

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present:	Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor	Connie Lacko, Trustee
	Cheryl Lane, Treasurer	Brian Bresette, Trustee
	Catherine Kimar, Clerk	

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (*remove "Solid Waste Contract" 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: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

Alger Co Road Commission (ACRC) sent a bill that required a budget amendment before payment.

A motion was made to amend the budget by moving \$400 from Contingency Fund (850-965) to Roads & Bridges (446-974) to account for a budgetary shortfall due to communication errors resulting in the wrong road project being completed this summer (documentation included with bill and board packet).

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

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

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

- » \$11,061.62 for the general fund, checks #5535 to #5565 (plus the \$65,340 for the ACRC bill that will be dispersed the day after the meeting and audited with next month's bills);
- » \$1,260.97 for the fire fund, checks #2127 to #2132; and
- » \$6,043.94 for the solid waste fund, check #1248.

Motion: Brian Bresette
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: 715,604.62 Fire: 334,254.51 SW: 113,217.76 Tax: 2,081.05
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B. Assessor Report

The assessor was present at the meeting and gave a verbal report summarizing his activity for the month. The Board of Review is scheduled for December 15, 2022 at 11 am. He will be attending a hearing with the Michigan Tax Tribunal this month for a lakeshore property owned by David Faustin.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

No report was received.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the report – there was one call in November (*copy on file*).

The department will no longer be responding to emergency medical services calls due to the license expiration, only one certified EMT, lack of a first responder vehicle, and other factors. The hours of work required to maintain the licensure vs the low volume of incidents make EMS provision a fiscal loss at this time.

A motion was made to establish a Fire Explorer program within the Onota Township Fire Department by adopting the Standard Operating Guideline governing the program and the Parental Consent Form.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

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

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission has an upcoming hearing on the zoning amendment this month and CUPPAD continues to attend meetings for the update of the Master Plan.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * **Power grid connection** – Shelter Bay will be electrified from the Marquette direction, and three-phase power will run all the way to Deerton Road, meaning that lines will be above ground (three-phase power cannot be run underground), and the poles will be significantly larger.
- * **Beaver issue** – Beavers have continued to flood property near the Brownstone Inn. Beaver flooding is currently a countywide issue, so governmental remediation is delayed.
- * **Tioga Tavern cleanup** – the property information has been sent to Alger County so they can submit it with a grant request for countywide environmental / brownfield remediation.

G. Recreation Report

The Friends of Tyoga Trail group plans to winterize the campground this month. There are tentative plans with the DNR for replacing the second [suspension] bridge, as well as under-planting new vegetation in the large floodplain after this bridge (where all the ash trees have died of disease).

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Rock River Township – request for ARPA money to fund electrical system at Alger County Fairgrounds site. The supervisor will contact their township regarding this matter.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:30 pm

Comment was received from John Highlen about the height of the new power poles (at least 60 feet).

Closed: 7:31 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution to Amend Board Policy

A motion was made to amend the board policy by adopting the wording as presented for Section 5.5 of policy, titled, "Public Use of Township Facilities" as presented.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

B. Kitchen & Hall Renovations

A discussion was held by the board regarding the kitchen plans presented by the supervisor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Review reappointments

The supervisor will ask the Board of Review members if they would like to continue serving at their December 15 meeting.

B. Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan

A motion was made to adopt the 2022 Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:47 pm

Comment was received from Cameron Fuess on the Poverty Exemption Guidelines being updated.

Closed: 7:50 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Brian – The new owners of the Brownstone restaurant have made significant modifications near the river mouth of the Brownstone Creek. It is unclear if they applied for permits from state and federal agencies.

Catherine – Cemetery gate is swinging open. A resident asked if the west side will be fenced in the future.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 12/5/22

Approved: 1/2/23