

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

**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 amended (*add 'B. Board of Review letter of interest' to new business*).

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
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:

- » \$8,045.02 for the general fund, checks #4475 to #4495;
- » \$3,915.64 for the fire fund, checks #1912 to #1915; and
- » \$5,639.00 for the solid waste fund, check #1182.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Catherine Kimar  
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: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

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

Gen: 580,134.24
Fire: 228,162.38
SW: 116,364.54
Tax: 42,279.32

B. Assessor Report

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

C. Zoning Administrator Report

No report received.

D. Fire Department Report

The fire chief read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*).

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette reported that somehow Vicki Ray hadn't been notified of her appointment, and therefore didn't attend the meeting. The clerk explained that the letter had come back in the mail due to a wrong zip code, and that she would send it again as well as email a copy.

The commission discussed the easement request issue with the bank and the Zoning Administrator reported on his continuing education activities.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

- \* Tioga Tavern - Alger County has received a demolition permit for this location, but the timeline is unknown.
- \* AT&T Cell tower – on hold until at least 2020 due to contractual language issues.
- \* Dumpster rollofs – (1) removal of coolant or Freon is not a cost efficient item for the township to pursue (as it is expensive and the equipment cannot be rented). (2) The event is set to go with GAD, the insurance, the gravel pit, and the volunteers.
- \* Safety-Kleen – contacted the headquarters about the unresponsiveness of the area representative in regards to the hazardous materials barrel pickup. They are investigating the matter.
- \* Dumpsters/Bears – GAD is fabricating bear-proof lids for the township (a bill will be received for this service when they are installed).
- \* Hall generator – Swick states that a direct line must be installed from the tank to the generator and estimates a cost of \$1,100, so this item is on hold.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

- \* Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Forest Planning Sessions
- \* Jarrod Biebel – ATV access improvement

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:15 pm

Comment was received from: Dave Kimar on bear prevention in dumpsters; Jarrod Biebel on attending DNR workshops for ORV trail advocacy; and Terry Lane on the cell tower delay.

Closed: 7:20 pm

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinances

The board discussed the following ordinances:

- (1) Municipal Civil Infractions
- (2) Ordinance Enforcement Officer
- (3) Recreational Marijuana Prohibition

The first two ordinances must be passed to build the framework for the third ordinance to be passed. As previously reported when the Civil Infractions item was discussed back in

Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Agency (LARA) will be releasing guidelines and rules on this matter within the next month. It was brought up that the township should investigate if this would affect any eligibility for federal funds. As the board felt any action taken should represent the wishes of the township residents, and that they did not feel they had enough public input at this time to make a decision; it was decided that a public hearing on this matter would be held at the next meeting.

B. Roads

The supervisor brought back a revised agreement with the Road Commission to increase the gravel to 6 inches depth. It was pointed out that this lessened the amount of work from half a mile to 3/10 of a mile.

A motion was made to accept the revised agreement from the Alger County Road Commission to improve Deerton-Sand Lake Road for 3/10 of a mile.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried (4-1).

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

C. Other Sexton Job

The clerk had overlooked placing this posting in the newspaper due to a busy schedule. She was also unsure of how much detail to list as she didn't have a copy of the job description. The supervisor said he would write the job posting for the clerk to submit. This item will be revisited next month.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Dry Hydrant Repair

The dry hydrant was repaired and in working condition.

A complaint was received about how the riprap rocks looked after the work on the dry hydrant. Dave Kimar, who had been contracted for the work, was present at the meeting and offered to revisit the site and have the rocks placed more neatly. In regards to the complaint about the unfinished painting on the hydrant, the chief explained they ran out of red paint, and had planned to finish it after buying more paint.

B. Board of Review letter of interest

A letter of interest in serving on the Board of Review was received from Edward Wood.

A motion was made to appoint Edward Wood to the Board of Review.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

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

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Opened: 7:40 pm

Comment was received from: Jerry Gerou on damage caused by Gerou Excavating to the culvert near his driveway during a contracted job and their refusal to acknowledge or fix it; Terry Lane on the difference in the gravel depth of 4 inches @ 5/10 mile vs. 6 inches at 3/10 mile (*Brian Bresette explained that because the county uses pit run as a subgrade building material, 4 inches of gravel is insufficient to create a proper road base over the large rocks often contained in pit run material, particularly after grading*).

Closed: 7:47 pm

**X. BOARD CONCERNS**

Catherine – asked about why tar patch was being used on the two sinkholes near the spring on M28 (not known why, and MDOT has not released a repair timeline for the culverts).

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar  
Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 9/3/19  
Approved: 10/7/19