

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
May 11, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 6:32 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, JT Reno, Ed Burger, Sherriff William Luokkanen, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, and John Kastelic. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for public comment. Sherriff Luokkanen presented the "file of life" program his department has started. If "911" receives a call for someone with a medical issue, it saves time for first responders to figure out what the problem is. The file consists of a sticker for the front door and a magnetic hanger which is hung on the refrigerator and holds a card with all the person's medical information and contacts. He gave the Township a stack of them for distribution in the area. He also told about the new canine program. The dog is a Dutch shepherd and has gone through training along with the handler. Pictures of the dog are on the Sherriff's Facebook page. The Public Safety Day for Keweenaw County that he discussed at a previous meeting is tentatively going to be on July 22nd at the park in Mohawk. Equipment that various fire departments have will be on display and demonstrated. A lengthy discussion followed about several issues: problems with the "911" system and the new radios, how the Sherriff's Department runs without someone always in the office, how township blight ordinances could be enforced, and many other things. After the Sherriff left, other safety and blight problems within the Township were discussed. The regular meeting minutes on 4/13/17 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. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next. There was a discussion about the expense for the B S & A bill. Treasurer Kastelic made a motion to accept the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	May 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		347.06
JT Reno	Sewer Plant Operator, WPO sub		194.35
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (44.86), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (66.87)		272.38
A T & T	Office (62.17), Fire hall (31.88)		094.05
Mark Erhart	Assessor – May 2017 fee		370.00
Card Member Service	FD, CHF, W/F refunds, repair supplies, clock, & signs		750.12
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - May 2017		200.00
B S & A Software	Tax system - annual service/support fee		384.00

FIRE DEPT. FUND

Calumet Floral & Gifts	1/2 on flowers for Rose Burger funeral	029.15
General Fund	Pay cr. cd. - griddle & markers	035.59
CC Volunteer FF Assoc.	Annual dues 2017	030.00

COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund	Hall dehumidifier balance, special hooks for antlers	057.61
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (774 KWH)	162.20
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit cd. - Hotel, dehumidifier	742.08
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (INV 152688)	034.00
Robert Strykowski	Mileage to Gladstone water conference @ .31/	112.84

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1440 KWH)	276.09
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	109.34

WATER AMORTIZATION

USDA - Rural Development	Loans #91-09 & #91-11 interest	3,175.00
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CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk viewed an online presentation that briefly outlined the upcoming 2020 Census. The next basic step will be to verify the Township's boundaries. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown is also a contact person and will also be receiving information from them.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: There was a leak in the roof of the Community Hall recently. It will be fixed as soon as possible. Two other contractors were contacted about the drainage problem. They did not think it would be wise to dig a trench along the foundation because of the condition of the mortar. Both felt the problem was the standing water between the buildings and they both suggested roof gutters to catch the water. To keep the water from standing in between the buildings one contractor suggested draining it away in a swale, the other to drain it away in an underground drainage pipe. Their estimates for somewhat different ways were \$5375 and \$5896. There would be an additional cost for foundation sealing: \$1264. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown plans to talk to the Auxiliary about helping with the funding, maybe at the fall meeting. John Kastelic suggested the swale be put in now to see how doing just that part works before deciding on the roof gutters. Trustee Bennetts and others agreed with him. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown will contact the contractors for the cost of doing just that part for now.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Mothers' Day Breakfast will be Saturday, May 13th. Fire Chief Strykowski reported there were no callouts this past month.

WATER DEPARTMENT: The damaged valve on 5th Street has been repaired. The mud still needs to be cleaned out of it. Water Plant Operator Strykowski reported that the water plant was running okay. He has been inquiring about the costs of replacement pumps in case there is a need for it.

WELL STATUS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown contacted two engineering companies for estimates on putting in a new well and for recommendations where it would be best to put it. He described different ways that the system could be set up and said that it probably will have to be done again before 30 years; therefore, money needs to be put aside for it. He plans to have a meeting this summer of all the users for their input.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: The contractor has been working on the drain field. They are putting "y's" on the ends of the pipes in the drain field to facilitate flushing out the pipes annually. Sewer Plant Operator JT Reno reported everything appears to be working okay. However, the alarm goes off now and then, possibly due to the high water levels recently. He also mentioned that the filters will need to be cleaned soon.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Trustee Bennetts commented that fixing the drain field so that it can be flushed regularly and using the sludge stick to confirm when the tanks need pumping is saving the Township money since the tanks don't have to be pumped as often. The next meeting will be May 17th--the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Township Office. The public is welcome. Minutes of the Committee meetings can be viewed online at the Township's website:

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

BLIGHT ORDINANCE: When contacted by Supervisor Middlemis-Brown none of the townships in the county have blight ordinances because of inability to enforce them. Also, the County does not have one, having left it up to the townships. A lengthy discussion followed about events happening with one condemned property in town.

DRAINAGE ALONG 2nd STREET: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown contacted the County to ask them to put a ditch from the large puddle that forms next to the old fire hall to the edge; they said they don't plan to do it due the 4 ft depth of the ditch.

RESOLUTION FOR ELECTION EQUIPMENT GRANT: The Clerk laid out what the State is providing for Townships to purchase new voting equipment. Trustee Bennetts offered the resolution that the Sherman Township Clerk be authorized to submit the grant application (when it becomes available) on behalf of Sherman Township. Treasurer Kastelic seconded; and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes", with one Board Member being absent.

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP PARK: The Park officially will be opened for the season on May 25th. Arrangements have been made for the outdoor toilet to be cleaned and for July4th portable toilets.

INSURANCE: The Township's insurance company merged with another insurance company. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown will be meeting with a representative on May 31st. While the insurance is going up about \$200, a dividend has been received for \$682 from the company.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on the regular date- June 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM.