

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
November 8, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, November 8, 2018 to order at 6:30 PM. Other Board members attending were Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Kelly Jarvi, Bob Pieti, and John Kastelic. The Supervisor asked for additions to the agenda and how to deal with the legalization of marijuana within the Township was added.

The regular meeting minutes from 10/11/18 were presented next with one misspelling noted. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. With the amount added to the General Fund the previous month, concern was expressed that the amount the Township has in one bank has surpassed the amount that can be insured by FDIC. There was some discussion about which funds to move, the Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes." The monthly budget review was presented next and several entries discussed. Next were the bills. There was some discussion about reasons for the increased electricity for the sewer (a jammed pump running nonstop and the heat tape starting up). Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	November salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	November salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	November 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
JT Reno	Water Plant Operator (31 days)		344.29
Charles Bennetts	Township maintenance		143.45
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy Clerk		97.18
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 11/2018		046.27
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		200.83
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (53.32), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (64.92)		271.03
A T & T	Fire hall (54.18) Office (XXXX)		188.81
Robert Strykowski	Pension account settlement	2,380.94	
Cardmember Service	Refunds from FD & S/F, election & office supplies	148.38	
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -11/2018	200.00	
Erhart Assessing	Assessor fee - 11/2018	370.00	
The Daily Mining Gazette	Public Accuracy Ad	060.00	
Keweenaw County Road Commission	3 "Welcome to Sherman Twp." signs (PA 48 funds)	105.36	
A-1 Toy-Lets, LLC	6 services on park outhouse @ \$35/	210.00	
Municipal Retirement Systems, Inc.	Pension plan administration	260.00	
Gleaners Life Insurance Society	Pension contributions (11/17-10/18)	2,221.10	
Marilyn Kastelic	Election worker & mileage	078.64	
Kelly Jarvi	Election worker	060.00	
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Election worker		050.00
Cathy Witz	Election worker	040.00	
Randall Witz	Election worker	040.00	
Sheryl Middlemis-Brown	Election worker	050.00	
Janet Burger	Election worker	040.00	
Ed Burger	Election worker	040.00	
Chris Korhonen	Election worker		030.00
Fire Department Millage	Funds from CFR distribution	6,761.83	
Superior National Bank & Trust	CFR distribution funds to be put into a CD	28,000.00	

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Pay cr. card- Pager replacement battery	029.95
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1122 KWH)	234.37
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions	406.70
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests - E. coli (10/10 & 10/26/18)	068.00
2018 Water Supply Savings	\$9/month water rate increase (10/30/18 deposit)	252.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/month water rate increase (10/30/18 deposit)	168.00
State of Michigan	Community Public Water Supply - annual fee	418.15

WATER AMORTIZATION

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1571 KWH)	314.35
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions, pay cr. cd.	265.85
Tony Burcar	Replace electric panel and manhole boards, ditching	2,886.91

CORRESPONDENCE: The Township received a letter from the County about a possible land swap occurring between the State, the County, and TRG. If it takes place, trails might be affected and tax revenue could change.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Since the parts needed to finish the park benches have not been received and the company is not answering phone calls, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown proposed using the legs that came for concrete and putting the last bench near the swing set next year.

