

REGULAR MEETING

Sherman Township Board - February 8, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:35 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, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, John Kastelic, Ed Burger, Bev Spehar, and Steven Fitzgerald (from Shore Waves.) The regular meeting minutes from 1/11/18 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Treasurer's report was presented next. Treasurer Kastelic asked to "void" a check that was issued over 6 months ago on the Fire Department account, but not cashed. Since the person said they cannot find it, the Board agreed to reissue another one. USDA-Rural Development sent a letter stating the amounts still owed on the Township loans: \$110,000 on the Sewer, \$133,000 on Water A, and \$13,800 on Water B. 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. Treasurer Kastelic had been contacted by a citizen concerned about the amount of FD millage funds being spent on the credit card without prior approval of the Board. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown commented that about \$5500 was set aside in the Fire Department's financial plan for putting the tanker into service, that the Board's approval is a secondary approval to keep everything aboveboard. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	February 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(1/5-1/31/18),	Grounds Maintenance	376.68
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 1/2018		185.10
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 1/2018		046.27
JT Reno	WPO (1/1-1/4/18)		037.02
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (66.12), 17 st. lights (170.17),	fire hall (106.00)	342.29
A T & T	Fire hall (43.50), Office (63.69)		107.19
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – Feb. 2018 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - 2/2018		200.00
Card Member Service	Snow blower, flag, S/F, W/F, FD & FD Millage refunds		508.72
Telrite Corporation	Long distance phone		006.62
Mark Truck Service	Work on 1992 tanker truck (Inv.009492)		174.80
US Treasury	Medicare payments		638.82

FIRE DEPT.

General Fund	Pay cr. cd.-Sherman Twp. terrain maps & tools	106.00
Copper Country Vol. FF Asso.	2018 membership dues	030.00
Kelly Jarvi	Replace check #500 (lost) for parade supplies	054.87

FIRE DEPT. MILLAGE

General Fund	Pay cr. cd. (supplies for '92 tanker)& Mark Truck bill	278.82
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (889 KWH)	200.96
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., credit cd. , insurances	1,360.21
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (Inv 157054, 157096, 157243)	101.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase	234.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. rate increase	156.00

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1208 KWH)	260.57
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions, stamps, insurances	996.01
State of Michigan	2018 Groundwater Annual Permit fee	200.00
RRI Sewer Savings	Funds moved back - repay for repairs in 6/2017	8,000.00

SHOREWAVES: Steven Fitzgerald, owner of Shorewaves, presented what the plans are to bring their internet and phone service to the town of Gay: obtain a permit from Township to place poles where needed, negotiate a "roof height lease" with a property owner in Gay, find interested customers. He described their no-contract service and left handouts for those who are interested.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown had contacted the Houghton County Road Commission to let them know that the section of the Gay-Lake Linden Road they clear was getting really bumpy. He recommended that others also call because more complaints seem to get things done.

This summer the Keweenaw County Road Commission will be doing the non-primary streets in Gay. They also plan to move the portion of the Gay-Lac La Belle that is almost washed out. The Supervisor gave a rundown of the maneuvers they have to go through with the DNR in order to do it.

BOARD OF REVIEW: The next 2018 Board of Review meeting will be March 14, at 3-9 PM. The other 6-hour meeting will be scheduled later when JT's work schedule becomes known.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The ordinances for both the water system and the sewer system are now on the Township's website: www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, "township officials"-Sherman Township Also on the website are minutes from Township meetings, the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee, the Fire Department, and many announcements.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: At the 2/6/18 Fire Department meeting coverage for the Copper Dog 150 was discussed. The Fire Department was assigned 4 crossings on Friday evening, March 2nd from 8-11 PM. The next in-house training will be in April on maps and the use of GPS. The secondary tanker, which is actually a '92, is at the paint shop in Baraga being repainted. The whole repainting needs to be paid for before the DNR reimburses the Township for 50% of the bill.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Bob Strykowski reported that the plant is "humming right along" producing 2100-5000 gallons/day. Water samples for the month were sent in the previous day. The retests on a house that had had high copper/lead readings in a recent test came back with acceptable readings when the faucet aerators were first removed. The DEQ told him that some faucets made before 2012 have lead in them. He then told about the next water tests that are being required. He also asked that questions about the bills be directed to the office, not him.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts said the sewer system "burped" recently and there have been a lot of wipes coming through. He has had to stir it up several times as a result. He recommended sending out notices again about not flushing wipes into the system.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee met February 7th. Chris Holmes of UP Engineers told the committee the specs are being put together for bids for the new well and talked about the funding possibilities: selling bonds locally or nationwide, or borrowing from the Rural Water Association. He also will be making up maintenance schedules for the water system and the sewer system. For the sewer system he recommended getting a smaller fan and running it all the time and "jetting out" the system--cleaning all the pipes. Trustee Bennetts reported that the Committee recommended that a substantial amount of money be transferred from the Sewer O&M account back to the Sewer RRI account. After a discussion a motion to return \$8000 from the Sewer O&M to the Sewer RRI was made by the Supervisor, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." The Committee will be working on a Capital Repair and Replacement Plan for both systems. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM in the Office. Everyone is welcome.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion on the "General Fund: Capital Renovation and Replacement Plan 2018-2028" which the Supervisor had handed out the previous month to the Board to study. It's a plan to set aside certain amounts of money each year from the General Fund to be used to repair or remodel buildings and to purchase or do major repairs on equipment. After discussion it was decided that all proposed projects are not fixed or set in stone, that a separate bank account will not be set up, that the funds will be designated separately only on paper at the end of the fiscal year, and that all funds will still be under the control of the Board. The Clerk made a motion to adopt the proposed plan and it was seconded by Trustee Bennetts. On a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented a new employee time sheet and expense form that will explain all expenses better. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to adopt the new time sheet, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes." It will be put into use with expenses incurred in April 2018.

PROPOSED SALARY CHANGE: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown suggested that the Grounds Maintenance position person be paid \$5/day whether there are things that need to be done that day or not. After some discussion it was decided that it would be fair to pay that amount to whoever is covering for the day whether for snow removal or grass cutting. Trustee Connell made a motion that the Grounds Maintenance position will be paid \$5/day, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote.

BUDGETS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented several graphs showing the Township's annual expenses and income and the General Fund total by month for the last 5 years. He also presented the proposed budgets for the General Fund, the Fire Department, the Water Fund, and the Sewer Fund, explaining that the amount under "depreciation" needs to be set aside under a Capital Renovation and Replacement Plan for each fund. However, those amounts for the sewer and water may not be enough to replace those systems and more may need to be saved somehow. In the discussion that followed WPO Strykowski mentioned that the water plant propane tank appears to be leaking. Other things that will need to be done this next year were listed.

DEPUTY CLERK AND DEPUTY TREASURER POSITIONS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown reported that the Treasurer and Clerk positions are mandated to have Deputies to cover for those who are elected but may not be available to do Township business. People to fill those positions will be sought.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on March 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Prior to the regular meeting will be the Truth-in-Taxation meeting at 6:00 PM the same evening.