

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
September 7, 2017

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, September 7, 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, Ed Burger, Clyde Casler, John Kastelic, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Roger Dukart, Linda Griffin, and JT Reno.

The regular meeting minutes from 8/10/17 were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. 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 Bennetts made a motion to accept the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	September salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	September salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	September 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(8/1-8/14), Grounds Maintenance		261.92
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 8/2017		185.10
Mike Jarvi	Fire Chief - 8/2017		047.27
JT Reno	Water Plant Operator (8/15-9/3/17)(\$10/day)		185.10
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (45.37), 17 st. lights (151.98), fire hall (55.55)		252.90
A T & T	Office (63.53), Fire hall (33.24)		096.77
Telrite Corp.	Long distance calls		006.36
Tri County Equipment, Inc.	Minipumper for new fire truck (brush truck)		4,350.00
Ken Waschke Auto Plaza	2009 Chev. Silverado crew cab brush truck for F/D		13,520.00
Mark Erhart	Assessor – Sept. 2017 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - 9/2017		200.00
Card Member Service	W/F, FD, & FD grant refunds-truck parts, postage		2,357.87
MI Municipal League	Workers' Comp Fund after 7/1/16-7/1/17 audit		314.00
David Heinonen, CPA PC	Audit financial statement, Form F-65		1,610.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Reimbursement-FD's share for new brush truck	6,508.19
The Daily Mining Gazette	Ads for meeting & bids on truck for FD	140.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1537 KWH)	295.85
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay credit cd. - postage	512.03
David Heinonen, CPA PC	Audited financial statement & Form F-65	900.00

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1077 KWH)	217.74
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	218.68
David Heinonen, CPA PC	Audited financial statements & Form F-65	900.00
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	250.00

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Based on the Township's ordinance, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown discussed the sewer connection requirements. A habitable house has to be built first, not only a recreational vehicle. Next he presented a sample of the proposed historical sign for the Fire Department. Much discussion followed with a few changes made. The Clerk made a motion to use PA 48 funds to purchase the sign, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes." The upcoming vacancy in the Supervisor position was discussed. One person has volunteered so far--Chuck Bennetts. Notices have been posted telling anyone who is interested to contact the Board. The Board will decide who to appoint at the next meeting which will give whoever is chosen a couple of months to learn about the job. Trustee Bennetts, as a member of the Keweenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, again explained why they were asking each township in the County to come up with a list of sites (County or Township owned) that might need remediation or may be available for development in the future. It will be used by WUPPDR if funds become available to help with blighted properties. Suggestions included the stamp sands, the Gay Park, and the smokestack area.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown reported on Fire Department activities. A leak in the water pipe going into the building was fixed. The \$7000 grant from USDA - RD will be deposited in the next few days. The FD pancake breakfast will be October 7th and guests will include State Representative Scott Dianda and US Representative Jack Bergman, provided there are no votes in Congress. Trustee Connell discussed the plans that the owner of the Gay Bar has for fundraising for the Fire Department using parking meters.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown and Trustee Bennetts recently had a conference call with UP Engineering about the well project. The Supervisor explained why the decision was made to be flexible and leave the finish date open, also, the steps that need to be done. Treasurer Kastelic informed the Board that USDA-RD said the Township has to open a separate account for the funds that will be used to pay for the well. It was decided to open a savings account (Sherman Township 2018 Water Supply Well) and to move the funds to the Water Fund when a check has to be written. The FD Auxiliary donated \$1000 which will be put in the new well account. \$9 of the \$15/month increase will go into the new account to pay for the new well. The remaining \$6 will go into the Water RRI savings account. A motion was made by Trustee Connell to accept the professional services contract with UP Engineering (up to \$9500) to oversee bank loans, the drilling, and anything else dealing with the new well. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bennetts. On a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." The Supervisor announced that JT Reno is taking the test for a water plant operator's license in November.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts reported that everything appears to be working fine and the grass needs cutting. The readings are good and the blower is working okay. Thanks were expressed to Sherry Middlemis-Brown for cutting the grass while Bob Strykowski was on vacation.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee recently had met twice within 2 weeks and decided to cancel the September meeting. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, October 18th--at 6:00 PM in the Office. Committee meetings minutes can be viewed online at the website: [www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), then "township officials"-Sherman Township

NEW BUSINESS: Copies of the Township audit for 2016-2017 were handed out and reviewed briefly. Everything was in order except for the need for a deputy treasurer and a deputy clerk. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown commented that the Township doesn't have the funds to pay for extra people at this time. The report is available online at the Township's website. The contract with the accountant who does the audits and tax reports needs to be renewed for 3 more years (2018 through 2020). Trustee Bennetts made a motion to renew the Township's contract with David Heinonen, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The timer for the FD's siren alarm was replaced recently with a digital one. If it goes longer than a minute on Saturday, it will need to be turned off and rewired. The County's "allocated operating millage" will need to be renewed on the August 2018 ballot. The Supervisor explained how it works and how the Headlee Amendment affects any millage in the State. The County Allocation Committee has determined that Sherman Township's allocation should be 1.3316 mils. He also explained that each township board has to approve the amount of their allocation before it is put on the ballot. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept what the County is allocating to the Township, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." Supervisor Middlemis-Brown laid out a plan to remodel the current Fire Hall in 10 years in order for it to accommodate taller trucks. The Township had to turn down offers of taller and newer trucks recently because of the height of the current doors. He discussed the plan with the FD Auxiliary, asking them to contribute to a separate savings account for the remodeling. A long discussion followed about how best to keep track of the funds. A Fire Hall Fund was suggested, similar to the Community Hall Fund. A discussion followed about a heavy metal cover on the old sewer system which is dislodged and needs to be put back on. It could be a hazard to young children or small animals. Sherry Middlemis-Brown had a petition for people to sign. It would change how Michigan's State Legislature sets up voting districts and would eliminate the use of gerrymandering after each 10 year census. It would be put on the ballot next year.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on October 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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Adeline Schmidt, Clerk