After discussing how the Commercial Forest Reserve tax system works in the State and how the CFR penalty payment received the previous month makes the Township's funds exceed what the FDIC insures, Supervisor Middlemis-Brown suggested the Township put it into a CD. There was much discussion about what funds to move to stay under \$250,000. A question came up about what other Townships do. For now, it was decided to put \$28,000 from the General Fund into a CD at Superior National Bank and to consider moving the Water Amortization and Sewer Amortization accounts to another bank.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A Micro Grant application for \$49,000 was submitted in October to FEMA. It will be used to upgrade the pumper, adding a compressed air system for foam, potentially adding 10 years to the useful life of the truck, to purchase new air tanks, and to put together a first responder emergency medical services unit, replacing the AED and first aid kit. Grants are awarded in March. The FD millage plan will be updated at the next FD meeting because of the CFR penalty payment (\$8,700) that went into the FD Millage Fund. The fire hydrants will be repainted next spring. Currently they are the wrong color, according to a standardized color coding system for fire departments.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Well #1 water tested contaminated recently and it was shut down. It was decontaminated by a licensed well driller. There was no apparent source for the contamination. After flushing it Supervisor Middlemis-Brown reported that it ran dry after 35 minutes. When repeating the process 6 hours later, it ran dry in 20 minutes. It was cleaned a couple of years ago, but still is in poor shape and will be shut down when the new well is ready. The Supervisor then presented the proposed estimate from Miller Canfield for the well project. He and Trustee Bennetts, who had been at the opening of the bids, discussed how the whole process seemed inadequate with very high charges for excessive boilerplate documents. The bids that came in were way over what was expected. The descriptions that went out to well drillers seemed incomplete and the bids that came in appeared padded as a result. The Supervisor pointed out that to repeat the bidding process just costs the Township thousands of dollars and increases the cost in the end. The final amount to be borrowed from a bank is \$82,000. However, the initial water rate increase of \$9/month was determined on a loan of \$50,000. Therefore, the water rate will probably have to be increased. The loan applications will go to banks November 12, 2018 and the Township should hear back by December 3rd. A decision will be made at the 12/13/18 Board meeting. UP Engineering said it could all be done by the beginning of the year. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown then discussed the water ordinance which requires anti-siphoning faucets for outdoor connections. Some home owners may have to replace what they have.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: The Supervisor commended Bob Pieti for all the brush clearing and ditching he has done around the sewer field. Bob described how he now checks all the different pumps and what other work has been done recently by Tony Burcar. With recent repairs done on a couple of pumps the amount of electricity used should decrease. Bob also commented there is still a large amount of trash coming through the system, but it could be from stuff stirred up from the bottom after all the repairs have been made. A discussion followed about how wipes really do not disintegrate even though the manufacturers label them "flushable."

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting again on Wednesday, November 21st at 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings. They are 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/](http://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. Trustee Bennetts related what he has been doing to find out what kinds of pipes were used in the water system installation many years ago and recently. With new regulations coming out requiring digging up all pipes if their composition is unknown, all historic information is being sought to save the water system users the expense of digging up everything. Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown recently did static readings on the fire hydrants. The readings were all the same indicating the system is tight. With all the changes that Bob Pieti has done around the sewer septic field the drainage has greatly improved. Trustee Bennetts described the problems Copper Harbor has had with their lagoon, the loan they got from the State, and how much additional cost there will be to the users there. He emphasized that maintaining the sewer system here is important in order to reduce major expenses down the road.

NEW BUSINESS: A new shorter race is being added to the 2019 Copper Dog Sled Dog Race--a short 6-dog race that will end in Gay on Friday night. They will need warm water and a place for veterinary care afterwards. With the Fire Department covering road crossings in the Township, other local volunteers will be needed. Parking for about 20 trucks will also be needed in Gay.

The recent appraisal of the Township's buildings and contents was received. The value has gone up (\$1,021,200) and the insurance probably will go up soon. Anything valued at less than \$100,000 was not evaluated.

The Board of Review will meet December 11th at 3 PM. The 2-year term of the current members ends the end of this year. BOR members for 2019-2020 will be appointed by the Township Board at the December meeting. Anyone interested in being on the Board of Review can contact the Township office (296-1211) before 12/13/18 to let the Board know.

The Township web site has been updated for water and sewer department contacts and emergency repairs contact numbers. Another contact number may have to be arranged for the water department since JT is not permitted to use his phone while working at the bank. How to set up an answering machine in the water plant that would not interfere with the office answering machine was discussed; but, other than getting another phone, no solution was settled on.

A 2019 Spring Clean-up dumpster has been requested for large household and roadside trash. There may be some limitations such as no tires or large appliances. More will be announced later after the snow disappears. It was suggested that a sign-up sheet be set up for those who want to pick up road trash.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown recently attended a National Flood Insurance Program meeting. He found out that people can get flood insurance if the Township has signed up for the program. People who might be interested in the insurance live along the river or on the coast.

With the legalization of marijuana, Trustee Connell expressed concern that someone might set up a commercial business in Gay and be a burden on the water system. With the new zoning overlay for Gay, 75-80% of the residents would have to approve any business starting up.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM.