

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
January 12, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 6:32 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, and Butch Karvonen.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for public comment and Trustee Bennetts brought up how jarringly rough the condition of the Gay-Lake Linden Road is from Big Traverse Road into Houghton County--the section that Houghton County has agreed to plow. A discussion followed with everyone agreeing that complaints needed to go to both county road commissions. Next the minutes from the regular meeting on 12-8-16 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. Treasurer Kastelic commented that a new savings account has been opened for the Fire Department millage and that the rate for unemployment insurance this next year was greatly reduced. 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. One bill was deleted because it was already paid. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had called the Keweenaw Co. Road Commission about the bill they sent for the sign for Coal Dock Road. They reported that it probably was stolen and that the Township is responsible for road signs. Trustee Connell made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	January salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	January salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	January 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		284.13
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (61.66), 17 st. lights (178.33), fire hall (80.85)		320.84
A T & T	Office (62.16), Fire hall (31.87)		094.03
Mark Erhart	Assessor – January, 2017 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Stamps, cleaning & office supplies, FD refund		404.44
Bev Spehar	Board of Review - 1 hr.		010.00
Sheryl Middlemis-Brown	Board of Review - 1 hr.		010.00
MI Municipal League WC	Balance due on Workers' Comp insur. 7/1/15-7/1/16		006.00
Keweenaw Co. Road Com.	Replace Coal Dock road sign (disappeared)		041.66
David Heinonen	Tax form preparation: W-2, W-3, 1096, 1099,944		152.00
State of Michigan	Unemployment insurance		063.69
US Treasury	Medicare		609.48

FIRE DEPT. FUND

General Fund	Pay cr. cd., replace pumper spotlights & wheel chocks	300.97
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1125 KWH)	240.79
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	199.00
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 151077)	034.00
JT Reno	Water Pl. Operator sub (12/17/16-1/4/17)	190.00
City of Houghton	Chlorine @ \$4/gal.	040.00
RRI Water Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	687.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1322 KWH)	277.72
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	109.34
Tony Burcar Contracting	INV 612, sewer drain field repair on pump alarms	148.75

SEWER AMORTIZATION

USDA - Rural Development	Loan #92-02 interest	2,542.50
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CORRESPONDENCE: This summer there will be repair work done on the 90' culverts going under the Gay-Lake Linden Road at the Traverse River.

Torch Lake Industries received a 5-yr. permit from MI DEQ to dredge up to 100,000 cubic yards at the end of Coal Dock Road.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The three members of the Board of Review (JT Reno, Mick Jarvi, & Sherry Middlemis-Brown) have all been sworn in. The alternate member (Jay Piquette) will be sworn in when needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there was one callout for the month--December 13th in the middle of the night. The Casler home had filled with smoke from a malfunctioning furnace and all alarms were going off. A discussion followed about how long it took to get the callout--about 17 minutes. Several other instances when the 911 system didn't know locations within the Township were discussed, as well as upcoming changes to the radio system currently in use. At the monthly FD meeting the trucks were okay when checked out.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that Kleiman Well Company would probably be coming the following week to do the work on the first well. It will take 3-4 days and everyone will be called and asked to minimize their water usage, including the bar. During the week is a better time when fewer people are in town. Otherwise, everything was working okay. The most recent power outage was not a brownout and did not affect the system.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti asked who should get the 2016 sewer report. He also reported on work he has done around the area and that the system is working okay. A discussion followed about how much snow is piling up around the area he has to check and who would be taking care of it.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee plans to meet January 18th. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked them to discuss how people behind in paying their water/sewer bills might best be dealt with.

LAND DIVISION: Robert (Buddy) Maynarich requested a land division, splitting almost in half the property where his house and barn are. There was some discussion about why the Township has to approve land divisions and about how it is done. With no objections to the division, the Clerk made a motion to approve it, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

BOARD OF REVIEW: The new BOR member (JT Reno) is registered for training.

DEBT COLLECTION ON UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS: A recent article from MTA stated that liens could be put on property for unpaid water/sewer bills. The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee will discuss the problem for solutions. If too many bills are behind, water and sewer rates may have to be raised in order for the Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. bills to be paid.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned about 7:24 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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Adeline Schmidt, Clerk