

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
February 9, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, Trustee Deneen Connell, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Bob Pieti, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, John Kastelic, Butch Karvonen, Jay Piquette and daughter Julie Castle, Dudley Martin, Ed Burger, Rob Warner, and Sheriff Bill Luokkanen.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for public comment. Dudley Martin questioned why the water/sewer bills might be going up as it was stated in the minutes from the previous meeting. The Supervisor said it was slated to be discussed later. Recently elected Sheriff Bill Luokkanen was introduced and invited to speak. He gave a brief history of his many years in the area, then asked for any concerns people have about things happening in the Township. Next he discussed the types of local problems and how similar they are to big city problems (drugs, trespassing, etc.) He also talked about a newly hired deputy, the jail not being used for lengthy stays, and an activity for this summer--a public safety day (August maybe) at the park in Mohawk to display what equipment is available in the County. The canine unit that is coming will be used in searching for lost people, searching for drugs, and building relations with kids in schools. Right now the nearest canine unit is many hours away. The sheriff's office is the only law enforcement in the County and provides coverage 24/7. All medical first responders in the County are now under the Sheriff Dept.'s first responder license. All actions covering medical, law enforcement, searches, marine problems, snow mobile problems, or criminal investigation flow through the Sheriff's office--which is a unique setup within the State of Michigan. He gave some statistics of how many people came through the County last year: about 400,000 in Copper Harbor, at Mt. Bohemia--over 1000/day on weekends. All the snow mobile trails, mountain biking trails, expansion of the ski hill, and increased tourism means increased activity for the Sheriff Department.

Next the minutes from the regular meeting on 1-12-17 were presented. It was agreed that the wording needed to be changed in the last paragraph to "Too many bills are behind and water..." Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes with the change in wording, Treasurer Kastelic 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, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Treasurer Kastelic commented that the Township still owes the USDA \$262,000 on the 3 loans for the water and sewer systems. The bills were presented next. After some discussion Trustee Connell made a motion to pay all of the bills except the Kleiman bill, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	February 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		415.55
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (59.60), 17 st. lights (178.33), fire hall (79.40)		317.33
A T & T	Office (62.11), Fire hall (31.82)		093.93
Mark Erhart	Assessor – February 2017 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	BOR training, signs, gar. dr. opener, W/S & FD refund		433.40
Mark Erhart	Postage, printing, paper for Dec. 2016 tax bills		155.13
Krans Oil Company	20 gal. diesel		040.86

FIRE DEPT. FUND

General Fund	Pay cr. cd., Copperdog 150 signs & reflective tape	106.72
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (969 KWH)	211.54
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	357.30
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 151491, 151613)	051.00
Carl's Electric Service, LLC	Water plant-replace variable frequency drives , etc.	1,020.00
Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling	Rehab on Well #1	8,478.54

RRI WATER SAVINGS

Water checking account	Funds transfer to pay Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling	8,478.54
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SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1368 KWH)	286.35
General Fund	SPO salary, empl. contri., pay cr. cd. - stamps	156.34

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk attended a demonstration of one brand of voting equipment. New equipment will be required soon. The State has federal money to help pay most or all of the cost. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown received initial information from the Census Bureau for the 2020 census that described what the Township has to do first--verify the boundaries and where people live.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had contacted the Keweenaw County Road Commission about the poor condition of the Gay-Lake Linden Road the beginning of February and was told complaints would be more affective if directed to Houghton County Road Commission because that stretch is their responsibility. The recent land division application was approved but the fee was sent to the assessor instead of the Township. Eventually the assessor will get it because his charges are based on the number of parcels the Township has. After reviewing all the existing ordinances for the sewer and water systems, the Water/Sewer Committee found that late fees can be applied, disconnect/reconnect fees can be charged, that unpaid balances overdue by 90 days or more can be put on the tax bill as a lien once a year, and that change of property ownership does not eliminate the unpaid balance or fees. After much discussion, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown made a motion that the Township follow the ordinances, that letters be sent to all users in the next bill informing them the ordinances will be followed, and that those behind be informed within the next week by registered letter. Trustee Connell seconded the motion and all votes were "ayes." The committee also found in the ordinances that the Township has a legal right to enter houses to determine if sump pumps is being emptied into the new sewer.

IRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there were no callouts for the month of January and the trucks were okay when checked out at the monthly FD meeting. The two newest fire fighters have taken their written exams and will take their practical exams this upcoming weekend. Four members had CPR and AED retraining recently and passed. The new radios are being used now and problems/kinks are being worked out.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that both wells are back up and running. The water samples have been coming back fine. The original bid/estimate from Kleiman Well Company was for about \$8500, but the bill was for about \$10,700. The reconditioning process on the one well did not do anything to improve the water flowing into it. A lengthy discussion followed about why the bill was \$2000 over the bid, why the existing wells cannot be drilled deeper, why they were placed so close together, the costs for a new well, and many other factors which the Water/Sewer Committee will have to consider. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown made a motion that the original estimate for the Kleiman bill be paid now and they be contacted to explain the increase before the rest is paid. Trustee Bennetts seconded and all votes were "ayes." Supervisor Middlemis-Brown will explore ways to get permission to drill the wells deeper. WPO Strykowski suggested the Township buy an extra variable frequency drive to keep on hand in order to reduce the time the repair takes the next time. Another lengthy discussion followed, but no decision was made.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported that the system is working okay.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The next meeting will be February 15th--the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Township office. The current water and sewer budgets will be gone over. Copies of the budgets and itemized lists for some categories were provided. Minutes of the Committee meetings can be viewed online at the Township's website:  
<http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>.

BOARD OF REVIEW: The organizational meeting will be March 7th. The open meetings will be March 13, 3-9PM and March 14, 9Am-3PM. The assessor will be present on the 13th and available by phone on the 14th.

BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGES: The Supervisor will not be available for the meetings in May and July. It was decided to move the May meeting to Wednesday, May 10th, but to leave the July meeting at the regularly scheduled time.

TRUTH-IN-TAXATION MEETING: The Truth-in-Taxation meeting is scheduled for 6:00PM before the next regular Board meeting.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be at 6:30 PM on March 9, 2017. Prior to the regular meeting will be the Truth-in-Taxation meeting at 6:00 PM the same evening.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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Adeline Schmidt, Clerk