

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JULY 1, 2019

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: Cheryl Lane
Support: Brian Bresette
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:

- » \$12,581.10 for the general fund, checks #4416 to #4450;
- » \$670.31 for the fire fund, checks #1903 to #1907; and
- » \$5,345.83 for the solid waste fund, check #1180.

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: Catherine Kimar
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 clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*).

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that the Planning Commission held their meeting (with two new members attending) and appointed a secretary.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- * Upper Peninsula Power Company representative – UPPCO is changing their meters to wifi-based electronic meters that may scanned for a reading (*Alger Delta, which serves the township, has yet to do this*).
- * Cell tower schedule – according to the project engineer, the Alger County building permit was recently issued.
- * Deerton Road – 1.5 inches of asphalt is being placed over Deerton Road, with work planned for July 15. Due to the presence of equipment and material, a lower-cost option (\$8,700 approx) is available to the township for extending the asphalt to the township property (fire hall & parking lot). The board discussed this option. The budget, as is, would cover this cost, and the board felt this was a prudent financial decision, as the discounted amount was a unique opportunity.

A motion was made to approve up to \$8,721.50 for paving up to the township hall site (as specified on the bid sheet from the Alger County Road Commission).

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

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

G. Other reports

Tyoga Trail – The Friends of Tyoga group has revised their brochure to a final draft. They are working with the DNR to set a date for trail maintenance work. The IRS has issued final approval of their status as a non-profit organization.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:21 pm

Comment was received from: Marie Markanjevic on the issue with human waste in the dumpsters, and that the security camera should have caught the person doing this; Terry lane on the status of the Tioga Tavern (*answer: Alger County Building Inspector is pursuing condemnation*) and the collapsing building across from the post office.

Closed: 7:24 pm

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Recreation Plan Resolution

The clerk asked the board if there were any changes for the plan based on their review. The board agreed the plan was satisfactory as is.

A motion was made to adopt the 2019-2024 Recreation Plan.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Roll call vote:
Ayes: Connie Lacko
Terry Pihlainen
Cheryl Lane

Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

The clerk said she would work with the Planning Commission to submit the plan to the Department of Natural Resources, enabling the township to seek recreation grant funds.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. July Board of Review Resolution

A motion was made to change the July Board of Review date to Monday, July 15, 2019.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

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

B. Elections Laptop

The clerk presented the board with recent information from the state Bureau of Elections that displayed their intent to force all elections computers to be updated to the latest version of Windows (due to Microsoft ending support for Windows 7) by January 2020. The current elections laptop lacks the capability to run Windows 10, and laptops are fairly expensive & difficult to upgrade. Additionally, unless the state legislature changes the date, the presidential primary will happen in March 2020.

The clerk explained that this made it a priority to replace the elections laptop soon, so that she could familiarize herself as well as the election workers with the inevitable changes and potential complications that will arise, and have time to revise all customized manuals and instructions for elections related tasks.

The state announced this decision in May, so the current budget does not have funds allocated. She requested that the board amend the elections budget item under office supplies to allow her to research and purchase an elections laptop that will be capable of running ePollbook software (now a requirement, paper pollbooks are no longer allowed) and accessing the online Qualified Voter File database for updates & changes.

A motion was made to amend the budget by moving \$800.00 from Contingency Fund (850-965) to Elections: Office Supplies (262-727)

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

C. Cemetery Ordinance Review

The clerk presented the board with copies of the previously updated Cemetery Ordinance for review. The sections reviewed for clarification were:

- * Section 2: The lot measurements.
- * Section 5: Grave Opening & Closing – the clerk suggested that the board add a sub-section (B. Procedure) to codify the recent board motion regarding families requesting to open and close graves, and provide a more thorough explanation of the actions and options involved (hand-digging, equipment, digging by families – private parties vs township).
- * Section 7: Interment Regulations, A. Number of Burials does not state how many cremains are permitted in a casket site, or explain if there are differences in cremains being placed if a casket is

already buried vs. if the burial space is empty. The board clarified the wording in this section.

A motion was made to adopt an ordinance to amend the cemetery ordinance.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

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

D. Recreational Marijuana

The clerk presented the board with information from Michigan Township Association and the Michigan Municipal League on the inconsistencies and differences in the regulations and terminology of the medical vs. recreational marijuana laws. She noted that many townships & cities were opting out until the state licensing, regulations, and other details were determined and could be reviewed.

However, the prohibition ordinance will require the township to pass two other ordinances prior. It relies on the municipal civil infraction system, which means the board would have to pass an Municipal Civil Infractions Ordinance and an ordinance designating authority to enforce non-zoning ordinances (Ordinance Enforcement Officer Ordinance). The township has until October to pass all of the ordinances.

This issue was tabled until next month so board members could review the material.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:52 pm

Comment was received from: Terry Lane on the hall generator; and John Highlen on recreational marijuana businesses.

Closed: 7:55 pm

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – knows the residence that is dumping human waste in the dumpsters, after talking to GAD driver. For privacy, the name will be told to the board only. Asked that a board member who knows them please contact the person and have a discussion (rather than sending a formal, public warning).

Brian – street signs need to be straightened or replaced, which is the township's duty. Suggested that Terry Lane drive around to check them as it is his job (a brief discussion followed).

Terry – asked about status of the Dolan family moving, as they both serve in township roles (no resignation letters had been submitted at this time).

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Cheryl Lane
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 7/1/19

Approved: 8/5/19