

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Susan Kerst, Treasurer
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Connie Lacko, Trustee
Brian Bresette, Trustee

Members Absent: *none*

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Susan Kerst
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:

- » \$7,730.63 for the general fund, checks #3914 to #3946;
- » \$2,423.61 for the fire fund, checks #1773 to #1784; and
- » \$5,077.51 for the solid waste fund, check #1152.

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: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Susan Kerst
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

B. Assessor Report

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

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The Zoning Administrator was present and gave a verbal report (*copy on file*). Two public hearings – for a zoning variance and a conditional use permit – will be held in the next month. He also discussed

the role of townships in regards to the new state law on medical marijuana facilities.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*).

A motion was made to approve \$3,145 for Eric Koronka to attend EMT-Basic training at UPHS School of EMT.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

A motion was made to amend the adopted motion from the October 2nd meeting (approval of \$971.20 for a new instrument cluster) by changing the amount to \$1,005.42, due to vendor error on cost. (*Note: A \$325 core charge will be reimbursed when the core is removed and returned to the vendor*).

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission held their regular December meeting. Linda Mathieu resigned. The clerk posted the vacancy to the website and will send a thank you letter.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Onota Township/UP trails received a \$5,000 KBIC grant for snowmobile trail grooming.
- * There will be a 911 millage this year for upgrading to a "smart 911" system that will provide additional details when cell phone users call 911.
- * The Brownstone Boat Launch is closed indefinitely due to extensive damage by the October 2017 extreme weather event as well as the likelihood of continual need for repairs due to the high water level of Lake Superior creating erosion / wave damage issues.
- * Ownership of Hanley Airfield is being transferred to Alger County.
- * Attorney fees have increased to \$114/hour (last change in rate was in 2013).
- * Laughing Whitefish Point Road:
 - The Alger Co Road Commission (ACRC) is the only entity who controls the seasonal status of roads. The township has no right to request a change in road status.
 - The only solution for improvement of this road would be a special assessment district for the affected property owners – this would direct those funds directly to improvement of the road. However, the public would still have the right to use the road due to the recreational facilities present.
 - The Ault family presented a petition and contacted Senator Casperson on this issue and he is planning a visit to the road when the snow has melted.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Shane Gibson email: Mr. Gibson contacted the township for a second time regarding continued public use of Burning's Rd that he felt was unlawful. He requested the township change the label of the road on the zoning map (which has it listed as county road 401), as he felt people were being misled by this. He also stated his intentions to remove the bridge in spring.

The board discussed the history of the road and bridge, public use of the road (ATVs, snowmobiles, dog

sleds), the hazard that would be created by removal of the bridge, and Mr. Gibson's reported actions of barricading the road/bridge. It was decided that this matter would be referred to the attorney as to the status of the road as public vs. private. The clerk had prepared a packet of information on the matter for the supervisor to pass on to the attorney; the supervisor would report back to the board on this matter.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:55 pm.

Comment was received from Elaine Ault on the medical marijuana industry; Russ Ault on an alternate temporary bridge for Laughing Whitefish Point Road.

Public comment was closed at 8:00 pm.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance Enforcement/Citations

The supervisor reported briefly on this and presented a checklist from MTA on passing ordinances.

B. Board Policy Review

The board discussed and reviewed section 6, making only minor changes to clarify some wording.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Set dates of budget meetings

This was tabled until the February meeting to ensure more accurate final budget numbers (one month of bills left vs. two months).

B. Meeting Schedule Resolution

The clerk presented the proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming fiscal year.

A motion was made to adopt the meeting schedule for FY 2018-19.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Susan Kerst
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

C. Poverty Exemption Resolution

The clerk presented the annual poverty exemption guidelines for adoption.

A motion was made to adopt the Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2018.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Susan Kerst
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 8:15 pm.

Public comment was received from Elaine Ault regarding the potential timeline for the special assessment district and requesting contact info for the township assessor and Alger Co equalization dept; Terry Lane on when Safe-t-Kleen would pick up the hazmat barrel.

Public comment was closed at 8:19 pm.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – kitchen door lock is frozen/unusable.

No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support: Susan Kerst

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 01/02/18
Approved: 02/05/18