

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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:

- » \$7,645.10 for the general fund, checks #5514-34;
- » \$1,772.64 for the fire fund, checks #2120-26; and
- » \$8,071.89 for the solid waste fund, checks #1245-47.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
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: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

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|------------------|
| Gen: 718,178.11 |
| Fire: 335,506.81 |
| SW: 119,256.46 |
| Tax: 2,081.05 |

B. Assessor Report

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

C. Zoning Administrator Report

No report was received.

D. Fire Department Report

There were two calls in October – structure fire and a false alarm (*copy on file*).

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the survey details were compiled by Dotty LaJoye from Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development (CUPPAD) and will be presented at the next meeting. The Zoning Administrator will be setting up a hearing on the text amendment.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * MDOT roadside areas & dune grass – contacted Alger Co Conservation District manager in regard to replanting native grasses / small shrubs & trees (Matt Watkeys was present at the meeting and discussed this issue with the concerned citizen who had brought it up, Joan Potter-Sommer).
- * Boat launch dock was removed for the season.
- * Alger County Road Commission (ACRC) completed projects for the season, and also came back to improve the condition of Deerton-Sand Lake Rd following pre-winter grading.
- * Working on early stages of mitigation plan for Tioga Tavern site.
- * Alger-Delta received a grant and will be working on connecting power from Deerton to Shelter Bay (completion of power grid) in the next year.
- * Kitchen project – Cretins Bros coming out on Wednesday to look at kitchen.
- * Wolverine Power Systems was supposed to repair fire dept generator – will contact them again.

G. Tyoga Trail/Campground

John Highlen reported greater usage by the public than the previous year. A workday was held with NMU Conservation Corps workers. Henry Davies and John Highlen both have cut trees off the trail with the high wind in fall.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was read/summarized by the clerk.

- * Joan Potter-Sommer – Green Burials
 - o The supervisor had done some research and reported back to the board / public about the matter. According to the information he found, a burial to be considered green, it must be done within 48 hours of the death – regardless of season. Green burials also need to be in their own specific, reserved area in the cemetery. The concern about nearby property owners being on well systems for water was mentioned. The township board was uncertain that this service could be provided with the logistical challenges at this time.
- * Mary Ann Wagner – Blight / Dog Complaints

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:28 pm

Comment was received from: Andy Sommer about who to contact regarding the beaver/culvert issue near the Brownstone Inn (*ACRC, Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality, Michigan Dept of Transportation, etc*); James Gegare about what agency is responsible for beaver-related permits (*Michigan Dept of Natural Resources*).

Closed: 7:33 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Solid Waste Contract

The supervisor was looking into Green For Life Environmental and North Country Disposal bidding on the township contract, to follow with the fiscal year of the township.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Drop Box Legislation Update

The clerk attended a training on this topic, due to the unusual effective date of the recent legislation. She provided a handout to the board. The law restricted use of drop boxes for ballot drop-off, and some minor modifications will need to be made before it can be used for this purpose (sign, additional security measures, etc).

B. Snowplow Bids

One bid was received from Terry Lane for \$55/push.

A motion was made to accept the bid from Terry Lane for snowplowing.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:40 pm

Comment was received from: James Gegare on the survey results (*Brian Bresette explained the results would be presented at an upcoming Planning Commission meeting*).

Closed: 7:41 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – (1) custodian reports that the floor needs to be refinished in meeting room – varnish/sealant is cracked and peeling up. (2) tomorrow the election will be open for voting from 7 am – 8 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 11/7/22
Approved: 12/5/22