

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
August 10, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, August 10, 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, Jay Piquette and daughter Julie, Ken Robarge, Ed Burger, Dudley Martin, Clyde Casler, Butch Karvonen, Lynne Gerhardt, Bev Spehar, John Kastelic, and Frank Kastelic. The regular meeting minutes on 7/13/17 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. The Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	August 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		459.97
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 7/2017		185.10
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (39.74), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (47.52)		247.91
A T & T	Office (62.21), Fire hall (31.92)		094.13
Mark Erhart	Assessor – August 2017 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - August		200.00
Card Member Service	W/F & FD refunds-July 4th supplies, postage		129.41
A-1 Toylets	Service on Park outhouse 7/12, 7/19, 7/26/17		105.00
The Daily Mining Gazette	Public Accuracy Test ad		075.00
B S & A Software	Annual service/support fee - assessing system		384.00
Apex Software	Sketching software - annual renewal		095.00
Janet Burger	Election Inspector - 4 hours		040.00
Cathy Witz	Election Inspector - 4 hours, Receiving Board - 1 hour		050.00
Kelly Jarvi	Election Inspector - 9.5 hours, Receiving Board - 1 hour		105.00
Frederick Jarvi	Election Inspector - 4 hours		040.00
Robert Strykowski	Election Inspector - 5.5 hours		055.00
Anna Strykowski	Election Inspector - 4 hours		040.00
Randall Witz	Election Inspector - 5 hours		050.00
Ed Burger	Election Inspector - 4 hours		040.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Pay credit card - July 4th supplies & antifreeze	112.30
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1696 KWH)	319.87
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit cd. - postage	423.86
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water samples (4) E. coli & (5) lead/copper tests	193.00
City of Houghton	7.5 gal. chlorine @ \$3.90/	029.25

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1248 KWH)	243.26
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	218.68

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had met with the committee involved in the stamp sand removal project. Current plans are to use off-road trucks following shoreline routes in early spring. It will probably take about 10 days. Other public meetings will be held this winter before getting the final permit. The Keweenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has asked the Township to name sites owned by the Township that might need remediation and/or may be available for development in the future. Trustee Bennetts, who is on that committee, informed the Board that WUPPDR is working on a grant to help with blighted properties. The list of sites is not needed until later and will be discussed at the next meeting. The 2020 Census process has started. Supervisor

Middlemis-Brown has received some information and training. Additional forms that validate the information (roads, addresses, buildings, etc.) which they currently have are next. The DEQ recently did a Shoreline Recession Rate Study on Lake Superior which was discussed at a recent meeting. It may lead to restrictions on building in high risk erosion areas.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown outlined variations on a "Blight Ordinance" and how it might work or create other complications. He asked to Board what they want to do. Everyone expressed not wanting to do anything at this time because of the problems of enforcement and of defining what "blight" means to someone else. The Supervisor discussed the ordinance requirements covering water/sewer service connections. Connections can only be made to a habitable structure. Several questions came up about camping, gray water, the Park hydrant, and other things. Trustee Connell mentioned a rule/law called "Subdivision 21-04" that might apply to the situation. She also commented that people could buy a property, tear down the structure, and set up a camping area reducing the value of property in the area. A very lengthy discussion followed about possibilities and how current ordinances (County and Township) would apply. Possible loopholes in the ordinances were also discussed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown reported on the recent Fire Dept. meeting at which Fire Chief Strykowski resigned as Fire Chief and Mike Jarvi was elected to replace him. Also discussed at that meeting was the USDA-Rural Development grant proposal for \$7000 which would go towards a large pickup truck to replace the DNR brush truck. Since this was the last year for this type of grant and, being a federal grant, it would have to be used by September 30th, it was voted to proceed on the grant. The Fire Dept. voted to put in \$6500 and the FD Auxiliary agreed to donate \$6500 towards the purchase of a 3/4 ton truck and a mini-pump for the cargo area. After the FD meeting report, a lengthy discussion followed about why the truck would be needed and where the money would come from temporarily to pay the bills for the truck and the equipment. Trustee Connell made a motion that money from the General Fund be used for the various equipment bills until the USDA-RD reimbursements come in. Trustee Bennetts seconded the motion and all votes were "ayes." Many other questions came up and were answered by the Supervisor. The Clerk made a motion to accept Mike Jarvi as interim Fire chief, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee had met the evening before and agreed to make the recommendation to increase the water rate by \$15/month. Trustee Bennetts explained that the Committee felt the Township was behind on saving money for a new well, not having raised the rate for many years, thus the full amount should be added. After much discussion, Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the water rate increase of \$15/month be started on October 1, 2017 which will be reflected on the bill mailed out in late December which covers water for October, November, and December. Trustee Connell seconded and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." The advisory committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13th--at 6:00 PM in the Office. The public is welcome. Committee meetings minutes can be viewed online at the website:

www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, then "township officials"-Sherman Township

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts reported that everything appears to be working fine except for an occasional odor. There does not seem to be any correlation to how much is processed and how much water is produced.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SIGN: Supervisor Middlemis -Brown suggested putting up an informational sign in front of the Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS: The owner of the Gay Bar is willing to do some fundraising for the Fire Department--selling T-shirts, etc. There is a reservation for the Park pavilion for Saturday, August 12 for a wedding reception. The "No snowmobiles" sign will be moved to the Community Hall porch support. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown requested changing the next meeting date to September 7th because he won't be here on the 14th. Everyone agreed to it. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown informed the Board that he would be resigning as supervisor effective January 1st and taking the position of Fire Chief because Mike did not want that job with his full time work. Many people thanked him for all that he has done for the Township.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on September 7, 2017 at 6:30 PM.