

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 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: 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:

- » \$6,678.51 for the general fund, checks #4451 to #4474;
- » \$415.00 for the fire fund, checks #1908 to #1910; and
- » \$5,027.62 for the solid waste fund, check #1181.

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: Cheryl Lane  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

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

<i>Gen: 587,381.56</i>
<i>Fire: 232,073.72</i>
<i>SW: 121,998.44</i>
<i>Tax: 40,561.92</i>

B. Assessor Report

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

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The zoning administrator gave a verbal report on the following (*copy on file*):

- \* To his knowledge, the illegal campground/rental operation off Lake Superior Point Trail has stopped.
- \* Continuing to attend the webinar series on zoning of medical & recreational marijuana operations

(he noted there is a deadline of 11/1/19 for the township to adopt a prohibitive ordinance).

- \* Recommends that the township lay the groundwork for online submission of zoning applications and possibly the creation of a file server for online access and backups of township computer files (*the board mentioned that they did currently have a cloud backup for the computers*).

D. Fire Department Report

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

A motion was made to approve up to \$2,800 for annual testing & maintenance (DOT inspection of trucks - \$1,200 / hydraulic tools - \$1,000 / pump testing - \$600).

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

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

E. Planning Commission Report

The township board liaison was not able to attend the meeting, but one of the co-chairs (Bill Dunham) was present in the audience, and at request, gave a brief summary of the last month's activities – the introduction of the two new members and a request for township intervention with an access easement situation.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Hazmat barrel is being picked up soon by Safety Kleen.
- \* Swick will be installing the gas line on the generator this month.
- \* The issue of human waste in township garbage has been resolved. For future reference, GAD informed the township that the dumping of human waste in trash is a criminal misdemeanor.
- \* AT&T cell tower is delayed until next year, due to a technical language issue in the contract between the landowner and the company that must be legally resolved before they proceed.

G. Tyoga Trail

The Friends of Tyoga has created a new membership brochure for people interested in the organization. They are currently working with the DNR to coordinate future project & maintenance dates for the trail, and will let the public know when these are scheduled.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Jason Matlock - recreational marijuana business (emailed & attended the meeting)  
Summary: Mr. Matlock is interested in finding a township where he could start a small (<15 employees) community-based business. He stated that he wanted the business to be adapted to integrate with the area culture and he would determine the nature of the business based off a goal-market analysis of the area chosen. He also thoroughly answered several questions from the board and the public (regarding regulation, size & potential for expansion, and type of business - growing and/or processing, not retail), and said he would be glad to address any concerns that the board & community had on recreational marijuana businesses. The board thanked him for his interest.
- \* Ross Woller - request regarding Section 5 Road & Lake Superior Point Trail (*the supervisor said he would respond to this email*).
- \* FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) – Rock River Dam violations

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:40 pm

Comment was received from:

- \* Ed Wood on the road condition of Lake Superior Point Trail and amount of work needed;
- \* John Highlen on his opposition to recreational marijuana businesses in the township;
- \* Marie Markanjevic on the condition of Whitefish Rd;
- \* Jared Biebel on a grant opportunity to improve access to ORV trails to improve safety and minimize the need to ride along highways;
- \* Terry Lane on the new blacktop not being extended into the parking area, missing driveway aprons and the lack of gravel shouldering to this date (*the supervisor explained he had misunderstood the Road Commission description and that it was intended to connect the fire hall to the road*).

Closed: 7:52 pm

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Roads

The supervisor presented information on road project options from the Alger County Road Commission. He said that he had done a ride-around with the county on July 22 and that Deerton-Sand Lake Rd was in the poorest overall condition with large washouts and erosion. It was mentioned that Onota Hill and Deerton-Onota Rd had very rough washboarding (corrugated rippling of road surface).

The board discussed the road proposals. Brian Bresette was strongly opposed to the inadequate amount of gravel (4 inches) listed in the agreement proposed by the county. He stated this was below the minimum standard for a gravel road, particularly ones that receive logging and heavy equipment traffic like Deerton-Sand Lake. The supervisor said he would bring this issue back up with the Road Commission, and the matter was tabled until next month.

### B. Recreational Marijuana

Due to this issue already having been extensively discussed during the meeting, this item was tabled until next month. The clerk said she would place all three ordinances required for prohibition in the board packet for September.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resignations & Letter of Interest

A letter of interest regarding township commission vacancies was received from Vicki Ray.

A motion was made to accept Martin Dolan's verbal resignation at the last Planning Commission meeting. Brian Bresette also asked that the Dolans both be sent a thank you letter for their extensive public service in the area over the past several years.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
Motion carried.

The supervisor recommended that Vicki Ray be appointed to the Planning Commission. A motion was made to accept the recommendation and appoint Vicki Ray to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

### B. Postcards

The board approved the postcard design for printing and mailing, with a change of the treasurer's final tax day (Sept 16 instead of 13). The clerk reported that the cost estimates (stamps -  $520 \times 35¢ = \$182$  and printing/cardstock + mailing labels -  $40+20 = \$60$ ) each fell under the allowed cost of up to \$250, so no cost approval was required.

C. Dumpsters / Bears

Due to bears getting in the dumpsters, GAD brought chains to cover the dumpster lids. The clerk had placed a sign reminding people to re-clip the chains and not overfill the dumpsters to prevent further bear problems.

The board thanked all the people who had helped clean up the mess that the bears had repeatedly left prior to the chains being attached.

The clerk mentioned that the dumpsters had only been emptied twice last month.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 8:38 pm

Comment was received from: John Highlen on dumpster roll-off dates; and Terry Lane on the condition of Peter White Rd.

Closed: 8:40 pm

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Terry – Alger County has applied for a demolition permit on the Tioga Tavern (due to condemnation).

*No other concerns were expressed.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Motion: Catherine Kimar

Support: Brian Bresette

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 8/5/19

Approved: 9/3/19