

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 7, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 amended (*correct name in motion approving agenda*).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

The treasurer presented the bills for payment.

The supervisor questioned as to why the bill he submitted from M&M Specialties for \$450.00 was not paid. The clerk stated that the supervisor had not followed procedure as items over \$250.00 must be brought before the board for approval prior to expenditure. As such, the cost was unauthorized, and the check could not be written without board action.

A motion was made to approve the \$450.00 spent for construction of the fee collection post for Tyoga Campground.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

A motion was made to pay the monthly bills as presented (*general fund is a high amount due to delinquent tax disbursements*):

- » \$36,243.87 for the general fund, checks #5058-89+ \$450.00 to be audited with next month's bills;
- » \$464.39 for the fire fund, checks #2047-50; and
- » \$5,816.43 for the solid waste fund, check #1216.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
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: Connie Lacko
Motion carried.

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

Gen: 743,327.99
Fire: 284,622.45
SW: 141,454.38
Tax: 1,111.05

B. Assessor Report

No report was requested from the assessor due to health issues.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*). He reported on two zoning permit approvals for accessory structures and the denial of a permit for a shipping container to be used as an accessory residential structure.

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*) – there was one call in May. *No details of the call were provided due to an active investigation.*

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission began the process to update the Master Plan and review the Zoning Ordinance. This will likely require postage costs and the approval of cost for a planner from CUPPAD. The Planning Commission chairperson will contact CUPPAD for estimated costs and bring the amounts for approval next month.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Garbage
 - o Talked to Great American Disposal about the garbage issue – it's possible there will be a return of Tuesday pickups (for a cost of \$265/month) and/or a dumpster located near the bridge on Peter White Road.
 - o Exploration of penalties for people who are dumping non-household garbage in the dumpsters – this would require an ordinance enforcement officer position (created by ordinance).
- * Cell Tower - No response from AT&T. The contractors running the fiber optic lines have completed their work.
- * Tyoga Campground – lots of work done, but payments will not be accepted until it is determined how they should be recorded.
- * Boat Launch – road is fixed.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk read the following correspondence (summarized):

- * Chris Haydon – letter of resignation

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Chris Haydon from the role of custodian and sexton.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support:
Motion carried.

- * Alger County Board of Commissioners – a letter to local officials about concerns on minimal law enforcement presence in Alger County communities and relevant state legislation on this topic.
- * Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET) - request for funding (*Note: The board did not support provision of funding as UPSET has never done any work within Onota Township.*)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:20 pm

Comment was received from: Mark Fisher on the importance of the fire department acquiring rescue/recon truck; and Ron Christner on the work done at the boat launch site.

Closed: 7:28 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ORV Trail

The supervisor contacted Michigan Dept of Transportation (MDOT) regarding the proposed off-road vehicle connector route along M28 for residents to access the trail directly.

MDOT responded that the proposal did not provide connectivity between multiple trails, routes, etc or access to essential services, which is a minimum requirement. They added that they had serious safety concerns with that stretch of M28 that made it an unsuitable location for ORV traffic (65 mph speed, grades/curves, mixed pedestrian/ORV/vehicle traffic in Deer Lake park). They stated that they would not consider this route at this time.

The supervisor accepted comments at this time from interested parties who were present from Shore Drive. Jarrod Biebel stated that he was still interested in pursuing a way for ORV traffic to access the trails from the Shore Drive and Shelter Bay area, even if the plan may need to change.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

none

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:37 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on Safety-Kleen came for the barrel and there are now empty barrels.

Closed: 7:39 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – Added a note to the website about the Tyoga campground being opened.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support: Connie Lacko

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 6/7/21

Approved: 7/5/21