

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
November 10, 2016

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Wednesday, November 10, 2016 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, Trustee Deneen Connell, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others attending were Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Bob Pieti, Jay Piquette, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, John Kastelic, Butch Karvonen, and Ed Burger. Minutes from the regular meeting on 10-12-16 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. Trustee Connell 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 about the greatly increased phone bill. Apparently the "contract" with the phone company must be renewed annually to keep a lower rate or they automatically increase it. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	November salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	November salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	November 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		459.97
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (46.60), 17 st. lights (174.17), fire hall (67.85)		288.62
A T & T	Office (123.96), Fire hall (31.86)		155.82
Mark Erhart	Assessor – November, 2016 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Off. Supplies, flag pole repair, refund from Water Fd.		209.71
41 Lumber	Supplies - re-do office basement steps walls		103.41
The Daily Mining Gazette	Ad - public accuracy test		074.40
Kelly Jarvi	Election inspector & receiving board		075.00
Janet Burger	Election inspector - 5 hrs.		050.00
Frederick Jarvi	Election inspector - 4 hrs.		040.00
Randall Witz	Election inspector - 5 hrs.		050.00
Bob Strykowski	Election inspector - 5 1/2hrs.		055.00
Anna Strykowski	Election inspector - 5 1/2hrs.		055.00
Suzanne Jarvi	Election inspector - 5 hrs.		050.00
Ed Burger	Election inspector - 5 hrs.		050.00
Cathy Witz	Election inspector, receiving board, mileage		065.50

FIRE DEPT. FUND

Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc.	Fire Dept. patches for turnout gear	138.69
Mark Truck Service	Repair fire truck - low air light	190.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (910 KWH)	200.48
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	448.55
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INVs 148989, 150160, 150229, 150528)	1,007.00
State of Michigan	Annual fee-community public water supply	399.62

WATER AMORTIZATION

USDA - Rural Development - Interest & principal on loans #91-09 & #91-11	5,421.87
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SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (490 KWH)	121.73
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	111.36

CORRESPONDENCE: A box of booklets "Climate Change Adaptation for Coastal Wetlands" was received from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). Copies may be obtained at the Township Office.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Several contractors were contacted about drainage improvement around the Community Hall for ideas on how to do it and for bids. A couple of them came to look at the job, but have not given bids yet. Other names of possible contractors were presented by people present.

LANGUAGE ACTION PLAN FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: A motion was made by Trustee Bennetts to accept the plan presented at the last Board meeting. Treasurer Kastelic seconded and all votes were "ayes." The Township is required by USDA - Rural Development to have such a plan because of the water and sewer loans. A copy will be sent to them.

TRAVERSE BAY REHABILITATION PROPOSAL: A copy of the Schoolcraft Township proposal has not yet been received so that the Sherman Township Board can offer its support.

2016 AUDIT OF MINIMUM ASSESSING REQUIREMENTS: A response of corrective actions to be taken for the deficiencies found by the State was sent to them. So far the State has not responded.

BOARD OF REVIEW: Members of the Board of Review will be appointed/reappointed at the December meeting. Volunteers are being sought. If more than three volunteer, the Board will vote on them at the December meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS: The Board members all ran unopposed. There were 63 voters (16 were absentee voters). The Fire Department millage passed 32(for) to 30(against) and will be on the December taxes. The money will be kept separate from the FD's regular checking account. It was decided a savings account would work best.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there were no callouts for the month. The pickup truck was winterized and put in storage. The other trucks were checked out the previous evening and were working okay. New radios have been received, but have not been put into service yet. By December it is expected that Negaunee ("911") will be ready to call out on them.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the wells are operating fine for this time of the year when full capacity is not needed. At the request of the DEQ, he contacted two more well drillers asking about the "acid wash" method of revitalizing wells. Neither well driller has gotten back to him. An engineer from UP Engineers attended the last Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting and informed them that a new well would probably run as high as \$100,000, with all the plumbing and electrical that would be involved. WPO Strykowski sent in a third round of water tests for copper/lead with wildly differing results from the same sources previously used and has come to the conclusion that the plumbing fixtures could be causing the different readings. The lead readings are fine, but the copper readings vary greatly for each test, some being too high for the standards one time, but okay the next. The DEQ representative said they could not do anything about it now, but they will discuss it when someone gets back to the office. A lengthy discussion followed about what could be causing the problem. The polyphosphate has been reduced and does not seem to be affecting the results. WPO Strykowski has not heard back from the electrician who was called about a backup power supply.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported a drain pipe and a junction box have been installed in the blower housing, and the timer was reset to run a few hours at night and a few hours during the day. Also, a lock was put on the gate to keep animals from getting in which could result in damage to the field. Overall the system is working okay.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee recently met with an engineer from UP Engineers who had information about new well costs. They plan to meet next week--Nov. 16th.

PLAYGROUND: During the election some people started discussing the need for playground equipment in the area. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown discussed the possibility of a grant (new program in February), the safety requirements that would have to be met, and the insurance coverage. A discussion followed about where it could be put. More information will be obtained for discussion.

CRITTERS IN TOWN: Technically only chickens (no roosters), cats, and dogs are allowed to be in town according to County zoning ordinances. Currently people have been questioning why there are horses, goats, and roosters here. The Township does not have the ability to enforce the ordinance and would have to rely on the County. The Supervisor will send a letter to the County asking for assistance.

TOWNSHIP PROPERTY: Trustee Connell suggested the land behind the lots on the north side of Fifth Street which used to be a street or alley (remnants of blacktop visible) be made into a trail for bike riding or walking. Ann Gasperich would have to be contacted to find out the specifics of where it is. There was some discussion about other happenings in town.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned about 7:35 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 6:30 PM.