

A motion was made to approve up to \$1,200 for transmission repair on the rescue truck.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that at the last meeting, the Planning Commission:

- * Discussed the recreation plan
- * Had the clerk present graphs and reports on the results of the recreation survey
- * Did not appoint anyone as chair due to lack of interest; however Martin Dolan stated he would consider it.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * **Brownstone creek flooding** – MI Dept of Transportation (MDOT) previously held the permit to dredge this creek, but allowed it to expire in 2015 due to the cost of doing this regularly. Senator Casperson, Alger County Commissioners, the MI Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ), MDOT, and the Army Corps of Engineers were all now involved/aware of the situation. In order to expedite the process, the township itself applied for a short-term emergency permit (expiring Dec 15) from the DEQ. The Brownstone Inn also sent a letter granting permission for the work to be done. The residents are funding the cost of the permit and expense of the work being done. MDOT surveyed the area at no charge, and it was found that the lake level is 1.5 ft higher than last year. Significant flood damage has occurred to driveways and homes. The paperwork and permitting process may be passed on to the affected homeowners if they are interested; the township will not take this on as a regular obligation.
- * **Severe erosion on Laughing Whitefish Pt Rd coast** – There was significant damage to the shoreline and homes due to the erosive action of the extreme weather that passed through the area. The weight limit (19 tons) of the northernmost bridge on this road was a concern for heavy equipment access repair.

The supervisor allowed the public to address the topics covered in his report at this time. Comment was received from Phil Pfannenstiel & Elaine Ault regarding Laughing Whitefish Pt Rd and Julia Frei & Jeff VanBremen regarding Brownstone creek.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Mary Ann Wagner (*2 letters, follow-ups to previous letters about outhouse & blight*)
- * Phone message from William Simmons regarding Sand River Rd

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:31 pm

Comment was received from Matt Watkeys on the gate off Lindroth Rd (*he stated it was installed by Hancock Forest Management on his land, and that he would like to try to fix the mudhole on the road now that there is a gate blocking the traffic from going through that area*).

Public comment was closed at 7:35 pm.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Amend audit cost approval

The clerk reported that the Anderson-Tackman bill was just an initial amount that did not include all the costs, and a final bill had been received.

A motion was made to amend the audit cost approval to \$5,975.00 total.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen

B. Snowplowing bids

The only bid was received from Terry Lane in the amount of \$40/push (after 4 inches of snow).

A motion was made to accept the bid & award the snowplowing services for this season to Terry Lane.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Postage

Since the treasurer was absent, the clerk relayed the amount needed for winter tax postage.

A motion was made to approve up to \$420.00 to purchase postage for taxes.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

B. December Board of Review Resolution

A motion was made to change the date for the December Board of Review meeting from Tuesday, December 12 to Monday, December 11.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen
Catherine Kimar

C. End of Year Payroll processing

The clerk presented the estimated cost from Anderson-Tackman for this service – in the amount of \$350.00. A motion was made to approve up to \$400.00 for end-of-year payroll processing cost.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

D. Storm & power outage

Following the large wind storm and extended 50+ hour power outage, the clerk suggested the township hall should have a generator to provide heated shelter, bathrooms, etc to residents in the event of lengthy outages. The supervisor said that the Par plan insurance did have a grant program and he would find out if this project would be eligible for the grant.

Jeff VanBremen mentioned that Alger Delta provides discounts on Generac generators. Dave Kimar commented that the utility right-of-ways were not being brushed back as frequently as in the past, and that residents should encourage Alger Delta to do more of this preventative maintenance to lessen the frequency of outages.

E. Ordinance enforcement & citation

The supervisor reported that Mike Tietjen was interested in undertaking the role of ordinance enforcement officer, which would involve issuing municipal civil infractions for ordinance violations.

The supervisor thought it would be prudent for the township to have an official with this power. Trustee Bresette had no objections to the creation of this role.

The clerk had several comments:

- * An ordinance creating the position would need to be passed and notice published
- * A second ordinance regarding municipal civil infractions may need to be passed & published
- * Did not know what line item this would be budgeted under, but had contacted the accountant
- * Expressed concern about potential cost of having the township attorney attend court cases and how to budget for costs of the office and accurate hourly wages for the enforcement officer.

It was agreed that this would be on the agenda again next month to get the other board members' input and the clerk would report back to the board when she heard from MTA regarding which ordinances were needed and from the accountant regarding an appropriate line item.

F. Brownstone water supply

Jeff VanBremen of the Brownstone Inn, a local restaurant, was present to request potential access to the township water supply for their business, and submitted a letter to this effect. The supervisor said that the well needed to be tested to verify it as a source of safe drinking water. The township board was also unsure of the sufficiency of the water supply due to a low recovery rate of the well. The Brownstone said that they would pay for the testing to be done and would need access to the records / well information to check the recovery rate and other water-related data.

The clerk agreed to open the hall on a later date for Mr. VanBremen to check on the well and retrieve any records the township had regarding the well.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:57 pm.

Public comment was received from Sue Schwemin, Carol Pfannenstiel, and Elaine Ault regarding Laughing Whitefish Pt Rd - responsibility for removal of downed trees, the Alger County Road Commission, and grading of the road; and from an unknown resident regarding the status of the cell tower project the supervisor was working on.

Public comment was closed at 8:15 pm.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – voting will be open tomorrow from 7 am – 8 pm.

Terry – thanked the public for attending the meeting in exceptional numbers.

No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Kimar
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 11/06/17
Approved: 12/04/17