

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
March 8, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, March 8, 2018 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 John Kastelic, Ed Burger, Dudley Martin, Frank Kastelic, and JT Reno.

The regular meeting minutes from 2/8/18 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 and explained. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	March 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(2/1-2/23/18),	Grounds Maintenance	331.00
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 2/2018		185.10
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 2/2018, Grounds Maintenance	(12 days)	074.04
JT Reno	WPO (2/24-2/28/18)		046.27
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (59.22), 17 st. lights (160.65),	fire hall (81.44)	301.31
A T & T	Fire hall (43.61), Office (63.81)		107.42
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – March 2018 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - 3/2018		200.00
Card Member Service	Office supplies, F/D, W/F, & F/D millage	refunds	582.70
F/D Millage	Refund on credit card for returned	merchandise	890.41
John Deere Financial	3rd (out of 5) annual payment on	Township tractor	3,290.00
Petty Cash	Plat book & office supplies		045.13
Frederick Jarvi	Board of Review - 3/6/18 - 1 hour		010.00
JT Reno	Board of Review - 3/6/18 - 1 hour		010.00
Sherry Middlemis-Brown	Board of Review - 3/6/18 - 1 hour		010.00
Krans Oil Company, Inc.	25.9 gal. diesel		066.80
KCI	Pay postage for assessment notices	(estimate)	113.00
Northern Painting & Coating	From F/D Millage - 1992 tanker	repainting	3,686.00

FIRE DEPT.

General Fund	Pay cr. cd.-terrain maps lamination &	batteries	127.99
Petty Cash - FD	Title transfers, popcorn oil & salt,	supplies	116.81

FIRE DEPT. MILLAGE

General Fund	Pay cr. cd. ('92 tanker supplies)&	Northern Painting bill	4,049.65
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall–	(748 KWH)	167.93
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., credit cd.,	postage	421.10
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (Inv 157400)		034.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase		162.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. rate increase		108.00
Petty Cash	Postage, stamps, batteries, tape	measures	075.24
Hawkins, Inc.	Chemicals for water plant		095.15
City of Houghton	Chlorine for water plant		028.00

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1056KWH)		222.72
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions		218.66
RRI Sewer Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved		250.00

CORRESPONDENCE: The survey results of the water rates in most of the communities in the U.P. was received. It will be given to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee.

The Supervisor had obtained map books from the County showing what 911 ranges were on each road. Copies were put in each fire truck.

A response was received from a property owner's lawyer who basically agrees with the Township, that water/sewer bills be paid whether connected or not. The lawyer does say there are still things to be considered. The letter will be given to the Water/Sewer Committee for recommendations for the Board.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Water and sewer ordinances are now on the Township's website:

[www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), "township officials"-Sherman Township

Board of Review will meet on March 14 (3-9 PM) and March 15 (2-8 PM)

FIRE STATION ADDITION PROPOSAL: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented a proposed addition to the Fire Hall and explained it. Initially the aim is to provide a shed like covering for the tanker, extending the current roof line, with additions later to enclose it, then adding garage doors both ends and putting in a toilet and sink room. Many questions were asked about the construction details. Most were answered, but further discussion is planned for the April meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Fire Department covered two crossings for the Copperdog 150 Sled Dog race the previous weekend. The route originally was four crossings, but was changed last minute because of logging along the trail. The racers liked the new route, so it may be used again next year. On Tuesday the monthly Fire Department meeting was held. The State Fire Marshall, who recently had a meeting with Fire Chiefs in the area, has put together a "live-fire training module" which is a mobile setup using shipping containers. He hopes to get it up here in the next year or so for training. Permits issued to people selling fireworks generate the money used for training fire departments in the State. The Fire Marshall asked that local fire departments just check to see if there is a permit and alert the state inspector if they don't see one. As of the beginning of the year, in order to receive some of the State funds for training, a fire department must be fully compliant with the National Fire Incident Reporting System. At the time of the meeting, Sherman Township Fire Dept. was the only compliant fire department in Keweenaw County, with only two in Houghton County. Basically the ruling is to compel all fire departments to do their reporting. The '92 tanker work was done on 3/1/18 and it is awaiting the DNR's visit for approval, the title transfer, and their promise of partial payment on the repainting. A "thank you" note was received from a man who accidentally drove his snow mobile off the edge of the stamp sands on 2/4/18 and was seriously injured. Several fire department members responded, reassured him about help coming, and helped Ahmeek First Responders get him up the bank.

WATER DEPARTMENT: The new Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported that the plant is running as it should. He sent water samples in and also emailed the monthly report for February.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts has been able to check the system even though the handle is broken on the cover. However, the number of wipes, which has tripled since last month, is becoming a major problem. The volume/time also increased about 25% in the last month. He needs some way to dispose of the wipes when he cleans the filters. Plans are to contact the manufacturer and the UP engineer about the problem. While looking into getting a DEQ license, he found out there is no training for the Township's system and the exam does not cover it either; therefore, getting it would be a waste of time and money. He and Chris at UP Engineers plan to check out the system thoroughly after the snow melts.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM in the Office. Chris of UP Engineers will be providing a breakdown of capital expenses expected in the next 10-20 years for both systems; also, an update on funding for the new water well.

PETTY CASH FUND: It was set up before use of credit cards and is now used mostly for change for FD fund raisers. The large amount is not necessary. A motion to reduce it to \$300, returning \$208 of it to the Fire Dept. Fund, was made by the Clerk, seconded by trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

BUDGET REVIEW: The "Budget vs. Actual" reports were reviewed for water, sewer, & General funds.

NEW BUSINESS: A resolution was proposed to not send a refund or additional bill for over- or under-payments of \$5 or less on tax payments because of the expense, the time, and the effort in doing so. After a lengthy discussion about what other communities are doing, it was decided to table it until next month.

The assessor recommended the Township pass a resolution that it waives the penalties and interest when a Property Transfer Affidavit is filed late. With language from the State, the Supervisor presented such a resolution to the Board. The Clerk made a motion that it be accepted, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote.

The County had asked that they be given formal approval from the Township to collect delinquent water and sewer fees which are now being placed on delinquent taxes. A resolution for the process was presented by the Supervisor. The Clerk made a motion to accept the resolution, Trustee Connell seconded, and, on a roll call vote, all were "ayes."

The State is mandating that the positions for Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer now be filled. The Supervisor explained the need for backup if the Clerk or the Treasurer is not able to fulfill their duties. The Deputies have to be trained and need to be able to step into the position to do what is required to maintain the Township. Further clarification and decisions will be made at the next meeting.

The supervisor presented where the 17 street lights are located, the cost, and how unnecessary some of them are. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to make a final decision at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Frank Kastelic asked that the ramp be kept free of ice.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on April 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM.