

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
September 13, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:33 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, John Kastelic, Frank Kastelic, Jeremy Lauren, Melissa Lauren, Bob Mai, and Karen Mai. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for additions to the agenda. Jeremy and Melissa asked who takes care of clogged culverts under the roads. They have one next to their property on Fourth Street. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown said the County Road Commission would be the people to call.

The regular meeting minutes from 8/9/18 were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The meeting minutes from the special meeting on 8/23/18 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. After some discussion about the deposits, the Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." A review of the annual financial report was next. The accountant had a couple of things he was questioning called "Restricted Net Position" funds in the General Fund--funds being held for specific things such as the Community Hall Fund and the CRRP (Capital Renovation and Replacement Plan). The monthly budget review was covered next. The Supervisor explained several differences between budgeted funds and actual expenses. A couple of items needed to be recoded. The bills were presented next. A motion to pay the processing fee for closing out Bob Strykowski's retirement account was made by Supervisor Middlemis-Brown, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." After discussion it was decided that Township and Fire Dept. trash should be placed in front of the Office and the Auxiliary trash in front of the Hall with two different accounts being set up. After further discussion about other bills, Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	September salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	September salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	September salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem (2) 100.00-6.00-1.45	092.55
Deneen Connell	Trustee	Per Diem (2) 100.00-6.00-1.45	092.55
JT Reno	Water Plant Operator(8/1-8/31/18)	Deputy Treasurer 3hrs	372.05
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - Grounds	Main.8/1-8/31/18	344.29
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 8/2018		046.27
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (44.08), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (58.04)		262.77
A T & T	Fire hall (54.18), Office (64.23)		118.41
Telrite Corp.	Long Distance		007.21
Cardmember Service	Refunds from CRRP, FD, Com. Hall, sewer, and Auxiliary		3,138.92
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -9/2018		200.00
Erhart Assessing	Assessor fee - 9/2018		370.00
Governmental Business Sys.	Card Programing - election 8/7/2018		320.00
Michigan SIP Homes	Trash pickup 8/2018		044.20
David Heinonen, CPA	Audited Fin.(1,105.00)Compiled form F-65(120.00)		1,225.00
A-1 Toy-lets	Service on Park outhouse7/12,7/19,7/26,8/2,8/9,&8/16/2018		210.00
Gleaners	Final Contr. 2017-2018 for Robert Strykowski		440.33
Municipal Retire. Sys.	Cost to prepare & send Robert Strykowski check		025.00
Keweenaw Petroleum	Propane pre buy 1,379.3 gal @1.45/		2,000.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Pay cr. cd.- mini pumper tires/wheels	1,349.52
--------------	---------------------------------------	----------

COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund	Pay cr. cd. - Refrigerator and Electric Range	1,075.00
--------------	---	----------

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1515 KWH)	304.38
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri.,	406.71
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests - E. coli (8/9/18)	034.00
2018 Water Supply Savings	\$9/month water rate increase for 8/10/18	783.00
City of Houghton	Chlorine for water plant	040.00
David Heinonen CPA	Audited/compiled form F-65	600.00
JT Reno	U.P. Distribution Seminar registration	165.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/month water rate increase on 8/10/18 deposit	522.00
Keweenaw Petroleum	620.7 gal @1.45	900.00

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1543 KWH)	309.37
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	267.28
David Heinonen CPA	Audited/ Form F-65	600.00
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved 9/2018	250.00

CORRESPONDENCE: Almost every precinct in the State received an FOIA request for copies of the 2016 ballots. Since our copier cannot accommodate 18" long ballots, a reply was sent that we cannot make copies. They were told they could come look at them here.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: On the drain field land issue the Township sent an offer of \$200 for the land, but before hearing from the owners, it was discovered that the road next to the sewer drain field belongs to the County and the Township can use the right-of-way, even if the County decides to abandon it. The name of the road was Keckonan or maybe Boundary. Where it ends might be known by the Road Commission. They do not maintain it.

The metal needed for the gable ends of the addition to the Fire Hall has been purchased. For now tarps will be used as doors for each end. The tractor will be kept at one end and the tanker at the other.

One of the park benches purchased was damaged. It was sent back and two benches were sent in return. However, the wrong legs/feet were sent.

The old Hall stove and refrigerator were sold for \$75 which was more than the Township would have gotten in a rebate. The historic signs have been received and are installed. The "Welcome to Sherman Twp." signs have not yet appeared.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Drafting training was done on August 25th to test out some equipment in the lake. The business meeting was Tuesday. There were two callouts: one is August and a fire in early September. There will be pumper training this weekend for State certification. Several people are attending. Three lens inserts for the SCBA masks (self-contained breathing apparatus) were purchased with the \$1300 donated from the Auxiliary. Also purchased were fire resistance shirts to be worn under the coats when going to a fire. The Auxiliary also had agreed to help with the Fire Hall renovation and set aside \$3500 towards that. Trustee Bennetts asked which department flushes the hydrants. It's usually the Water Dept.'s job to flush them when needed and to drain them for the winter. If the Fire Department uses a hydrant in the winter, then the FD is supposed to drain it.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported that everything seemed to be going okay, but people were beginning to smell chlorine in the water. A lengthy discussion followed about how the DEQ's recommendations or mandates are being followed which is causing the odor. JT suggested putting in filters to get rid of the problem. It will be discussed further at the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown gave an update on progress on the Water Well Project-- the guessed estimate for what the bids will come in at is \$60,000 now. Once bids are received, funding will be sought. It may not be done until next spring.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: The Township's insurance company paid the homeowner \$911 after the August 7th sewer system failure when the pumps stopped pumping after getting clogged and sewage backed up into the basement of a nearby home which did not have a check valve. Much discussion followed about what needs to be in the ordinance.

Bay Electric was called again for a pump in the lift station which had been taking very long to do its job. A propeller on it was greatly ground down. A lot of dirt and sand was found in the bottom of the lift station, probably coming from sump pumps since people do not normally flush dirt down the drain. It was estimated that one sump pump can add 9000 gallons of water a day to the system and can really damage the pumps. More work is needed on the sewer system: a drainage issue fixed, recalibration of the injection pump to get the flow meter going again. Trustee Bennetts is willing to cover the sewer system until the snow comes. Bob Pieti expressed interest in doing it again. The alarm on the sewer system needs to be changed to something more noticeable by everyone. Emergency numbers to call have been posted on the Hall basement door and the Office bulletin board.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, September 26th 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, but this month it will be the 4th Wednesday. 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 users.

NEW BUSINESS: Since the Supervisor will be gone for the next meeting, Trustee Bennetts volunteered to run the meeting.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented a 2018 Tax Rate request form that goes to the County. The form states that the Township is asking for the maximum amount of millage allowed after last year's amount was reduced by the Headley Act. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to approve the request form, Trustee Connell seconded, with all votes "ayes."

The supervisor heard from some people in Hermit's Cove who complained about the amount of noise coming from one place that has a lot of dogs. The County used to have a noise ordinance, but found they could not enforce it, so it was dropped. If the Township wrote one, there still would be no way to enforce it and it would not apply after the fact. The owners would be grandfathered in. His suggestion to the people complaining was to talk to the dog owners to see if it could be resolved somehow.

A discussion at the FD meeting about reducing waste in the Hall kitchen resulted in the suggestion that metal utensils be used rather than plastic. Washing them might present a problem and it was suggested that, with limited space, a portable dishwasher could be purchased. After a discussion, to get one for 1000-1500 forks a year seemed a bit much.

Treasurer Kastelic's public notary license/certificate expires soon and she asked for permission to renew it. Everyone agreed she should renew it.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM.