

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2014

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Supervisor Pihlainen.

*ROLL CALL*

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor  
Brian Bresette, Trustee

Sarah Redmond, Trustee  
Susan Kerst, Treasurer

Members Absent: Stephanie Bromley, Clerk

**II. AGENDA**

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (addition of Certificate of Deposit by treasurer).

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

**III. MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended.

Motion: Susan Kerst  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

**IV. REPORTS**

A. Financial Report

Treasurer Kerst presented the bills for payment. A motion was made to pay the bills as presented for payment (with the addition of an Emergency Expense of \$400.00 from the fire fund for truck batteries) for \$9,585.71 for the general fund checks #2657 to #2676; \$979.56 for the fire fund, check #1446 to #1451; and \$5,071.41 for the solid waste fund check #1091.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

A motion was made approving two streetlight installations at costs of up to \$500 for the intersection of M-28–Shelter Bay Rd, and \$715.24 for the intersection of M-28–Rock River Rd.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

Trustee Bresette expressed a concern that the pension fund should be checked on by the clerk. A motion was made to approve the balance sheet and profit and loss statements for the general fund, fire fund, solid waste fund and tax fund as presented by Deputy Clerk Kimar for June 2014.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Susan Kerst  
Sarah Redmond  
Terry Pihlainen  
Brian Bresette

Absent:  
Stephanie Bromley

B. Assessor's Report

Deputy Clerk Kimar read the Assessor's Report. A copy is on file.

C. Zoning Administrator's Report

ZA Tietjen was present and gave a verbal report summarizing his attendance to a FEMA flood map related meeting in Marquette and the schedule for updating those maps, the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on May 22, and 2 calls he had received in reference to zoning issues.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report. The cost requests were discussed prior to approval.

A motion was made to approve up to \$300 for the purchase of a new wheeled battery charger.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve up to \$350 for acid wash to the fire trucks.

Motion: Susan Kerst  
Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve up to \$1,000 for the repair and/or replacement of the secondary butterfly valve on the pumper truck as mechanically feasible (due to failure to seal).

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that while they had a quorum at the last meeting, they had not received any information they needed from Richard Smith, the newly appointed CUPPAD representative for the township, despite numerous attempts at contact by Chairman Quinn. The Planning Commission requested that the Supervisor elevate the matter within CUPPAD to resolve the lack of contact. The Supervisor agreed to contact CUPPAD regarding the issue (amendments to zoning ordinance pertaining to Rock River Resort).

F. Supervisor Report

Supervisor Pihlainen reported that the Alger County Road Commission (ACRC) had taken the following actions: replaced the culvert near AuTrain-Onota School, and that they would replace the blacktop at that location later this summer; graded and/or repaired North Pt and Risku Rd; performed maintenance and brush removal on an East Deer Lake Rd culvert; and resolved issues with culverts on the Deerton-Onota Road.

A motion was made to approve the \$25,000 for the Deerton-Onota Road project contingent on approval of the Alger County Road Commission specification sheets by the Township Board.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

*No correspondence was received.*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was opened at 7:40 PM.

Comment was received from: Mary Henricksen, regarding maintenance on the wrong culvert on E. Deer Lake Rd.; Nancy Bennett regarding the archives and the schedule of dumpster roll-offs.  
Public Comment was closed at 7:48 PM.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Cemetery Property

An extensive discussion was held comparing the bids received by the township from Vallier Construction, Smith Paving, and Gerou Excavating.

A motion was made to accept the bid of Smith Paving at a base bid of 10,500, and selection of option #1 for the additional cost of 17,500, for a total of \$28,000. The motion was amended to note that the additional 10,000 needed would be moved from the contingency fund into the Buildings & Grounds – Other account that the \$20,000 for the cemetery project was currently located under.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Amendment/Support: Sarah Redmond  
Motion carried.

**Note:** Trustee Bresette abstained on this matter due to his work involvement with the bidder.

### B. Planning Commission Ordinance

A motion was made to adopt the ordinance as presented.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Susan Kerst  
Sarah Redmond  
Brian Bresette  
Terry Pihlainen

Absent:  
Stephanie Bromley

The ordinance will take effect 30 days after publication of a summary.

### C. Procedure for Emergency Repairs/Maintenance

A discussion was held regarding the options of the board to deal with high emergency expenses. It was noted currently the only option for any amount over \$500 was to call a special meeting, which requires 18 hours of notice. No actions were taken on this matter at this time.

#### *i. Water Line Repair*

A discussion was held on what actions to take regarding the extensive troubles with the water line this past winter. A motion was made to table the issue until estimates on the costs of digging up the water line for repair and insulation were obtained by the Supervisor.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

### D. Website

Trustee Redmond gave a brief review of this topic. She said that the website could be ready by August if the township employees and board members get the relevant information to Brenda Kelley by July, and made the suggestion that a special meeting be scheduled on the website content. A special meeting was scheduled for Saturday, June 14, at 9:00 AM pertaining to the website and the road specification from the ACRC.

E. Streetlights – This issue was dealt with during the approval of bills.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Tioga Liquor License

A letter of denial of license extension from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and a letter from an attorney representing Mr. Berggren requesting approval from the Board were presented. Mr. Berggren was present at the meeting and discussed the Board's concerns.

A motion was made in resolution of recommending the consideration of the application by KB Tioga Onota, LLC for a class C license at E866 E M28 Deerton, MI.

Motion: Sarah Redmond  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: Susan Kerst  
Sarah Redmond  
Brian Bresette  
Terry Pihlainen

Absent:  
Stephanie Bromley

B. Dumpsters

i. Surveillance Camera

Supervisor Pihlainen brought up on-going concerns with the dumping of unacceptable hazardous or toxic items as well as excessively large items by township residents at the dumpsters. A discussion was held, and it was decided that Supervisor Pihlainen would look into the cost of a surveillance system as well as calling the Alger County Prosecutor in regards to enforcement of any illegal dumping.

C. Cemetery upkeep and maintenance

Supervisor Pihlainen expressed concerns about flags being displayed at the cemetery for Memorial Day and placed on the graves of veterans for relevant holidays. It was confirmed that the flags were purchased by the sexton and displayed/placed. Supervisor Pihlainen stated that he would purchase flags from a business recommended by the American Legion to ensure a future supply of flags.

D. Certificates of Deposit

Treasurer Kerst requested that board members sign an approval sheet for changes to the CDs.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was opened at 9:08 PM.

Public comment was received from Mary Henricksen regarding surveillance and enforcement; Nancy Bennett regarding the township fax line.

Public comment was closed at 9:14 PM.

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Clerk Bromley left a notation that she had registered and paid for herself, Trustee Redmond, and Supervisor Pihlainen to attend the June 24th MTA training in Marquette. Trustee Redmond asked that the cost accounting for the training be corrected.

*No other concerns were expressed.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Susan Kerst  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar  
Onota Township Deputy Clerk  
Proposed: 06-02-2014  
Approved: 06-14-2014