

**ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor  
          Brian Bresette, Trustee  
          Connie Lacko, Trustee

Cheryl Lane, Treasurer  
Catherine Kimar, Clerk

**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: Connie Lacko  
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:

- » \$12,339.43 for the general fund, checks #5481-5513;
- » \$1,338.46 for the fire fund, checks #2114-19; and
- » \$7,072.46 for the solid waste fund, check #1242-44.

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: Brian Bresette  
Support: Cheryl Lane  
Motion carried.

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

Gen: 723,645.02
Fire: 337,271.01
SW: 127,322.97
Tax: 26,931.25

B. Assessor Report

The clerk read the report from the assessor (*copy on file*). He is working on land value determinations and a tax tribunal appeal. He also attended a state training recently and will present details of upcoming changes to the board at a future meeting.

C. Zoning Administrator Report

The clerk read the report from the zoning administrator (*copy on file*). One application for an addition was approved and forwarded to Alger County.

#### D. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report (*copy on file*). The fire department is still searching for a brush/rescue truck. The challenge has been the unusual combination of factors, such as size limitation (must fit in fire station), storage space for large equipment, reasonable cost, and a vehicle service record. The department will also be starting a cadet/explorer program for young people to be involved with firefighting. The chief hopes to have documents and forms for board review and approval by next month, as there is a state fire course coming up soon.

#### E. Planning Commission Report

- \* Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) needs a signed contract with the township to continue working on the Master Plan;
- \* Two commissioners are willing to assist the clerk with uploading minutes if needed;
- \* Wording for “accessory building” definitions will be reviewed after a recent permit denial; and
- \* They request that the Zoning Administrator attend their next meeting.

#### F. Supervisor Report

- \* Dumpster Rolloff – 77 pickup/trailer loads of garbage and 45 tires were brought for disposal of by township residents. There was a good number of volunteers. Next year, appliances with coolant/freon (refrigerators, AC units, etc) will no longer be accepted. There is no way to verify if the chemical has been properly removed, and the township was fined for disposal of multiple appliances that still had chemicals.
- \* Kitchen – should revise draft and finalize layout so that this project can be started soon.
- \* Pressure Washing – the vendor canceled the upcoming scheduled date to clean the township hall (due to cold weather and need to winterize equipment). This will be rescheduled for next year.
- \* Cemetery – still searching for a tree service with an arborist (rather than a removal service) that will try to preserve and promote the health of the tree that is diseased/dying.
- \* Tyoga – need to verify if the temporary outhouse has been removed.

#### G. Other Reports

Roads – Alger County Road Commission has been working on the planned Peter White Road project over the past 2-3 weeks, as well as repairing areas on Deerton-Onota Rd (and tentatively Onota Hill).

### V. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk read and summarized the correspondence.

- \* Kelly & Enrico Sassi – Burnings Rd condition, bridge replacement, and snow removal.
- \* Gary Johnson – Resident with blighted properties should be sent letters.
- \* MDOT – Called the clerk in response to her letter concerning vehicles going off-road and damaging the environment at roadside parks in the township (Deer Lake, M28 scenic turnouts). Split rail fences will be installed at the most damaged sites as an initial preventative step. The funding available for upkeep of these parks is very limited, as their agency objective is primarily road maintenance.

### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:19 pm

Comment was received from:

- \* Joan Potter-Sommer on blight enforcement, mitigation of environmental damage at MDOT roadside parks, and M28 traffic speeds being dangerous to local traffic and pedestrians;
- \* Terry Lane on the roof repair being completed;
- \* Massimo Enrico on contact details for the Burnings Rd request;
- \* Jerry Doucette on re-seeding dune grass (*Alger Co Conservation District may be able to help with this*) and the countywide concern of the M28 speed safety issue.

Additionally, Kelly Livermore and Jerry Doucette introduced themselves as candidates for the District 4 County Commissioner seat in the November election.

Closed: 7:37 pm

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Planning Commission Vacancy

The supervisor recommended the appointment of Ruby Miller to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the supervisor and appoint Ruby Miller to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

### B. New Computer

The supervisor had received specifications from the assessor regarding a new computer. A new monitor would also be needed. Based on previous computer purchases,

A motion was made to approve up to \$1,200 for the purchase of a new computer for the back office.

Motion: Catherine Kimar  
Support: Brian Bresette  
Motion carried.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Solid Waste Contract Review

The board reviewed the last received contract from Great American Disposal. Since it expired in 2018, the contract defaulted to a monthly basis. The clerk will scan/email the invoices from the past year to the supervisor, so he can obtain accurate cost estimates from other solid waste removal companies.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened: 7:50 pm

Comment was received from:

- \* Jim Gegare on results of the Master Plan survey being publicly available, and fire dept mutual aid;
- \* Joan Potter-Sommer on if the township would consider allowing green burials in the future;
- \* Lawrence Hendrick on the township hall building being cleaned; and
- \* Kelly Livermore on the goats escaping into traffic on the Deerton Road.

Closed: 7:58 pm

## X. BOARD CONCERNS

Connie – Asked about additional Michigan Township Association books being ordered.

Catherine – (1) An updated draft of the hall lease form and corresponding section of board policy will be presented next month; (2) Absentee ballots are available for the November 8 election.

Terry Pihlainen – Thanked the volunteers who helped at the dumpster rolloff.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Motion: Brian Bresette  
Support: Connie Lacko  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Onota Township Clerk

Proposed: 10/3/22

Approved: 11/7/22