

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 6, 2014**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor  
Stephanie Bromley, Clerk

Susan Kerst, Treasurer  
Sarah Redmond, Trustee

Members Absent: Brian Bresette, Trustee

**II. AGENDA**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended, with the deletion of "water line repair."

Motion: Stephanie Bromley  
Support: Terry Pihlainen  
Motion carried.

**III. MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Stephanie Bromley  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. Financial Report**

Treasurer Kerst presented the bills for payment.

A motion was made to pay the bills as presented for payment for \$8,278.72 for the general fund checks #2752 to #2777; \$3,049.39 for the fire fund, checks #1469 to #1479; and \$6,733.93 for the solid waste fund checks #1095 to #1096.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

Treasurer Kerst requested \$400 for postage stamps for Winter 2014 taxes.

A motion was made to approve \$400 for postage for Winter 2014 taxes.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the balance sheet and profit and loss statements for the general fund, fire fund, solid waste fund and tax fund as presented by Clerk Bromley for October 2014.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terry Pihlainen  
Sarah Redmond  
Stephanie Bromley  
Susan Kerst

**B. Assessor Report**

Assessor Schmidt submitted a report to the board for the month's activities. A copy is on file.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

ZA Tietjen gave a verbal report. He stated that he had one zoning compliance request on Laughing Whitefish Road this month, and that he had attended a zoning continuing education conference in Manistee over the past month that indicated a strong future in electronic documentation for zoning.

D. Fire Department Report

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

A motion was made to approve up to \$1,000 for maintenance on the hydraulic tools.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Stephanie Bromley  
Motion carried.

Supervisor Pihlainen mentioned that the local newspaper had contacted him in regards to Fire Prevention week and referred that responsibility to the Chief Kimar.

E. Planning Commission Report

In the absence of Trustee Bresette, ZA Tietjen mentioned that the upcoming issues at next week's October 14 Planning Commission meeting remained the Braamse/Rock River situation as well as the AuTrain Trail rental situation. He stated the Planning Commission chair was planning to contact the township attorney as previously authorized.

F. Supervisor Report

The Supervisor reported that the Alger County Road Commission had fixed the cut in the Deerton Road that they had performed for the culvert installation near the school. He also mentioned the dumpster roll-off had over 70 loads of trash and waste hauled in by residents, and thanked the volunteers for their time.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received for this month.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was opened at 8:03 pm  
Comment was received from: Jack Ward  
Public Comment was closed at 8:04 pm

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Website

Trustee Redmond reported that the website should be live as of noon tomorrow hopefully when the final payment is made. She further suggested that the township develop a press release for the Munising News and Mining Journal presenting the website to the public. Supervisor Pihlainen commended Trustee Redmond on the time and effort she has contributed to this matter.

B. Hazardous Waste

The Supervisor reported waiting on the Environmental Protection Agency for documentation.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Dumping at Township Hall

The board members all agreed that this issue has increased in frequency and severity over time to which point it must be handled by the board. A discussion was held. Supervisor Pihlainen offered up information he had obtained from the Alger County Sheriff, Michigan Township Association, and

also brought up the issue of enforceability due to the prosecutor's history of choosing not to prosecute such matters. Consulting the township attorney, purchasing a surveillance camera, installing fence, property liens, an ordinance and other options were discussed as well.

A motion was made to approve up to \$500 to purchase and install First Alert camera(s) from Menards to be installed near the dumpsters.

Motion: Stephanie Bromley  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

B. Board Protocols and Member Responsibilities

A discussion was held on the protocols of communication between board members and staff. It was agreed that lines of communication could be improved.

C. Discussion on Emergency Expenditure Amount

Following a discussion, the board members were in agreement that the costs in the board policy were outdated and insufficient to make proper expenditures, and directed Clerk Bromley to draft a resolution to change the current board policy to reflect these updates. She agreed to present this at next month's meeting. Monthly expenditures to be changed from \$125-\$250. Emergency Expense to be changed from \$500-\$1200.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was opened at 8:01 PM

Public comment was received from: Chris Kimar, Catherine Kimar.

Public comment was closed at 8:03 PM

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Clerk Bromley stated that she would be in attendance for the election.

*No other concerns were expressed.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Motion: Stephanie Bromley  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Bromley  
Proposed: 10-06-14  
Approved: 11-03-14