

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
May 10, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 6:31 PM. Board members attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Twelve local residents were in attendance. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for additions to the agenda. Several Board members were asked by local residents to have additional public comment times rather than just at the end of the meeting, after the Board has already made decisions. A discussion followed between the Supervisor and some of the audience members.

The regular meeting minutes from 4/12/18 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. Trustee Connell made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." A report of the actual expenses compared to the budget was presented next and discussed. Following were the bills. There was a discussion about not enough money in the Well Savings to pay all the bills attributed to it, therefore the Water Fund was being used until there is more in the Well Savings. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	May 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(4/01-4/30/18), Grounds Maintenance		472.00
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 4/2018		194.35
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 4/2018		046.27
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy clerk - Election Equip.Training 5.5 hrs. and mileage		068.64
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (57.65), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (67.09)		285.39
A T & T	Fire hall (43.36), Office (63.46)		106.82
Telrite Corporation	Long Distance		008.52
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – May 2018 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -5/2018		200.00
BS&A	Annual service/support fee - tax system		392.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (742 KWH)	166.86
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri.	393.59
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (Inv 158424 5/07/2018)	034.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase (5/07/18 deposit)	513.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. rate increase(5/07/18 deposit)	324.00
UP Engineers, Inc.	Inv 1801169 - professional services (from 2018 Well Savings)	5,062.26
The Daily Mining Gazette	Ad - Notice for intent to Issue Bonds(from 2018 Well Savings)	480.00

WATER AMORTIZATION

USDA Rural Development	Loans #91-09 & #91-11 Interest	3,128.12
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SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1117 KWH)	233.58
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	218.66
UP Engineers, Inc.	Inv 1801170 - 7.5 hrs. professional services (MDEQ)	867.50

CORRESPONDENCE: The MI Dept. of Treasury is having a 2 day conference in Houghton in June on various subjects. It is free to township board members.

A permit was received from the DEQ and the Corps of Engineers for upcoming repairs to be done on the Kauppi dock. Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee is seeking volunteers to serve. The Keweenaw County Tax Limitation Committee met to decide how to divide up the County's millage among the townships and the County.

New owners of a property including the trail through the saw dust pile have gated the area. They are eliminating motorized traffic in an effort to establish a low impact deer area. Foot traffic is still okay.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The street light proposal was discussed next. Several letters, including one from the Sheriff, were received wanting to keep the lights on. Several people spoke and expressed wanting to keep the lights near their homes. Board members had spoken to people in the village and many different views expressed. It was suggested the \$2000 received from the disbanding Auxiliary could be used to change some of the lights to LEDs. It was decided to change the 5 proposed lights to LED to see what they look like, and leave the rest on. Trustee Connell made the motion to do so, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote.

The plans for the Fire Station shed addition were inspected by UP Engineers and stamped with approval. An estimate for materials for phase one has been received from McGann's for about \$3000. While their prices were slightly higher, they do not

charge for delivery. A building permit, plan approval, and materials contingency will run about another \$900. Trustee Connell made a motion to order the materials through McGann's, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote. The materials will be ordered in June and construction will begin in July. To get started, an auger is needed to dig holes for the footings--18 inch holes (9 of them) 4 feet deep (ordered by the engineer). Members of the Fire Department plan to do the construction.

A rental and lease agreement for the Community Hall was presented and discussed. A few changes were made. The refundable deposit was lowered to \$50 and a rule was added--nothing can be attached to the walls (no pins or tape). Some of the legal particulars were explained, also. Some things will have to be worked out as things proceed. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the Lease Agreement, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." It is realized that it may have to be changed as it is used, when problems/limitations may appear.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Fire Department had a business meeting 5/8/18. The pancake breakfast will take place Saturday, May 12th. Plans are to serve pancakes, French toast, sausages, eggs, and fruit from 8:30 - noon. Tanker training will take place on May 19th. Only the newer members will have to attend.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator Bob Strykowski reported he had the semi-annual visit from the DEQ the past week and everything went well. Before leaving someone used the Hall restroom. The next couple of days the town water consumption went up by thousands of gallons of water each day. It was discovered the third day that the Hall toilet was still running, consuming thousands of gallons of water daily. Otherwise, the water plant is running fine. Water sample reports for the month came back good. 5 copper and lead samples need to be done again. Rather than mailing them (they need to be refrigerated), he plans to drop them off at the lab when he goes on vacation because he will be going right by there.

WATER WELL PROJECT: The newspaper ad stating the Township is going to do the project and will be seeking loans from banks was recently published. After 45 days the money will be sought from the banks. And, after the funding is secured, bids will be sought from well drillers. The plan is to get it all done by next winter.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts' resignation will be affective the end of May. The Township is seeking someone to take his place. It pays \$200/month and involves checking the field at least once a week. Annual reports will still be written by Chris at UP Engineers. The DEQ checked the field the previous week and informed the Township that a new program is starting. They need to take a sample annually after the tank is pumped out. The pumping will cost about \$2000 annually. Recent problems at other communities' sewer systems seem to be pushing the increase in regulations from the State. The past problem here continues, that of things being flushed that should not be: wipes, tampons, tampon covers, pads, candy wrappers, etc. If people continue doing that, plus putting their sump pump drainage into the sewer, major repairs will be needed, rate increases may be necessary, and it will cost all users. Some repairs are planned for this summer.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, May 16th at 6:00 PM. Current problems with both systems and how to deal with them were discussed at the last meeting. Chris Holmes provided the Committee with estimates of costs to replace major parts of the sewer system (about \$99,000 for the drain field). Part of the Committee's job is to see if the rates being charged will be enough to cover the cost to replace the system. Expectations are that the current 15 year old system should last at least 20 years and replacement parts will also last 20 years. 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/, "township officials"-Sherman Township

NEW BUSINESS: The port-a-potties and the servicing on the Park toilet were ordered for the summer. The padlock will need to be unlocked for them before Memorial Day.

Treasurer Kastelic reported that the previous Auxiliary would like to donate \$2500 to the Township for something commemorative in the Park such as a bench or maybe some playground equipment. The Board will look into what is available.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on June 14, 2018 at 6:30 PM.