

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
August 11, 2016

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Trustee Deneen Connell was absent. Also attending were John Kastelic, Bob Pieti, Ed Burger, Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Butch Karvonen, Jan Gerhardt, Lynne Gerhardt, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Dudley Martin, Frank Kastelic, and Kent Belt along with his father.

The minutes from the regular meeting on 7-14-16 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Treasurer's report was presented next. The Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next, many having to do with the recent primary election. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Robert Strykowski	Water Plant Operator, Grounds Maintenance, Fire Chief		459.97
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (39.18), 17 st. lights (174.17), fire hall (62.49)		275.84
A T & T	Office (57.15), Fire hall (31.91)		089.06
Mark Erhart	Assessor – August 2016 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Supplies & refunds from Fire Dept. & Water		173.74
A-1 Toy-Lets	Service on Park outhouse-7/20, 7/26		070.00
Mark Erhart	July 2016 tax bills - postage, envelopes, inserts		150.97
Apex Software	Annual renewal - sketching software		095.00
The Daily Mining Gazette	Ad - Public Accuracy assessment		074.40
Ed Burger	Election inspector - training, mileage & election		085.50
Janet Burger	Election inspector - training & election		070.00
Kelly Jarvi	Election inspector, receiving board & mileage		121.00
Frederick Jarvi	Election inspector - training, mileage & election		075.50
Suzanne Jarvi	Election inspector - training & election		070.00
Carol Normand	Election inspector - election		050.00
Anna Strykowski	Election inspector - training & election		070.00
Robert Strykowski	Election inspector - training, mileage & election		105.50
Cathy Witz	Election inspector, receiving board- election, etc.		080.00
Randall Witz	Election inspector - training, mileage, election		075.50
B S & A	Assessing system - annual service/support		381.00
Star Insurance Co.	July 4th coverage for FD		250.00

FIRE DEPT. FUND

General Fund	July 4th supplies & pumper handbook	029.40
Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc.	Crosslay net (120.87) - credit (113.50)	007.37

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1656 KWH)	340.35
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	478.19
White Water Assoc.	Water tests	068.00
Robert Strykowski	Mileage to Amasa - state required annual water samples	057.35

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1587 KWH)	327.42
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	111.36
Tony Burcar Contracting	Replacement of 2 lower pump bottom units	550.00

CORRESPONDENCE: The USDA has sent several requests that the Township have a program to deal with limited English proficiency in the community. The ISO (Insurance services Office) evaluated the building code which the Township uses (the one provided by the County). The Township is rated at Class 4 which is about in the middle. The information is used by insurance companies when determining insurance rates.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: New election equipment will be required by the State in a couple of years. However, the State is not paying for it totally as they did in 2004 when the current equipment was received. The cost to the Township could be \$3000-4000. The Township's operating millage was passed in the August Primary election. The vote on the Fire Department's millage request ended in a tie vote (18/18). Since it was a tie, it can be resubmitted and put on the November general election ballot. The Board members present all favored putting it on the November ballot. Since it had to be resubmitted by August 16th, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented a resolution to resubmit the millage ballot language for the November ballot. Trustee Bennetts seconded, and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." If it does not pass this time, more discussion about how to provide protection will take place. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had contacted a couple of other fire departments about possibilities of them covering the Township. He also pointed out that fire protection is not a required duty of a township. A lengthy discussion followed about other fire departments and how they are raising money. Many differing opinions were expressed. One person pointed out that FEMA no longer awards grants to communities that do not have a millage to support the local fire department. Many regulations are being made by the state legislature, which require the Township to keep everything updated and running.

NEW BUSINESS: The walls of the inside stairway to the office basement will need repairing sometime in the near future. Repairs that need to be done in the Hall were also discussed: stairwell walls fixed and a handrail for the inside steps. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown will discuss the Hall repairs with the FD Auxiliary in the fall. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown discussed the possibility of the Township consolidating with another township. He pointed out what it would mean in terms of local control and many other things.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported on Fire Department activities: business meeting two days before, 3 hours of pumper training on Saturday with everyone being recertified on the pumper, and 3 hours of training on Tuesday, August 16th in Lake Linden with other fire departments on how to put out propane tank fires (class work and live fire training in full gear for everyone). There were no callouts the past month.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that water samples sent in at the beginning of the month came back as okay. He recently did all of the state required annual water tests (pesticides, herbicides, volatile chemicals, etc.) and drove them to Amasa rather than mailing them. The results have been received and the tests were all okay. He contacted Larsen Well Drilling to set up the well renovation time. They said they will call about a week before they come after Labor Day. In preparation in case they decided to drill deeper, he contacted the DEQ and was told permission would not be given to drill the current wells deeper. If the well regeneration does not work, another well may have to be drilled away from the two current wells and would require a geology study first. Water consumption has increased substantially in recent days, but could be due to people watering gardens.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported that the sewer system is working okay, but he still has to clean the filters frequently because of things such as wipes being flushed. He thought a rough cage made out of chicken wire or something similar might work to keep those things from clogging up the filters.

POWER OUTAGES: When people use all the water during a power outage the pressure drops to zero and contamination can occur. Water then has to be boiled until the water tests okay. After the recent hours long outage, the bar owner transported the samples to get them checked quickly, since it really affects his business.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Trustee Bennetts said everything the committee has discussed at their last meeting was already brought up by others, and that many things they will need to discuss at the next meeting (8/17/16) were brought up tonight.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned about 7:50 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be at 6:30 PM on September 8, 2016

Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

Adeline Schmidt, Clerk