

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

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 "A. Fire Department " under new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
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:

- » \$7,453.48 for the general fund, checks #5785-5807;
- » \$1,127.83 for the fire fund, checks #2163-67; and
- » \$6,623.09 for the solid waste fund, check #1260.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Connie Lacko
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: 753,372.85
Fire: 387,691.91
SW: 147,461.61
Tax: 2,337.63

B. Assessor Report

None received.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

None received.

D. Fire Department Report

The fire chief reported there were no calls in August. DOT inspections were completed on the trucks without any issues. There is a tree hanging off the west side of the firehall that needs to be removed,

and the mechanic was concerned that the FD generator sounds extremely rough when it starts and runs. The supervisor said he would contact Wolverine Power Systems for a maintenance check.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission discussed some of the chapters of the Master Plan. Dotty LaJoye from CUPPAD was present. They will likely be covering four chapters of the plan this month.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * US Fish & Wildlife Service – letter on coastal barrier overlay of countywide GIS
- * Blight/Brownfield Grant – removal of the following abandoned buildings will happen soon via public grant funding: Laughing Whitefish Trading Post (\$150k) and house (\$159k) behind it. Tioga Tavern site is still in progress due to complications with the history of the title to the property.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:11 pm

Received from:

- * Terry Lane – tree in cemetery must be removed (supervisor will contact tree removal services);
- * Andy Sommer – asked for details on coastal barrier program (it is a GIS map overlay) and how to help or join the fire department.
- * Jarrod Biebel – his conditional use permit fee (\$250) was deposited when the application was not approved. The township will issue him a reimbursement check.
- * Jim Gegare – requested to review a copy of the Planning Commission survey results.

Closed: 7:18 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Range Bank

Kelly Jandron, a representative of Range Bank, attended the meeting to present possible investment opportunities to the township, as suggested by the accountant (*CDARS – certificate of deposit account registry program*). She gave a short presentation that covered the history of the bank and how it is locally based in the community, as well as the full financial options for municipalities. The board discussed how the investment process is outlined in board policy (which specifies that the treasurer is the one authorized to invest in FDIC insured financial opportunities, as well as listing banks that the township may use).

B. New Printer

The clerk stated that the purchase of the printer was a large expense, which should be done through a motion as per board policy. She also felt the board should have input on the decision between a B&W and color printer, as the future needs of the township should be considered.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of a printer for \$2,554.94 from Cooper Office Equipment.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

C. Township Clerk position

The board discussed the situation with the township clerk position. The elected clerk (Catherine

Kimar), who resigned in June, but was reappointed due to the need to do payroll, pay bills, and complete the township audit. She explained that with a presidential election cycle coming up this next year, it would be disadvantageous for the township to try training in a new clerk, but that new election laws added a significant amount of work to her duties, so she would only continue serving if the salary for the position was increased to reflect the amount of work added. As the board did not agree to a salary increase, she stated she would be done on January 3, 2024. Tina Watkeys will train to be the new clerk over the next few months.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire Department

Connie Lacko asked about the current hourly wage for firefighters. The clerk / fire chief stated they were currently at \$20/hour, which the board agreed was fair.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:58 pm

Received from:

- * Terry Lane – marking and opening graves, how to purchase a lot in the new part of the cemetery, and request for a new lawnmower for the township hall site (he has been using his own mower for several years). The supervisor denied the request.

Closed: 8:02 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Cheryl – (1) the streetlight at the end of Deerton Road was removed by Alger Delta and (2) Land Bank - blight / brownfield remediation grant eligibility being affected.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 9-5-23
Approved: 10-2-23