

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 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 amended (*add Rummage Sale 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: Terry Pihlainen
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:

- » \$23,995.86 for the general fund, checks #5373-5402;
- » \$287.71 for the fire fund, checks #2101-03; and
- » \$5,944.26 for the solid waste fund, check #1238.

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: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

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

Gen: \$712,361.68
Fire: \$337,971.96
SW: \$151,172.65
Tax: \$2,086.05

B. Assessor Report

The assessor was present and reported on the activities of the assessor's office (creating tax bills for this year, updating the county, and processing exemptions). The fieldwork season will be starting soon.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

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

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar reported that the fire department responded to two wildfires in the past month.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that about half of the surveys had been mailed by Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD), and the rest were due to be mailed soon.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Garbage complaints about pick-up day delay with holiday (Memorial Day).
- * Kitchen/door project – talked to Cretins Brothers as contractor and MTA regarding with the legality of the bidding process due to the use of ARPA funds.
- * Road Commission – moved Onota Township projects to September.

G. Tyoga Campground/Trail

The supervisor wanted to verify board approval of the final agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in its current condition regarding the Tyoga Campground operations. The board was amenable to the agreement and operations at Tyoga.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:11 pm

Comment was received from:

- * Terry Lane about the large tree at the cemetery needing to be cut (it was decided that the supervisor would ask the Alger County Conservation District regarding a recommendation for an arborist);
- * Mark Fisher about the County Road Commission leaving Peter White Rd in poor condition, the dilapidated state of a property down Deerton-Onota Rd, and the fire department getting a brush truck;
- * Marlene Wood about Lake Superior Point Trail residents having the potential of a seasonal short term rental operation down their private road, zoned as Lakeshore/River that would not be permissible in that district and the enforcement of taking drinking water directly from the lake;
- * Charlene McDonnell on proposals in the House and Senate of Michigan regarding a fixed percentage of properties being permitted as vacation rentals.

Closed: 7:22 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution Review

The board felt that this letter was not relevant to Onota Township and declined to pass the resolution.

B. Direct Deposit

The treasurer reported on her findings regarding the average fees charged by banks for direct deposit. The deputy treasurer was looking into the fees charged by Range Bank, as the township.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Commission Reappointments

Two members whose terms expire this month returned written indication that they were still interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

The supervisor recommended the re-appointment of Erin Leahy-Putvin and Michael Tarr to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the supervisor to reappoint Erin Leahy-Putvin and Michael Tarr to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

B. Alger County land foreclosure

The Alger County Treasurer notified the clerk of the need to respond indicating or waiving interest in purchasing land that will be foreclosed on due to unpaid taxes. These lots must be offered to governing units prior to auction. The board did not see a reason the township would purchase the property listed, so the waiver form was signed and will be returned to the county.

C. Rummage sales (at the township hall)

The township supervisor proposed that because people would theoretically sell and profit from items sold at an event, like a rummage sale, that a small fee should be charged for rental. The board discussed the matter.

It was decided that a trustee will contact MTA regarding if fees must be charged for events at the township hall.

Regarding MTA, the clerk mentioned that she had ordered the books from MTA as requested, and board members could borrow them from the township library shelf. She also ordered two updated reference books on Planning and Zoning for the upcoming Master Plan/Zoning Ordinance update.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:39 pm

Comment was received from:

- * Mark Fisher on if a bridge would be installed on Burnings Road now that the resident ownership had changed (The supervisor said the township would not be involved with this because it would create future maintenance and upkeep requirements. Without the bridge present, it is debatable if there is an easement, as the road cannot go through).
- * Charlene McDonnell on if there were any plans for development on Au Train Island (*unknown*).

Closed: 7:43 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Cheryl – hip shingles/ridge cap for the township hall blew off in windstorm, needs to be repaired.

Connie – township hall building should be power washed or steam cleaned annually (*supervisor will look into this*).

Terry – flickering fluorescent light near voting booths should be fixed or replaced.

Catherine – two hall rentals coming up (June 11 and June 25). Will add equipment/hall rental to agenda for next month.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 6/6/22
Approved: 7/5/22