

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm.

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor
Susan Kerst, Treasurer
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

Connie Lacko, Trustee
Brian Bresette, Trustee

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended (Add *D. Planning Commission term* and *E. Storage cabinet* under new business).

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Terry Pihlainen
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:

- » \$10,805.86 for the general fund, checks #3830 to #3861;
- » \$3,990.17 for the fire fund, checks #1746 to #1754; and
- » \$5,494.52 for the solid waste fund, check #1148.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Susan Kerst
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: Susan Kerst
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 detailed the activities listed in his report (*copy on file*).

D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report. A copy is on file.

A motion was made to approve \$971.20 for a new instrument cluster and to audit the check with next month's bills as requested by the department.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Susan Kerst
Terry Pihlainen
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

E. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette was out of the area and not able to attend the last meeting. The clerk stated that she had been asked to compile the recreation survey data, and that a new chairperson had not yet been appointed.

F. Supervisor Report

The supervisor reported on the following:

He will respond to the letters from Mary Ann Wagner (listed under correspondence).

- In regards to the portable toilet at the Deerton Post Office, Mrs. Wagner has involved approximately 25 individuals (DEQ, Alger Co Health Dept, Marquette postmaster, OSHA/MIOSHA, state senators / representatives, etc). All of the agencies and entities involved are satisfied that the situation as is meets all requirements for all regulatory agencies.
- He will also write her a letter explaining the variable costs of the dumpster rolloff in regards to why it was unable to be held this fall.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

The board received a significant amount of correspondence. Discussion was held as noted.

- A. MTA legislative update
- B. CUPPAD comment form
- C. Alger Co Building Dept – Shore Drive violation
- D. Adair Mika – thank you letter
- E. Shane Gibson – Burnings Road: Trustee Bresette stated that the old bridge from Karvonen Rd had been brought to Burnings Road by the Road Commission at the request of the township, and that the road had long been in use by local residents before any of the land along it was privately owned (as it dated back to when Nick Sigan was logging the area). Until the condition of the bridge degraded, the road was also used by residents who owned camps near Howes Lake and off Sigan Road. He felt that the road was not private due to the history of use and maintenance. The supervisor will contact the Road Commission and also contact the homeowner if needed, then report back to the board.
- F. Mary Ann Wagner (*2 letters – post office & dumpster rolloff/blight*) – discussed under supervisor report.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at 7:28 pm.

Comment was received from: John Highlen on the lack of odor from the portable toilet at the post office & that people should appreciate that the dumpster rolloff is an additional service provided by the township for the benefit of citizens; Linda Mathieu on consistency of dumpster rolloff dates; Terry Lane on hauling items to the dump; and an unknown resident on the extremely poor condition of the hard surface on Whitefish Road (the supervisor said he would discuss this with the Road Commission).

Public comment was closed at 7:35 pm.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Audit cost approval

A motion was made to approve up to \$4,200.00 for the annual audit.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Terry Pihlainen
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: Terry Pihlainen
Susan Kerst
Connie Lacko
Brian Bresette
Catherine Kimar

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Zoning Administrator resignation/job (ZA)

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Mark Woolard from the role of zoning administrator.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

The clerk mentioned she had added the ZA job opening to the post card that was recently sent out. The supervisor stated that a previous ZA, Michael Tietjen, had relocated back to the area – so it was possible he would be interested in the role.

B. Snowplow bids

The board asked the clerk to submit the snowplow bid request for printing in the Munising News & Alger County Shopper.

C. BS & A treasurer change

The treasurer presented the differences for the township to change from Manatron to BS&A for taxation purposes and recommended changing due to the higher quality/better updated software and compatibility with the assessing software.

A motion was made to change the township taxation vendor to BS&A from Manatron.

Motion: Catherine Kimar
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

D. Planning Commission term

The clerk said that according to the term expiration sheet, it looked like Linda Mathieu's term with the Planning Commission expired. As she was present, the board asked Linda if she would be interested in continuing to serve on the commission. Linda said that according to the letter she received, it was not up for another year, but she would get back to the board within a month. There was also uncertainty to if the Planning Commission terms were all two-year staggered terms or if some of the terms were three years (in order to stagger them). The clerk said she would check with MTA.

E. Storage Cabinet

Terry Lane reported that a storage cabinet from Menards would cost approximately \$360. However, he felt the quality of the cabinet would be poor (particle board construction) and it was likely that it would degrade similar to the current cabinet. He offered to build a storage cabinet at a lower cost.

A motion was made to approve up to \$275.00 for Terry Lane to build a storage cabinet for the kitchen.

Motion: Terry Pihlainen
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened at 7:47 pm.

Public comment was received from Delores Dolan – thanking the Zoning Administrator for his work.

Closed at 7:48 pm.

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Catherine – (1) the school said the street light at M28 & Sand River road was out – she reported it to Alger Delta today. (2) Recycling was requested in the recreation survey comments – should this be looked into? Brian said that the Wood Island Landfill (*where GAD takes the township waste*) does not offer any form of recycling program – so it is not possible for the township to offer recycling at this time.

No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Catherine Kimar
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Kimar
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 10/02/17
Approved: 11/06/17