

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 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 D. Postcard & E. Sexton Position).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Catherine Kimar
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:

- » \$11,675.10 for the general fund, checks #5763-84;
- » \$557.81 for the fire fund, checks #2159-62; and
- » \$6,452.04 for the solid waste fund, check #1259.

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: 754,400.39
Fire: 386,227.75
SW: 151,072.57
Tax: 81.05

B. Assessor Report

The assessor reported there was no need to hold a July Board of Review, as no petitions were received. He will be conducting fieldwork over the next few months (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The ZA reported continued investigation into a reported vacation rental; the owner states that it is owned by a group of investors and used at their convenience. The ZA sees this as a conforming use for the zoning in that district (Lakeshore & River). He also mentioned two other complaints (vacation rental, junk items) by residents against their neighbors that will be addressed (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

The fire chief reported that there were two calls in August (*downed utility line, false alarm*). The state has created limitations on holding firefighter courses – two instructors must be available to hold a class, which is a hardship for Alger County (and the UP) due to the low availability of instructors.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that they were working on updating the Master Plan. Two chapters were covered at the last meeting, they may do more at the next meeting. The Planning Commission received petitions from residents of Shore Drive; they voted to take no action at this time as the township will be updating its ordinances in the near future, and the issue should be addressed at that time.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Still working on brownfield grant and he will be contacting the county and a senator.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Cemetery Request - Lorna Ternus requested someone to meet with her to locate a lot in the cemetery. The supervisor will do so this week.
- * The Alger County Commission passed three resolutions – (1) support of constitutional rights & mental health funding, (2) in favor of teaching American history in schools, and (3) opposition to legislation that preempts local control over gravel/sand mining.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:11 pm

Received from:

- * Annie O’Leary on opposition to vacation rentals and condominiums on Shelter Bay Rd;
- * Jerry Gerou on the MDOT culvert replacement on M-28; and
- * Joan Potter-Sommer on the blight removal / brownfield grants for Alger County and the M28 roadside park being used as a public bathroom and a family damaging the sand dunes.
- * Terry Lane on people not using the dumpsters correctly (overfilling and leaving stuff outside).

Closed: 7:26 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ARPA Funds

The best use of the American Recovery Plan Act funds (approx \$34,000) was brought up. The supervisor said that no contractors would do any projects for the township at this time and the matter should be tabled.

B. Printer/Copier Replacement

The supervisor each obtained some prices for small office multifunction copier/printers from local vendors, along with inquiring about service contracts for the equipment.

The board discussed the advantages of black & white vs. color laser printers. The treasurer and clerk will work on purchasing the printer for the township.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendments

A motion was made to move \$1,200 to Deputy Clerk Salary (215-703) from Contingency Fund (850-965) to cover a second deputy clerk for the remainder of fiscal year 2023-24.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

B. Audit Cost Approval

A motion was made to approve up to \$6,700 for the audit to be conducted by Anderson-Tackman.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

C. Investments – Michigan Class

The treasurer and supervisor had met with a representative of this financial group to discuss the possibility of the township funds being invested in this system. It is a treasury bond system for municipalities in the state to use. It is a diversified portfolio and low-risk investment for the township (although it is not guaranteed by FDIC). The supervisor talked with Altran about the CLASS investments – they gave positive reviews and have significant funds invested.

The treasurer suggested the township talk to their accountants prior to voting, so the matter was tabled until next month.

D. Township Postcard

The clerk included a draft copy of the postcard notification of the dumpster rollofs in September. The supervisor mentioned that he has workers and the insurance from Hannula ready for the rollofs. The clerk will email him a copy of the postcard pdf file.

E. Sexton Position

The township received a letter of interest about the secondary sexton position from John Horton. Terry Pihlainen asked Terry Lane if he needed any help with the weed-eating or other tasks and he said that no – he was doing fine.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:47 pm

Received from:

- * Joe O’Leary on the township should not change its investments in CDs to treasury bonds/bills;
- * Andy Sommer on the requirements of who can do work on the township building (it must be a licensed worker with insurance); and the township printer purchase;
- * Joan Potter-Sommer on the township investments; and
- * Mark Fisher on the county road commission cutting back the brush alongside the back roads and vandalism of property down Deerton-Onota Rd.

Closed: 7:57 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Brian – when will we know if the brownfield grants are awarded (not yet known).

Connie – asked about the insurance and charging to use the hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 8-7-23

Approved: 9-5-23