

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
April 12, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Board members attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Seventeen local residents were in attendance, plus Chris Holmes from UP Engineers and Graham Jaehnig from The Daily Mining Gazette. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown announced that public comment would be accepted at the beginning of the meeting, but not informally throughout the meeting as has happened in the past. He went on to explain that questions at other times should be directed to Board members. Public comment at the end of the meeting, after the Board has already made decisions, is too late. A questioning discussion followed between the Supervisor and some of the audience members.

The regular meeting minutes from 3/8/18 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. 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. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	April salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	April salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	April 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(3/19-3/31/18),	Grounds Maintenance	221.66
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 3/2018		185.10
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 3/2018, Grounds Maintenance	(11 days)	071.73
JT Reno	WPO (3/1-3/18/18)		166.59
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy clerk - QVF training, 3 hrs.		030.00
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (59.61), 17 st. lights (160.65),	fire hall (78.30)	298.56
A T & T	Fire hall (43.61), Office (63.81)		107.42
Gleaners Life Insurance Soc.	Pension plans 11/1/16-10/31/17		2,612.64
Municipal Retirement Sys.	Pension plan administration		280.00
State of MI-Unemployment Ins.	Unemployment insurance payment		039.08
General Fd. Depreciation Savings	Acct. for major repairs of buildings - annual		10,000.00
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – April 2018 fee		380.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -4/2018		200.00
Card Member Service	Office supplies (posters, lights, signs) F/D	refunds	183.62
Frederick Jarvi	Board of Review - 3/14-15/18 - 12 hours		120.00
JT Reno	Board of Review - 3/14-15/18 - 12 hours		120.00
Sherry Middlemis-Brown	Board of Review - 3/14-15/18 - 12 hours		120.00
MI Municipal League Workers Comp	MML Workers' Comp Fund (FD,W/F, S/F)		470.00

FIRE DEPT.

General Fund	Pay cr. cd.-ID cards, bumper pads for '92 tanker	066.91
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (723 KWH)	163.48
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri.,credit cd., MML W.Comp Fund	575.70
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (Invs 157709 & 158032)	068.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase (3/29/18 deposit)	137.07
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. rate increase(3/29/18 deposit), 1/4 of annual to be saved	778.88
UP Engineers Inc.	Inv 1801006 - professional services (from 2018 Well Savings)	1,472.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1160 KWH)	241.23
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions, MML W.Comp Fd.	267.66
UP Engineers Inc.	Inv 1801007 - 4.5 hrs. professional services (MDEQ)	531.00

CORRESPONDENCE: The Supervisor received initial 2020 census material for correction of addresses within the Township. Using 911 maps he processed the material and returned them.

The County Tax Advisory Committee is meeting 5/1/18 to determine how the millage funds it receives will be divided up between the townships.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2018-19, a budget resolution was presented. The Clerk made a motion to accept it, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll-call vote.

The 2018 Board of Review was completed with no protests or issues to deal with.

Dawn-to-dusk LED lights have been installed on the Fire Hall and at each Office entrance.

A garage door installer has looked at the Fire Hall and made recommendations. The building will not have to be raised to increase the door height opening. That change will not be needed for a few years. UP Engineering looked at the entire plan for the changes proposed for this summer, made recommendations, and okayed the plan.

Resolutions about minimum tax collection refunds or requests for additional taxes were presented. There was some discussion. Treasurer Kastelic reported there may be a meeting in June of all the township treasurers in the County where she will ask what other townships do. The matter was tabled until then.

The State has mandated that the Clerk and Treasurer each have a Deputy. 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. The Clerk made a motion to pay the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer \$10/hour for the work and training they will be undergoing up to 15 hours/month, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

The street light proposal was discussed next. The plan presented included disconnecting 12 lights and changing those left to LED lights, leaving on the lights at the corners of 4th and Main, 1st and Main, 2nd and Main, 2nd and Lake, and at the south end of Hermit's Cove Road. Justifications given for having only those lights were that they were needed for safety because they were main entry points and the reduction would promote "dark skies" in the area. The need for a consistent policy about where there are lights was discussed. Trustee Connell suggested the matter be tabled and that Board members discuss it with others in the Township before the next meeting.

In the Water and Sewer Ordinances, all houses and buildings are supposed to be connected unless an exemption is given by the Board. No exemptions were ever given. However, a couple of owners refused to pay anything. At that time nothing could be done. Now, overdue water/sewer bills can be attached to tax bills, resulting in property loss if not paid. Recently a request for an exemption on one of the above properties was received. The Supervisor made a motion that the exemption not be granted, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The Fire Department had a business meeting 4/10/18. Upcoming training and who will go was discussed. The secondary tanker was inspected by the DNR and approved, the title was given to the Township, and the grant was approved. Fine print on the grant approval states the truck must be kept at least 5 years. Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown presented a revised plan for the use of the FD millage funds, reflecting the cost of the secondary tanker, and explained how the primary tanker can be kept longer because of the acquisition of the secondary. He then made a motion that the VFD Millage Financial Plan be accepted. Treasurer Kastelic ascertained that all use of funds from the FD millage must be approved by the Board. The clerk seconded the plan and all votes were "ayes."

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Water Plant Operator Bob Strykowski reported the water plant was running fine. Water sample reports were good. He was gone for three weeks and he thanked the new WPO- JT Reno- for doing a good job. He also said the DEQ was scheduled to come for the semi-annual inspection April 24th. The Supervisor presented Chris Holmes from UP Engineers who then presented the plan and process for funding the new well by selling bonds. After a lengthy discussion the Supervisor presented a resolution that the Township proceed with issuing bonds to fund a new water well, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote. Chris Holmes has also been helping the Township create a Capital Repair and Replacement Plan for the water and sewer systems which has also been mandated by the State.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT:** Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts reported that the number of wipes has not decreased and really is becoming a major problem, continually clogging the filters so that fluids cannot go into the tank. He recently experimented with some wipes, keeping them in water and agitating them. It took days for them to begin to fall apart. Even though they may be labeled "flushable," they really are not. Trustee Connell pointed out that what Gay really has is a "glorified septic tank" and wipes are not designed for septic tanks. Residents also need to dump their sump pumps outside this spring rather than into the sewer system. Chris Holmes agreed with SPO Bennetts that the system may get overloaded from sump pumps, causing it to fail this spring. If people continue doing both and major repairs are needed, increased rates may be necessary, a cost to all users.

**WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, April 18th at 6:00 PM in the Office. A draft of the Capital Repair and Replacement Plan, provided by Chris Holmes of UP Engineers, will be discussed. It provides a breakdown of capital expenses expected in the next 10-20 years for both systems. All residents are welcome at the meetings which are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Minutes of the committee are on the Township's website: [www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), "township officials"-Sherman Township

**NEW BUSINESS:** Supervisor Middlemis-Brown discussed the need for a Building Use Policy for the Community Hall, explaining how the Township's insurance does not cover private groups or entities using the building. If something were to happen at a private, non-governmental event, the Township would be at risk because the Township's insurance would not cover it. He had contacted several groups (insurance, etc.) for information on rental agreements and presented a couple. After some discussion, the Board decided to look over the sample agreements and determine what to use in an agreement at the next meeting.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on May 10, 2018 at 6:30 PM.