaison to the Planning Commission felt this review should be done after a new assessor is hired. As a compromise, they agreed to a three month review.

C. Custodian Position

The board reviewed the job descriptions of sexton and custodian from the supervisor. The salary and duties of custodian and sexton were discussed.

A motion was made to approve the job descriptions and salary of \$175/mo for custodian and sexton.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

The custodian job will be posted for ten days as there is no amount of time specified in the board policy.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Assessor Resignation & search for new assessor

A letter was received from Kim Schmidt, resigning as the township assessor. His resignation date was 10/31/21, and he stated he would continue his duties until the township finds a new assessor.

A motion was made to accept the resignation of the assessor.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

This job will be posted on the township website, in the Mining Journal, and the supervisor will contact the Alger County courthouse to see if they allow any job postings there.

B. Volkema Grave

The supervisor was contacted by a family member of the Volkemas (Tim Prisk) who wanted permission to bury the remains of Doreen Volkema on her family plot. The township board was in support of this action.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:59 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane about Peter White Road snowplowing and the dumpster situation; Gloria Rinne about asking for clarification about Military Road and garbage not being picked up; and Mark Fisher in support of the bridge being replaced on Burning's Road.

Closed: 8:04 pm

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Catherine – commended the Planning Commission on their excellent meeting attendance record.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 10/4/21  
Approved: 11/1/21