

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 7, 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 Well Drilling update under new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The public hearing for the proposed 2022-23 budget was opened for public comment at 7:04 pm.

No public comment was received.

The public hearing was closed at 7:05 pm.

A motion was made to adopt the General Appropriations Act for the 2022-23 budget by resolution.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

IV. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

V. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment. The clerk explained that the solid waste bill was two months' worth of charges, because Great American Disposal bills were usually two months behind, whereas the new company (Green for Life Environmental) bills on time and charges late fees, so it had to be paid. She further noted this brought the solid waste account to the edge of its budget.

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

- » \$6,988.74 for the general fund, checks #5291-5311;
- » \$1,566.94 for the fire fund, checks #2086-89; and
- » \$12,916.48 for the solid waste fund, checks #1232-33.

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 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: 719,454.01
Fire: 336,872.09
SW: 154,238.05
Tax: 165,243.02

B. Assessor Report

The assessor was present and gave a verbal report. The change of assessment notices were mailed and the roll is being prepared. There were few changes – land values went up slightly, but improvement values increased significantly due to sale prices for homes being high. Taxable values are capped (at 5%), however, and will not increase as significantly (3.3%). The Board of Review may be busy due to this (scheduled for March 15 & 16).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*), which covered two approvals of zoning applications for a lot on FFR 2520 (off Rock River Road) and one on Deerton-Sand Lake Road; and several questions about operating vacation rentals and campgrounds in zoning districts other than Town Development.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*). The chief plans to write a letter of complaint to Ferrellgas, since the firehall ran out of propane on 2/25 at 11 pm and an emergency fill of the tank was required, *despite* the fact that it is on the “keep-full” program, which mis-estimated the tank being at 40% when it was empty.

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that Central UP Planning and Development (CUPPAD) is sending surveys and waiting 30 days to check for return of the survey – if return rates are low at this time, they will wait an additional 15 days for further returns.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Attended Regional Government meeting – most local townships and cities plan to use the funds for infrastructure improvements.
- * Talked to new company (GFLE) now operating garbage pickup – there is no more holiday delay on pickups.
- * Wrote a letter to Au Train-Onota Schools commending them for their students exceptional performance in the Science Olympiad competition.
- * Generators were serviced this past Friday.

G. Tyoga Update

Waiting for Dept of Natural Resources to finalize contract and paperwork for this year’s operations. New members are joining the Friends of Tyoga group and interested in participating in the spring trail cleanup day that will be held once the snow melts.

H. Other Reports

Trustee Lacko reported several residents are interested in using the hall for a combination craft and/or rummage sale. She checked with Michigan Township Association and they saw no issue with this. The board had no objections to this use. She plans to organize this event once the weather improves.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

none

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

none

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment

A motion was made to amend the new line item ARPA Funds (000-528) by \$17,400 to account for unexpected income due to federal legislation.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

B. Board of Review Appointment

Jarrold Biebel submitted a letter of interest for the open Board of Review position.

A motion was made to appoint Jarrod Biebel to the Board of Review for the remainder of the open term (through December 2022).

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

C. Well Drilling Update (Shore Drive)

The clerk read a letter from LMAS Health Department regarding the legality of angle drilling underneath Lake Superior for residences and the procedures to follow in order to obtain such a permit. A copy of this letter will be provided to the assessor for future well situations.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:40 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on Ferrellgas not keeping the firehall propane tank full.

Closed: 7:44 pm

XI. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – A new modem was installed, so any employees may need to reconnect to the wireless internet.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Motion: Cheryl Lane
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 3/7/22

Approved: 4/4/22