

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
October 12, 2016

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, Trustee Deneen Connell, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Visitors who spoke during the meeting were Joel Keranen, Schoolcraft Township Supervisor and Eric Hermanson, candidate for County Treasurer, accompanied by his wife, Marcie. Local people attending were John Kastelic, Bob Pieti, Ed Burger, Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Butch Karvonen, Jan Gerhardt, Lynne Gerhardt, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Kent Belt, Jay Piquette, and Clyde Casler.

The minutes from the regular meeting on 9-8-16 were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Treasurer's report was presented next. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next. There was some discussion and one correction made. Trustee Connell made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	October salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	October salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	October salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Deneen Connell	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Robert Strykowski	Water Plant Operator, Grounds Maintenance, Fire Chief		448.87
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (38.57), 17 st. lights (174.17), fire hall (49.71)		262.45
A T & T	Office (57.14), Fire hall (31.90)		089.04
State of Michigan	Unemployment insurance		062.23
Mark Erhart	Assessor – October, 2016 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Refunds from Com Hall Fd., FD, Aux., & Water		135.93
A-1 Toy-Lets	Service on Park outhouse-9/8 & 9/21/16		070.00
Bob Buzzo	Handrail -Comm. Hall interior basement steps		136.47
Keweenaw Petroleum Serv.	Prepay - 1500 gal. propane @ \$1.29/		1,935.00
Municipal Retirement Sys.	Retirement bookkeeping for 2016-2017		240.00

COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund - Int. step handrail (B.Buzzo), paint, stair treads, br hand rail (cr. cd.)	219.27
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FIRE DEPT. FUND

Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc.	Scott air-pak repaired	501.20
General Fund	Postage to send air-pak to Pomasl	014.15

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (981 KWH)	213.79
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	415.19
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples	034.00
Keweenaw Petroleum Serv.	Prepay - 500 gal. propane @ \$1.29/	645.00
RRI Water Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	687.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (672 KWH)	155.85
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	111.36

VISITORS: Joel Keranen introduced himself. He is the Supervisor of Schoolcraft Township, Houghton County, the township adjacent to Sherman Township. He discussed the problem of the stamp sands shifting/flowing from Gay to the Traverse River area, clogging up the waterway, and befouling the white sand beaches there. He also discussed ineffective "fixes" that have taken place. He asked the Board to pass a resolution to ask the State and Federal government for assistance in stopping the problem. The resolution would be added to those from other local government units, which will then be sent to the State and the Federal governments. The Board will look at the proposed resolution and will act on it at the next Board meeting in November.

Eric Hermanson introduced himself, gave a brief personal and work history, and described what he would do, what changes he would make, if elected to the office of County Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE: Michigan Labor Law posters need to be replaced for 2017. The Clerk asked the Board to okay ordering new ones and they did.

Updates on the retirement plan (a social security substitute) were presented and accepted.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Fire department had a workday in the Community Hall: treads put on interior basement steps, hand rail installed in bathroom, first floor window sills painted. The status of upcoming repairs was discussed: repair of basement stairwell wall, clean and repaint basement floor, drainage tile and sump pump for basement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski thanked all who helped on the recent pancake breakfast. The breakfast made \$1200 and netted \$938, with the bake sale (a new feature) making about \$120. Everything went smoothly, and setup and cleanup was shorter because of the experience the department is getting. The trucks were checked out the night before and water drafting training is planned for this Saturday at Kauppi's dock to check out the portable pumps. Training for two new volunteers is planned for the next year. One fire occurred causing a power outage--an electrocuted eagle caught on an electric pole caught the pole on fire. The power company put out the fire when they found it and did not call the fire department.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the wells are functioning as they had been--sucking air occasionally even though consumption is down. Both well drillers who had been contacted now say they don't think regeneration will help because they are so close together. They both now recommend just drilling another well far from the current ones. He contacted an engineer from UP Engineers about the problem who will come to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting and make recommendations. The DEQ has proposed changing the polyphosphate mixture, but WPO Strykowski would prefer to wait until the next water tests for copper/lead. He also asked if people in town notice the chlorine smell in the water even though it is at the lowest possible level. Several said they still notice it.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported that the system is working okay and that it probably will not need to be pumped this year because the solids (sludge) level was only about 6-7 inches when he checked it. He said he checked it three times to make sure. The contractor still plans to do more work this fall on the drainage around the blower and the meter junction.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Trustee Bennetts said they had not met a couple of months because of too many scheduling conflicts and people out of town, but they plan to meet next week--Oct. 19th.

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown received a letter from the Corps of Engineers about the Greensands part of the stamp sands (the Keweenaw County Road Commission area). Some of the area could be considered an historical area because it was part of the stamp mill. The letter was asking if the Township had any objections to the sand being removed from there.

The audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (done by the State) was received and the Township failed just as every other township in the area has. The corrective action plan (due by November 7) will be done by the Township's assessor. The report can be read on the Township's website:

<http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>.

Board of Review members need to be appointed at the December meeting. If anyone is interested, please let the Supervisor know.

LANGUAGE ACTION PLAN FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: The Clerk presented a plan to the Board for their review before the meeting next month. The Township is required to have such a plan by USDA - Rural Development because of the water and sewer loans.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned about 7:25 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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Adeline Schmidt, Clerk