

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
April 13, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, MSupervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, JT Reno, Butch Karvonen, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, and John Kastelic.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for public comment. Sherry Middlemis-Brown announced there would be elections on April 20th for the Conservation District Board at the county level (Keweenaw and Houghton). It will be held at the old theater in Houghton at 5 PM. One issue they will be dealing with is the major land holding company in the area is planning to clear cut all their land in the future as a cost cutting measure. Voting is for registered voters from those counties and can be done absentee. Contact Sherry Middlemis-Brown for more information. Another person asked what could be done about a trailer in the town that has turned into an eyesore. Many felt something needs to be done and suggestions were made to call a few County departments. The minutes from the Truth in Taxation Meeting on 3/9/17 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next, the regular meeting minutes on 3/9/17 were presented. Treasurer Kastelic made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Connell 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." The bills were presented next. Changes that needed to be made were the addition of dues for the Fire Department to the local FD group and a check for JT Reno for his work covering the sewer. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Treasurer Kastelic noticed that a bill was missed, the one for the snow/ice removal on the ramp. Trustee Connell made a motion that it be paid, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	April salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	April salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	April salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Deneen Connell	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Robert Strykowski	Water Plant Operator, Grounds Maintenance, Fire Chief		339.66
JT Reno	Sewer Plant Operator		092.55
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (60.60), 17 st. lights (169.49), fire hall (73.27)		303.36
A T & T	Office (62.12), Fire hall (31.83)		093.95
Mark Erhart	Assessor – April 2017 fee		380.00
Card Member Service	Tr. comp. repair, off. supplies, W/F (env. & conference)		303.04
Telrite Corporation	Long distance phone		006.47
State of MI	Unemployment insurance		028.50
Frederick Jarvi	Board of Review - 13 hours @ \$10/		130.00
JT Reno	Board of Review - 13 hours @ \$10/		130.00
Sheryl Middlemis-Brown	Board of Review - 14 hours @ \$10/		140.00
Warren Brown	Parts for wiring counter in Community Hall		024.89
Mark Erhart	Assessment, personal property, & BOR notices		135.47
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - April 2017		200.00
Tony Burcar	Remove ice & snow from Office ramp		222.00

FIRE DEPT. FUND

Calumet Floral & Gifts	1/2 on flowers for Mears funeral	029.15
UP Health System - Portage	BLS certification class for 4 - 2/7/17	140.00

COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund	Repay for counter wiring in Com. Hall	024.89
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1002 KWH)	209.51
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit card - postage	398.53
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 152095)	034.00
JT Reno	Water plant operator sub (3/19-3/31/17)	130.00
RRI Water Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	687.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1540 KWH)	305.97
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	109.34
State of Michigan	Groundwater Annual Permit fee	200.00
Designotype Printers	New checks for Sewer Fund	135.00

CORRESPONDENCE: The request for the annual report came from USDA - Rural Development. The Clerk requested the figures from the operators of the Water and Sewer Plants. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown received a request from the Census Bureau for updated contact information.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: JT Reno, chosen to be chairman of the Board of Review, gave a brief report about their recent meeting. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown also mentioned that JT had agreed to do the snow removal on the Office ramp in the future, to be paid by the hour. Contractor Tony Burcar measured the Community Hall the previous day to make up a cost estimate for the drainage project around the Hall. A discussion followed about whether it was really needed. Hopefully it will reduce the dampness and frequent puddles in the basement. The plan is that it will be paid for with donations, not tax dollars. Other things Tony Burcar is contracted to do this year are to fix a bent water valve down on 5th Street and flush the sewer drain field.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Strykowski reported there were no callouts this past month. At the recent meeting the preparations for the Pancake Breakfast on May 13th were discussed (menu, bakery sale, tickets, advertising) and the three trucks were checked out and run. Also on the schedule is cleanup at the Hall on May 6th. On April 29th there will be a training session: drafting water at Big Traverse boat launch using the tanker truck, depositing it in a portable tank, then drawing it from that tank with the pumper truck to put on a fire.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the water plant was running okay. He'll be sending in water samples the next week. It was shut down one day due to high winds. JT Reno covered for him while he was gone a couple of weeks.

WELL STATUS: WPO Strykowski and Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had a 90 minute conference call set up by Senator Casperson's office with people in the DEQ, USDA, and UP Engineers. The only recommendation given by those people was to put in another well at least 300 feet away from the current wells. Drilling deeper in the current wells was unacceptable in their expert opinions. Estimated cost would be between \$40,000 and \$100,000. They also recommended increasing the water rates stating that many communities are charging much more per month. A lengthy discussion followed. More discussions are planned for the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee and in public meetings.

WATER/SEWER BILLS: There was a discussion about the water ordinance stating that bills must be paid by the 15th of the month. It was realized that that might not be enough time for people living elsewhere to pay their bills. Changing the ordinance was not acceptable. Therefore, in order to give everyone 30 days to pay, it was decided to send out the bills two weeks sooner, about the 15th of the month before the bill payments are due.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator JT Reno reported everything is working okay. He plans to check the solids when it gets a little warmer. He also reported the water level in the system has remained about the same which may mean sump pumps are not being emptied into the system. People still are calling the previous sewer plant operator. Notices need to be changed in order for them to know to call JT instead.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The next meeting will be April 19th--the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Township Office. Subjects that will be discussed are ways to pay for large ticket items coming up, a needed increase in rates, and when to have public meetings to discuss the situation with the wells. The public is welcome. Minutes of the Committee meetings can be viewed online at the Township's website:

<http://keweenawcountyonline.org/township-sherman.php>.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on the regular date- May 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

Adeline Schmidt, Clerk