

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
December 8, 2016

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 6:35 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, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, John Kastelic, Butch Karvonen, Ed Burger, Lynne Gerhardt, and Buddy Maynarich.

The minutes from the regular meeting on 11-10-16 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 Connell made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next. The expenses being incurred by the Water Department (repairs because of brownouts, expensive water tests, etc.) were discussed as well as recent repairs to the Sewer system. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	December salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	December salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	December 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		319.30
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (52.17), 17 st. lights (174.17), fire hall (68.05)		294.39
A T & T	Office (52.07), Fire hall (31.87)		083.94
Mark Erhart	Assessor – December, 2016 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Stamp, posters, tractor blades, W/F, FD, CHF refunds		571.52
Telrite Corporation	Long distance phone		005.83
Carl's Electrical Service	Repair Fire Hall peak light		076.00
Krans Oil Company, Inc.	Diesel for FD - 21.6 gal.		043.85
A-1 Toy-Lets, LLC	Services 10/5 & 10/19/16		070.00
Governmental Bus. Sys.	Program memory card for 11/8/16 General Election		280.00

FIRE DEPT. FUND

General Fund	Pay cr. cd., Fire Fighter I books, camera (incident recording)	202.69
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COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund	Pay cr. cd., sales signs for auxiliary sales	129.25
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (750 KWH)	170.48
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	248.77
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 150647)	034.00
JT Reno	WPO sub & training	220.00

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1117 KWH)	239.29
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	111.36
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	250.00
Tony Burcar Contracting	INV 609, labor & materials on sewer drain field	1,661.41

CORRESPONDENCE: The MI Department of Treasury sent another letter about a corrective action plan for Township's tax assessing not being received. When Supervisor Middlemis-Brown contacted them and said it had been sent in October, they admitted they lost it and requested another copy.

The Keweenaw County Road Commission will have its annual meeting 12/15/16 at 2 PM to discuss their 5-year plan.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Community Hall drainage improvement project will probably be done next spring. Any water discharged cannot be dumped on the old smelter foundations because of their historical significance. Otherwise, the water can be pumped that direction.

Previously, the Board had discussed passing a resolution to support Schoolcraft Township's efforts dealing with the shifting stamp sands, but had not yet passed one. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown handed out a copy of a resolution for

discussion. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept it, seconded by Supervisor Middlemis-Brown. On a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes."

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown explored playground equipment for the Park and found that it would cost \$8,000-10,000, plus special material for the ground under it. While grants might be available, the Township still would have to pay about \$2,500. A fundraising event would have to be done. At their spring meeting he will discuss it with the Auxiliary to see if they are interested.

Pictures of domestic farm animals in town that people wondered about were sent to the County Zoning person. Letters were sent to those owners telling them the zoning doesn't allow them.

Trustee Connell wondered about who owned land on the north side of Fifth Street. According to the County plat books the land was for an easement for utilities that no longer are there.

BOARD OF REVIEW: Four people offered to be on the Board of Review. Their names were presented. It was decided to have 3 regular members and one alternate. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that JT Reno, Mick Jarvi, and Sherry Middlemis-Brown be the regular members and Jay Piquette the alternate. Trustee Connell seconded and all votes were "ayes." Training will be provided for the two new members. A final meeting with the old BOR will be December 13, 2016.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there was one callout for the month--a tree on power lines over the road. A financial plan for the recently passed millage was discussed and accepted. The funds would be put into a separate savings account. The major portion-- \$9500-- would be used to purchase replacement vehicles (possibly in 2025 & 2028). The balance of \$1900 would go towards annual operating expenses, if needed. The Clerk presented a motion to approve the Fire Department's plan for the millage, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Treasurer Kastelic will open a regular savings account for the millage. Fire Chief Strykowski reported later in the meeting that he has the phone numbers of the repairmen for REA if we need to call them directly instead of relying on the 911 system to relay a message to the REA dispatcher then to the repairmen, and wondering if they got it.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the recent power outage/brownout damaged one pump in the water plant (JT had shut the others off). The recently installed piece of equipment meant to deal with brownouts was also damaged and did not do what it was expected to do. The electrician had to wait 2 weeks for parts and had come the previous evening to repair the pump. WPO Strykowski recommended the Township buy an extra part to keep on hand. He also reported the DEQ is requiring the Township to do another round of lead/copper tests even though it appears to be the faucets causing the varying high copper readings, not the water from the wells. The repeated tests have almost depleted the funds in the water account. He had presented the Board with copies of a detailed estimate from Kleiman Well Company in Iron Mountain that included for each well: videoing for diagnostics, acid washing, brushing and surging. They estimate each well would be down for three days. The estimate was about \$8,500 for each well. The DEQ is saying it has to be done because the well production has decreased so greatly--from 18 gallons/minute for over 8 hours when new down to 8 gallons/minute for only 1 hour before sucking air. The best time of the year would be now when fewer people are in town. Trustee Bennetts reported the Advisory Committee feels the work needs to be done. Trustee Connell made a motion that the proposal for well rehabilitation be accepted, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." Trustee Connell questioned whether or not the rates would have to be raised. The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee will have to discuss it and make recommendations. To keep from having expensive well repairs every time there is a brownout, it was suggested that a generator be purchased for the water plant. WPO Strykowski has looked into getting one with an estimate being \$3500 for a portable generator. Ideally it would be a propane generator that comes on automatically.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported the system is working okay. The drain pipe that was installed in the blower housing is working and the timer has been reset to run a few hours at night and a few hours during the day.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee wondered how much is put into each of the RRI funds. It was suggested that more could be put in annually. They plan to meet next week--Dec. 14th.

OATHS: Each Board member took the oath of office and signed the book.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned about 8:20 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM