

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
January 10, 2019

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, January 10, 2019 to order at 6:30 PM. Other Board members attending were Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Trustee Deneen Connell came later after an animal emergency. Others in attendance were Kelly Jarvi, Bob Pieti, Jeremy and Melissa Lauren, Bev Spehar, Rodger Dukart, John Kastelic, Chris Holmes (UP engineer), Frank Kastelic, and Dudley Martin. No additions were added to the agenda. When public comment was asked for, Frank Kastelic questioned why so many emergency vehicles were needed without asking for Board approval.

The regular meeting minutes from 12/13/18 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. After a discussion about the name of the new water well loan, the Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by the Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." The monthly budget was reviewed, then the bills were discussed as well as the need to contact the assessor to find out what his charges will be next year. Treasurer Kastelic made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	January salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
347.06			
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	January salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	January 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			
Rob Middlemis-Brown		Fire Chief - 1/2019	
046.27			
Robert Pieti		Sewer Plant Operator	200.83
Kelly Jarvi		Deputy Clerk	
055.53			
Ontonagon Co. REA		Office (62.36), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (77.31)	
292.46			
A T & T		Fire hall (54.23) Office (64.28)	
118.51			
Cardmember Service		Refunds from FD & W/F, office supplies	
689.12			
Water Fund		Hydrant rental -1/2019	
200.00			
Erhart Assessing		Assessor fee - 1/2019	370.00
Telrite Corporation		Long distance telephone	006.10
State of Michigan		Unemployment insurance payroll liability	
045.39			
Marilyn Kastelic		Reimbursement for Notary filing/processing fee	
020.00			

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Pay cr. card- batteries, extinguisher, deflector, reflective tape, and replacement bulbs	348.87
Copper Country Volunteer Firefighters Assn.	Annual membership dues	030.00
Mark Truck Service	Parts & labor on MFR vehicle	
578.85		

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (743 KWH)	
167.04		
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions, pay credit card	725.64
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests - E. coli (12/17/18)	
034.00		
JT Reno	Postage on samples for 12/18	
020.95		
RRI Water Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	
687.50		

2018 WELL CONSTRUCTION FUND

Keranen Well Services, Inc.	Payment #1	
8,731.45		

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1628 KWH)	
324.49		
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	
234.95		

SEWER AMORTIZATION

USDA - Rural Development	Interest on Loan #92-02	2,430.00
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CORRESPONDENCE: Treasurer Kastelic reported the State's unemployment rate charged to the Township decreased. Farmland Preservation program brochures were received. A violation notice was received from the DEQ about a monthly report not being received for the month of November from the Water Department. The tests were performed for the month. The Supervisor reported applying for a grant to the Portage Health Foundation to pay for the new well. No reply yet.

WELL STATUS REPORT: Chris Holmes gave a status report on the new well: the loan, the piping that has been done, and the drilling. He then presented a change order that needed to be signed, reducing the expected final cost to about \$51,000 instead of the original \$89,000. He also brought the first bill to be paid to the well driller. A motion to accept the change order was made by Trustee Bennetts, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes." A discussion followed about the depth of the new well--it will be as deep as it needs to be to get a decent flow. After it is in service, and with DEQ approval, the older wells can be drilled deeper for increased flow. If radioactive material is found at that time, they can be sealed back to the current level. Because it has taken so long to get things going and UP Engineers spent more time renegotiating the drilling contract, their costs have increased. He asked for an amendment to the original agreement the Township had with UP Engineers to \$14,000 from the original \$9,500. A motion to amend the agreement to pay up to \$14,000 to UP Engineers was made by Trustee Connell, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." Next he explained the initial well driller's bill or pay request for trenching, pipes, and insurance. A motion to pay the bill was made by Trustee Connell, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes." All the paperwork was presented and signed.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: At a meeting on the federal flood insurance program the Supervisor learned that before the Township can enroll, the County has to get on board and approve it. No one can sign up for it until the Township is enrolled.

The 2019 Spring Cleanup will be in May for large household stuff and roadside trash. More on it later.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Phase II of the fire department building expansion was presented showing space for the Medical First Responder vehicle which will need to be in a heated area. The training for the MFR's will take place this spring, probably in April, and is free. About 6-7 people have volunteered to take the training. Recently the vehicle was given to the Township and was insured at no additional cost to the Township. Some minor repairs have been done to it, paid for by donations. Dudley Martin asked again why the ambulance was obtained without asking for Board approval first, emphasizing that the Board must approve everything first.

BOARD OF REVIEW: Training will take place 2/5/19 in Houghton for the three members and the alternate--Kelly Jarvi.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported that everything was running okay and usage is normal--about 2000 gallons a day. Results from some tests have not come back yet. With many other samples being sent in November, he did miss one sample for the distribution (copper/lead).

There still is a need for a backup water plant operator so the current operator can take a vacation if he wants to. Apparently it is not a requirement that it be a licensed person as long as they are only taking readings and samples. Anyone interested should contact the Supervisor.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Bob Pieti reported the system still is working well as he continues to check it every couple of days. Also, the wipes have not reappeared. The flow meter of the discharge to the drainage field still needs to be repaired. Bev Spehar reported that an alarm goes off now and then, but doesn't stay on. Apparently it does it when the lift pumps come on. If the flashing red light comes on and stays on, Township people need to be notified right away.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings, which are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:00 PM. Committee meeting minutes are on the website: www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, "township officials"-Sherman Township

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented a proposal from the lawyer of the people who recently bought the land next to the sewer drain field, which happened to include part of the drain field. They propose just donating the land to the Township in order to have a clean survey with no encumbrances. The road next to it will still be open up to their property line. After some discussion a motion was made by the Clerk to accept the proposal, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes."

According to MI Township Association, recreational marijuana is legal up to 6 plants. Any commercially growing establishment would need to have a license (from the State?), and, if in the town of Gay, would have to have approval of the people living around them. Currently the Township is not adopting any ordinances about it. Many suggestions were made about where a commercial place could be opened.

The Supervisor asked for comments about the Brockway Master Plan which Eagle Harbor Township had put out for comments on how to make it more pedestrian friendly and handicap accessible.

The Supervisor found an enclosed cab for the tractor that cost about \$1000, rather than the \$4000-5000 of other styles. After discussion, the current township maintenance person (Chuck Bennetts) said it is not necessary. Other repairs that need to be done to it or were recently done were discussed. The Supervisor expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of the tractor construction because of parts being made out of aluminum rather than something stronger.

The 2019-2020 budget will need to be approved in March. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown proposed raises for various positions. He will get the figures from other townships for comparison.

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown invited everyone to the pickle ball and ping pong ball playing sessions on Saturday starting at 10:30 AM. A discussion followed about what is happening for the Copperdog 150 Race.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM.