

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
August 9, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, August 9, 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. Others in attendance were JT Reno, Bev Spehar, Lynne Gerhardt, Butch Karvonen, John Kastelic, and Clyde Casler. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for additions to the agenda, and Trustee Connell asked that the Anderson place be discussed for precedents being set. Under "public comment" Bev Spehar said Serve-Pro was coming Monday to clean her basement after the flooding from the sewer backup and they said the Township's insurance should cover the cleanup. A discussion followed about the incident and the need for check valves at each house.

The regular meeting minutes from 7/12/18 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. It was pointed out that the oversized PA 48 check the Township received had to be deposited for now, but may not be meant for this Sherman Township. Inquiries to the group that sent the check have not been answered. Trustee Connell made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by the Clerk, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next and discussed. One item charged to the Fire Hall addition had to be changed. It was really cement to fix a sink hole in the parking area. Questions came up about why the electric charge for the street lights was not reduced after all the bulbs were changed to LED's; also, what was the total cost for the past election. After further discussion about other bills, Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| Rob Middlemis-Brown | Supervisor | August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44 | |
| 347.06 | | | |
| Marilyn Kastelic | Treasurer | August salary 375.00-22.50-5.44 | 347.06 |
| Adeline Schmidt | Clerk | August 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(7/1-7/31/18), Grounds Maintenance | | 487.74 |
| Charles Bennetts | Sewer Plant Operator - 6/2018 | | 200.83 |
| JT Reno | Deputy treasurer duties - 3 hrs. | | 027.76 |
| Rob Middlemis-Brown | Fire Chief - 7/2018 | | |
| 046.27 | | | |
| Kelly Jarvi | Deputy clerk duties, election, & mileage | | 200.92 |
| Ontonagon Co. REA | Office (44.47), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (72.00) | | 277.12 |
| A T & T | Fire hall (54.XX), Office (64.XX) | | 118.47 |
| Cardmember Service | Refunds from CRRP, FD, Com. Hall, water, and Auxiliary | | 3,385.46 |
| Water Fund | Hydrant rental -8/2018 | | 200.00 |
| Mark Erhart | July 2018 tax bills | | |
| 142.11 | | | |
| B S & A | Annual service/support fee | | |
| 392.00 | | | |
| Governmental Business Sys. | Election supplies | | |
| 113.07 | | | |
| Krans Oil Company, Inc. | Gas & diesel for fire dept. & grounds maintenance | | 202.88 |
| Apex Software | Sketching software - annual renewal | | |
| 095.00 | | | |
| The Daily Mining Gazette | Ad - public accuracy test | | |
| 090.00 | | | |
| Marilyn Kastelic | Election, training, & mileage | | 113.64 |
| Randall Witz | Election & training | | 060.00 |
| Cathy Witz | Election, training, & mileage | | 073.64 |
| Robin Middlemis-Brown | Election & training | | 070.00 |
| Anna Strykowski | Election, training, & mileage | | 098.64 |
| Sheryl Middlemis-Brown | Election, training, & mileage | | 083.64 |
| Ed Burger | Election, training, & mileage | | 073.64 |
| Chris Korhonen | Election & training | | 050.00 |
| Janet Burger | Election & training | | |
| 060.00 | | | |
| <u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u> | | | |
| Ed Burger | Soft drinks for July 4th | | 043.00 |
| Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc. | Annual pumper test, bleeder/drain valve | | 529.60 |

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| General Fund | Pay cr. cd.- bumper for tanker, Rada for resale | 416.15 |
| <u>CAPITAL RENOVATION & REPLACEMENT PLAN (CRRP)</u> | | |
| General Fund | Fire Hall addition - building supplies | 361.10 |
| <u>COMMUNITY HALL FUND</u> | | |
| General Fund | Pay cr. cd. - First aid kit & cleaning equip. for Hall | 226.20 |
| <u>WATER FUND</u> | | |
| Ontonagon Co. REA | Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1608 KWH) | 320.93 |
| General Fund | WPO salary, empl. contri.,pay cr. cd. - postage, supplies | 445.03 |
| White Water Assoc., Inc. | Water tests - E. coli (7/18/18) | |
| 034.00 | | |
| UP Engineers Inc. | INV 1801858 - professional services (from 2018 Well Savings) | |
| 701.40 | | |

SEWER FUND

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Ontonagon County REA | Electricity – Sewer (1248 KWH) | 256.88 |
| General Fund | SPO salary, employer contributions | 237.25 |

CORRESPONDENCE: After the flooding in June some owners contacted Supervisor Middlemis-Brown to find out about flood insurance. He contacted FEMA which is in the area. They explained that Sherman Township would have to be mapped showing the parts that would be in a 100-year flood plain and their houses would have to be in those designated areas in order for them to be able to buy flood insurance. Currently the Township is not mapped.

The Keweenaw Safety Day in Mohawk on July 21st went well even with some rain.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The supervisor presented a map showing the properties around the sewer drain field and described the situation of the field being built partially on someone else's property. Some of the possible options discussed were to buy the property outright, to swap the land for part of the Township's land so that the owners could have a land bridge between their two properties, or ask them to give the property to the Township. Treasurer Kastelic cautioned that it might not be legal to swap the Township's land for the other land since it was bought on a tax sale.

The first stage of the Fire Hall addition is done at a cost of \$4,188.80. The metal that previously was used on the inside to finish the older part of the fire Hall is still available, but may not be in a few years when the project is finally finished. The Supervisor suggested buying the metal for the inside now and storing it for later use (cost \$2,312). After discussion, the Board felt that just buying enough to finish the ends on the outside would be okay for now.

The park bench, swing, and plaque were received today and all need to be installed. The supervisor described the plan to install everything and said that, because of the weight, help would be needed to set up the swing set in cement.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown showed a couple of historic signs proposed for the Office and the Hall at an estimated cost of \$70 each--both of which could be funded out of PA 48 funds. He also presented the idea of paying the County to put up "welcome" signs in 3 locations coming into town--also using PA 48 funds. After much discussion about the dates that are known, the Clerk made a motion that all the signs be purchased, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

The new range and refrigerator for the Hall arrived and were installed. With rebates the cost for both was \$780. A discussion followed about what to do with the old ones. It was decided to try to sell them first.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The business meeting is delayed because of the election until the following Tuesday. The mini-pumper's tires were not rated for the heavy load the truck now carries and the wheels were corroded when it was bought. New rims and tires were purchased and will be put on soon.. A sizeable first aid kit was purchased and mounted on the wall in the Hall. The Supervisor is also checking out the possibility of an AED for the Hall.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno had sent in water samples and wondered what to do with the receipt. For now, it was decided to reimburse him from Petty Cash. He also reported that everything seemed to be good, water usage was normal and the water plant was running well. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown then told of the progress on the Water Well Project-- new bids being sought on modifications in the plan, different contractors doing parts of the project for less, ways to lessen the cost. Hopefully it still can be done before the snow arrives. A recent sewer incident where the hydrants were used to flush an area resulted in the high pressure pump failing several times, which shut down the whole system. Bay Electric checked it out and changed the length of time it takes for the high pressure pump to ramp up to full pressure from 10 seconds to 20 seconds. It is working okay now.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: The night after the election (August 7th) the sewer system had a failure where the pumps stopped pumping after getting clogged. Before the failure of the pumps, the system got backed up and it went into the basement of a nearby home. Several companies were called for help, but they did not know how to resolve the problem quickly. The Supervisor told of the whole night of events which included calling a number of companies for help and finally calling several members of the Fire Department to help pump out the overflow system onto the drain field, getting done about 3:30 AM. The next day Bay Electric arrived and said either the two pumps had burned out or were completely clogged. Jim's Septic was called to check out the pumps and it was found the screens were clogged with stuff that had not been ground up. Many plastic parts of women's products were found floating in the backup water. Jim's Septic recommended the pumps be pulled, serviced, and the screens cleaned at least once a year. Earlier someone mentioned noticing the red light on the system blinking late in the afternoon, but they never told anyone. Much discussion followed with questions about trained operators being hired, how the system works, suggestions that have worked elsewhere but would not work here because of the layout (lagoon, grinders on each

home, etc.) and a suggestion of a land line alarm being put in. Several things were realized: a new audible alarm needs to be put on the system, a yearly cleaning of the pumps needs to be added to the maintenance schedule, and emergency numbers need to be posted. Other projects for the sewer system are still being worked on: drainage project, electrical panel replacement, annual flushing, calibration of the injection pumps, and reinstallation of the flow meter.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, July 15th at 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings. They are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Minutes of the committee meetings are on the Township's website:

www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, "township officials"-Sherman Township

The Committee's purpose is to provide ideas and direction on both systems--water and sewer--from the people who use them.

NEW BUSINESS: Trustee Connell expressed concern about the possibility of someone getting injured while helping to clean out homes where there is no property insurance, specifically the Fire Department members helping the FD Auxiliary to clean out the Anderson house recently. Her concern was that the Township could be sued if something did happen. In the past several houses were cleaned out in a similar manner.

A question came up about who replaced Bob Strykowski as the person who mows the grass and clears the snow. Chuck Bennetts volunteered to do the job.

Several residents expressed wanting to know more about what is going on in town, such as how to join the Water/Sewer Committee, the Board of Review, or work as an election official. How it all usually works was explained.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM.