

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2018

**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 presented.

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:

- » \$15,926.31 for the general fund, checks #4029 to #4057;
- » \$4,172.85 for the fire fund, checks #1805 to #1812; and
- » \$5,112.06 for the solid waste fund, check #1157.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Terry Pihlainen  
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: Connie Lacko  
Motion carried.

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

B. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor (*copy on file*).

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator was present and gave a verbal report on zoning activities for the month (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*). She also gave a brief summary of the Tioga Tavern fire incident, noting that it was due to be covered in next month's report.

E. Planning Commission Report

*No report was available due to lack of quorum for a meeting.*

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* **Cell tower** - planned for Onota Hill by AT&T; supervisor asked them to consider placing an Alger Co Sheriff repeater and possibly local TV station repeaters.
- \* **Tyoga trail** – met with DNR in April. Need to come up with costs for potential grants.
- \* **Public opinion survey** – U of M surveys local officials (annually), results may be of interest to local residents. Asked that a link to the results be placed on the website.
- \* **Tioga fire** – if the site is not cleaned up after a certain time, it is possible they could be cited by Alger County.
- \* **Insurance** – Minor updates were made, resulting in a small increase in the premium.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: overdue license requirements for the Rock River Beach hydroelectric project
- \* CUPPAD: info on a *Prosperous Places* grant for “public placemaking” projects

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:18 pm.

Comment was received from: Mike McHaney on dumpster rollofs; Char McDonnell on AuTrain island zoning, Pinewood lodge project & GIS/flood maps; Dave Kimar on if AT&T would share the cell tower with other providers; and Terry Lane on the cell tower + possible elimination of landline phones.

Closed: 7:32 pm.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Burnings Rd

The clerk read an email from Shane Gibson regarding Burnings Rd and his issues with public use of the road. The supervisor reported that he had contacted Alger Title to look into the costs of a title search for the back roads, and they had estimated up to \$2,500.

A motion was made to spend up to \$2,500 to do the title searches for the back roads in Onota Township (Sigan Rd, Burnings Rd, North Sundell Road, Toivo's Trail, Peter White Rd, Section 5 Rd, Malette Pt Rd) to determine public versus private roads.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

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

B. LW Pt Rd

Residents on this road continue to express their grievances with the road condition. The supervisor requested that Alger County Road Commission (ACRC) give an estimate of the cost to bring the road out of seasonal use – they said around \$360,000.

The supervisor stated the only way for this project to occur would involve a special assessment district and a bond that would be paid back over several years (as the ACRC could not be expected to start the project without funding).

He asked for input from township board members regarding a bond for this type of project. Board members agreed that it depended strongly on public support of the project and expressed concern as to how it would reflect on the township to spend a large amount of money on a road which is currently only seasonal when all the township roads need extensive work. The supervisor said it could be a starting point to improve several of the area roads.

Several of the property owners on the road are in support of the project, but the special assessment would increase taxes for anyone who owns property north of Risku Rd. Dave Kimar made the suggestion that the property owners form an association to raise funds for the work to be done privately instead of trying to go through the county, mentioning the relevant improvements done to Section 5 Road by property owners.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Planning Commission letter of interest

A letter was received from Shannon Wyatt, a local resident, expressing interest in serving on the Planning Commission. The supervisor recommended her appointment.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the supervisor and appoint Shannon Wyatt to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

The clerk stated that the township was permitted to have one non-resident as a member of the Planning Commission. The supervisor recommended that Brian Mahoney (who submitted a letter previously) also be appointed.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the supervisor and appoint Brian Mahoney to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Cheryl Lane  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

### B. Snowblower – annual maintenance

The fire chief reported that the department members who had been using the snowblower to clear in front of the doors recommended that the township have regular annual maintenance done to keep the snowblower in proper operating condition. Terry Lane said that he would take the snowblower to the dealer for maintenance.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 8:00 pm.

Comment was received from: Dave Kimar on the use of bonds for road improvement - he felt this would set a precedent of using bonds for road improvement when the county road commission already receives taxes for this purpose; John Highlen on how the use of a bond should be for a project that benefits all residents; Char McDonnell on how many miles Laughing Whitefish Pt Rd are being discussed for \$360k (3 miles), Mary Henricksen will return this month, asked where Brian Mahoney is from (*western border of Onota*), and she complimented the fire department on their response to the Tioga Tavern fire; MaryAnn McHaney on if the cause was known for the fire (*suspected to be electrical at this time*); Terry Lane on if the county was going to put in a culvert before the fire hall (*a culvert is already there, but there is no ditching to it for proper drainage*).

Closed: 8:12 pm.

## X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – apologies that board packets weren't done til Monday (due to fire at Tioga). A window in the township hall office needs to be set back in its track – knocked it loose while trying to open the screen.

Terry – asked Terry Lane about cemetery flags for Memorial Day and location of Erick & Eva Maki's burial sites (currently marked with white crosses that are due to be replaced with a headstone).

*No other concerns were expressed.*

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support: Connie Lacko

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar  
Onota Township Clerk  
Proposed: 05/07/18  
Approved: 06/04/18