

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2019

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor  
Cheryl Lane, Treasurer  
Catherine Kimar, Clerk  
Absent: *none*

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: Brian Bresette  
Support: Connie Lacko  
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:

- » \$16,933.11 for the general fund, checks #4532-4551;
- » \$1,638.33 for the fire fund, checks #1924-1933; and
- » \$8,870.01 for the solid waste fund, checks #1187-1188.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Terry Pihlainen  
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: 561,661.47
Fire: 224,218.67
SW: 100,854.29
Tax: 109.33

B. Assessor Report

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

C. Zoning Administrator Report

Zoning Administrator was present and gave a verbal report (*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 discussed the by-laws and passed a motion to change them.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Par-plan representative – insurance company is satisfied; no current need for changes or updates;
- \* LMAS Health Department – abandoned, illegal bore hole for well on Shore Drive is being pursued by the county for enforcement; and
- \* Cell tower – still in legal negotiation limbo.

G. Tyoga Trail

A workday was completed on October 26 – brushed back trail edges that were overgrown, board walks were repaired, loose boards were nailed down, ends of bridges were cleared of overgrown brush, area around old stone foundation was cleared so it is visible again, etc. The work was done with the assistance of a conservation-oriented group of Northern Michigan University students.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Shane Gibson – Burning’s Road bridge is beyond repair, requested that he be allowed to chain off the end of the road entirely from traffic. The board discussed this matter and decided that the supervisor would contact Shane Gibson regarding replacement of the bridge.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:19 pm

*No public comment was received.*

Closed: 7:19 pm

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Snowplow Bids

One bid was received from Terry Lane.

A motion was made to accept the bid from Terry Lane for the winter at the rate of \$40/push.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alger Delta billing date issue

The clerk explained that Alger-Delta’s method of billing during the first week of the month was causing repeated delays to the completion of bills and meeting packets, as well as late notices and threats of shutoff. The clerk is going to investigate this matter with MTA and will report back to the board next month.

B. Lake Superior Boat Launch

The dock was pulled out last month by Tom Passinault. One tire was flat, which Tom Passinault offered to repair. The supervisor also mentioned that there was a possibility for the township to acquire the land and own it outright versus the US Forest Service owning the property.

The board discussed this, and the consensus was that it was best for the land to remain in the hands to of the federal government, as this would keep the site eligible for federal grants. There was also concern about unforeseen issues that would arise in managing this type of site on a local level.

C. Custodian/Sexton Duties & Salaries

As the board has hired a second person for this role, it is necessary that the duties and salary are re-evaluated to best meet the needs of the township and distribute work between both individuals. However, neither Terry Lane nor Chris Haydon were in attendance.

A motion was made to table the matter until both custodians are present at the meeting, by request of the board.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:25 pm

Comment was received from John Highlen on the recreational marijuana prohibition ordinance.

Closed: 7:31 pm

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Catherine – noted that the Deer Lake park has experienced significant erosion due to a large amount of summer visitors parking on the grass & sand. She requested the board's permission to write a letter of concern to MDOT about this matter on behalf of the township and its residents, which was given.

No other concerns were expressed.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 11/4/19  
Approved: 12/2/19