

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
March 9, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Trustee Deneen Connell was absent. Others in attendance were Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Bob Pieti, Butch Karvonen, Dudley Martin, and Ed Burger.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for public comment. Dudley Martin commented that someone told him they would come to the meetings if the ramp was cleaned off. A lengthy discussion followed about how it has to be shoveled by hand and how best to keep the snow from building up so quickly. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown said it would be cleared for the upcoming Board of Review.

The minutes from the regular meeting on 2-9-17 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Treasurer's report was presented next. 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 double entry needed correcting. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Supervisor remembered that the balance on the Kleiman bill had not been paid. Trustee Bennetts made another motion to pay it, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Robert Strykowski	Water Plant Operator, Grounds Maintenance, Fire Chief		426.66
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (50.71), 17 st. lights (169.49), fire hall (64.95)		285.15
A T & T	Office (62.12), Fire hall (31.83)		093.95
Mark Erhart	Assessor – March 2017 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	Refunds - W/F (chems,reg. lttrs) & Aux (Allergen tr.)		163.26
John Deere Financial	Second annual payment on Twp. tractor (2nd of 5)		3,290.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (835 KWH)	179.57
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	510.64
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 151795)	034.00
Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling	Balance on Well #1rehab	2,277.54

RRI WATER SAVINGS

Water checking account	Funds transfer to pay Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling	2,277.54
------------------------	--	----------

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1320 KWH)	266.53
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	109.34
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	250.00

WELL STATUS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown gave an account of his recent contacts with the DEQ to discuss increasing the water flow by increasing the bore size of the current wells, fracking the rock at the bottom, or drilling deeper. The DEQ said they would not approve any of the suggestions, and either a new well needed to be put in or the Township could just wait and see what happens with the current well. He also had contacted Senator Casperson's office to discuss the problem to try to find a solution. They offered to set up a conference call between the USDA, the DEQ, the Township, and their office. A very lengthy discussion followed. More discussion will take place at the Water/Sewer Committee meeting to be held March 15th at 6:00 PM in the Township Office which is open to the public.

OTHER PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Board of Review will be meeting the following Monday, March 13th, 3-9 PM and on March 14th, 9 AM-3 PM. Registered letters were sent to the water/sewer users who are seriously overdue on paying their bills. It was explained that the overdue balance could have a late fee placed on it and that it all would be put on their tax bills as a lien. Several have responded by paying the balance due or a substantial amount on it. Notices explaining the new policy will be sent out to every user in the April 1st bills, as well as notices that the sewer ordinance states that houses may be inspected to determine that their sump pumps are hooked up correctly.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there were no callouts for the month of February and that the Fire Department did provide safety coverage at 4 crossings of the Copper Dog 150 Sled Dog Race. At the recent meeting he left early because he was called to a medical emergency in Gay. The Supervisor continued the report stating the trucks were checked out and run, and the plans for the upcoming pancake breakfast the Saturday before Mother's Day were discussed. The two newest fire fighters both passed the written and practical exams with high scores.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the water plant was running satisfactorily. There was one power outage recently on a very windy day. It affected the water plant and a few other buildings in town, but not all the houses. One of the boxes housing a valve was recently broken by the snow plow and will need to be fixed this spring. The water samples will be going in the next week. He'll be going to a water conference April 18-19 in Gladstone, MI.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bob Pieti reported everything appears to be working okay.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The next meeting will be March 15th--the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Township office. Subjects that will be discussed are the situation with the wells and how to cover depreciation of both systems in the budgets without raising user fees. The public is welcome. Minutes of the Committee meetings can be viewed online at the Township's website: <http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>.

COMMUNITY HALL DRAINAGE PROJECT: Water seeps through the walls into the basement of the Hall. There are no drains or sump pumps and it pools up in various areas. The proposed solution is to put drainage pipe most of the way around the Hall and drain it over the hill onto the County's property. The County has given permission to drain it there. No cost estimates have been received from contractors. It will not be tax dollars funding the project, but it will be paid for through donations.

OFFICE RAMP: Recognizing that the ramp needs to be kept open every month for public meetings, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown opened up the meeting for suggestions on how to keep it cleaned off. There was a long discussion and many suggestions were given: a small self-propelled snow blower, enclose the ramp, use the Fire Hall for public meetings, put in an elevator or lift. At the end Ed Burger offered to let the Township try a small snow sweeper he has to see if it would work.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be at 6:30 PM on April 13, 2017.