

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2019

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

Absent: *none*

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (*add "D. Cemetery Lot Purchases" under new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the 3/30/19 special meeting as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment.

March 31 FY-end:

A motion was made to pay the March 31 fiscal year-end bills as presented:

- » \$16,352.68 for the general fund, checks #4340 - #4359 + #4375-76;
- » \$5,507.20 for the fire fund, checks #1887 - #1891 + #1893; and
- » \$5,147.71 for the solid waste fund, checks #1175 - 1177.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the March 31 FY-end balance sheet and profit & loss statements for the general, fire, solid waste, and tax funds as presented by the clerk.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Connie Lacko
Catherine Kimar
Brian Bresette
Cheryl Lane
Terry Pihlainen

April:

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

- » \$9,346.63 for the general fund, checks #4360 to #4374 (+#4354-55); and
- » \$5,100.00 for the fire fund, check #1892.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the monthly balance sheet and profit & loss statements for the general, fire, solid waste, and tax funds 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

B. Assessor Report

The assessor gave a verbal report of his monthly activities (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator gave a verbal report of his monthly activities (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

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

The board gave permission for the chief to seek estimated costs from various contractors for replacing the dry hydrant on Deerton-Onota Rd at the Laughing Whitefish River bridge. She agreed to report back to the board next month with estimates.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that:

- * Each condition of the cell tower permit was clarified and added to the minutes through a motion & roll call votes
- * Recreation plan is updated and will have a 30 day review period followed by a public hearing (with notice published) before it will be referred to the board for adoption

The supervisor brought up the amount of opposition to the cell tower location and asked about the potential of asking AT&T to again reconsider the potential alternate site (*old township dump site*). Trustee Bresette replied that he had already stated to the public that AT&T had refused that site according to the supervisor, and that changing the site would require restarting the entire conditional use permit process, which had already taken several months.

A motion was made to ask AT&T about the potential of relocating the tower to an alternate site.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: none
Motion died for lack of support.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * A regional quarterly meeting was held and the following issues were discussed:
 - a Sustainable Eco-tourism Organization (SEO) has recently been formed in Alger County to address the impact of tourism in the area;
 - Vacation rentals continue to be an issue in the county;
 - H-58 will be reconstructed this summer;
 - Huntington bank building in Munising was purchased by Peoples State Bank.
- * AuTrain Onota School plans to install a new sign southwest of the Deerton Road. It will be lighted and also have an electronic message board.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:30 pm

Comment was received from:

- * Delores Dolan - public use of the message board on the school sign (*answer: used by school only*);
- * John Highlen - the Friends of Tyoga group is formally incorporated & would like to work with the township for grants; and
- * Darrell Stewart, clarifying that the sign will be similar to the one by the high school in Munising.

Closed: 7:38 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Boat Launch

The supervisor & Trustee Bresette attended a meeting with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to clarify operations and details of the boat launch agreement. The agreement is in place and simply needs signatures. A cost share analysis was done and the township will contribute \$3,000 as agreed. Duties of each entity were delineated (township: dock in/out, keep ramp clear, etc; USFS: maintain vault toilet & kiosk, etc) and a public info kiosk will be built. The site will also be officially renamed to the Lake Superior Boat Launch. The supervisor asked for public comment at this time on the launch.

Public comment was received from Char McDonnell asking about parking lot maintenance. The supervisor answered that this would likely be addressed through the township applying for a grant to repair and improve the parking area.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. MTA resolution

A letter had been received from the Michigan Township Association, requesting the input of township boards across the state in regards to their support for making township offices non-partisan in elections. They requested that the board vote on a resolution to show support or opposition and return it to them by April 30.

A motion was made to support the legislation that would allow township boards the option to have elected offices appear as non-partisan on the ballot.

	<u>Roll call vote</u>	
Motion: Catherine Kimar	Ayes:	Nays:
Support: Brian Bresette	Cheryl Lane	Brian Bresette
Motion defeated.	Catherine Kimar	Connie Lacko
		Terry Pihlainen

B. ADA compliance

The board continued their discussion on bringing the hall entirely into compliance with ADA regulations. The clerk noted the lower entryway door was too narrow for wheelchairs (and lacked a ramp over the door ledge) despite the fact that voters nearly always entered this door. The supervisor said he would get cost estimates for repairing or replacing the door (whichever would be more reasonable).

The supervisor also mentioned that the restrooms need to be updated to accommodate wheelchairs by removing the partition walls. It was also discussed that the sink height may not be in compliance. The supervisor said he felt the appearance of the restrooms was extremely dated and they should be redone to have a more modern, clean look. The board suggested he get estimates on the costs for the various discussed updates and report back next month.

C. Dumpster Rolloffs

The board had discussed that one dumpster rolloff event per year seemed to meet the needs of the township, (based on low volume of garbage collected at a second yearly rolloff). The clerk needed clarification on which season the rolloff would be held (spring or fall) to plan for sending postcards to residents. After a brief discussion, it was decided that fall was the ideal time for the rolloff to be held.

D. Cemetery Lot Purchases

A request had been received for purchasing a cemetery lot. The clerk said she was unfamiliar with how to do this, as neither she nor the previous two clerks had sold any lots. She asked the board if there were any written procedures or documents available on how to process cemetery lot purchases and how to determine where lots were located (or where to mark them as sold).

The response was that underground markers are placed in the new area of the cemetery (and there is a corresponding map of these lots). The supervisor said there may be some documents that the deputy clerk (during her term as clerk) had created, and that he was also willing to assist the clerk with this, if needed.

The supervisor also mentioned the need to readdress the cemetery fee schedule due to frequency of burials overrunning the scheduled cost. The clerk will place this item on next month's agenda.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 8:09 pm

Comment was received from:

Terry Lane - if the dumpsters will be relocated to the parking lot, and the status of the hazmat barrel company; and

Char McDonnell - appreciates the supervisor addressing the reconsideration of the cell tower site and the conditions being clarified by Trustee Bresette and the Planning Commission.

Closed: 8:13 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Cheryl - the tax fund account will be changed from Peoples State Bank in Munising to River Valley Bank in Marquette (where all the other township accounts are).

No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 4/1/19

Approved: 5/6/19