

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
February 14, 2019

Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Other Board members attending were Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attending were Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Kelly Jarvi, Bob Pieti, Dudley Martin, Paula Jacobs, Chris Korhonen, and JT Reno. No additions were added to the agenda. When public comment was asked for, items on the agenda were asked about and covered later.

The regular meeting minutes from 1/10/19 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. Treasurer Kastelic said the bank charged \$5 on the zeroed-out tax account last month, but said it would be taken off and not charged in the future on 3 accounts which are zeroed-out each year. She then discussed the PILT fund--acreage in it and how the money is split. She also received a letter from the USDA about the outstanding loan balances: Sewer loan-\$108,000, Water A loan-\$131,000, Water B loan-\$13,500. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The monthly budget was reviewed and discussed. The bills were discussed next. Two bills were not in the report on the Well Construction Fund because a report could not be generated. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown 347.06	Supervisor	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Marilyn Kastelic 347.06	Treasurer	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt 347.06	Clerk	February salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Charles Bennetts 046.27	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	
Deneen Connell 046.27	Trustee	Per Diem 50.00-3.00-0.73	
JT Reno 143.45	Water Plant Operator (31 days) Township maintenance		344.29
Charles Bennetts 143.45			
Rob Middlemis-Brown 046.27	Fire Chief - 2/2019		
Robert Pieti 291.68	Sewer Plant Operator Office (64.53), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (74.36)		200.83
Ontonagon Co. REA 124.17	Fire hall (57.06) Office (67.11)		
A T & T 124.17			
Cardmember Service 752.00	Refunds from S/F & W/F, stamps, BOR training		
Water Fund 200.00	Hydrant rental -2/2019		
Erhart Assessing 136.80	Assessor fee - 2/2019 12/2018 tax bills		370.00
Mark Erhart 136.80			
KCI 135.00	Cost estimate for Notices of Assessments		
Telrite Corporation 005.51	Long distance telephone		
State of Michigan 695.28	2018 Sales, etc. Medicare payments, Form 944-V		096.35
United States Treasury 695.28			
United States Treasury 453.40	Form 945-V (withholding B. Strykowski's retirement check)		453.40
David Heinonen, CPA PC 201.50	Form prep: W-3, W-2, 1096, 199, 944, 945, State tax		201.50
Sheryl Middlemis-Brown 075.50	Board of Review training & mileage		

Frederick Jarvi	Board of Review training	060.00
JT Reno	Board of Review training & mileage	075.50
Kelly Jarvi	Board of Review training & mileage	075.50

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA 170.42	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (762 KWH)	
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions, pay credit card	452.76
White Water Assoc., Inc. 159.00	Water tests - E. coli (1/17/19), lead/copper tests	
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. water rate increase on 1/10 & 1/31/19 deposits	756.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/mo. water rate increase on 1/10 & 1/31/19 deposits	1,134.00

2018 WELL CONSTRUCTION FUND

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone UP Engineers & Architects, Inc. 1,144.43	Professional services in obtaining loan Professional services	5,000.00
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SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA 299.76	Electricity – Sewer (1489 KWH)	
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions, pay credit <a href="#">card</a> (stamps)	334.95
State of Michigan 200.00	2019 Groundwater Annual Permit Fee	

CORRESPONDENCE: The Keweenaw County Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022 was discussed next. Some of it covered improvements to the county parks. The Keweenaw County Budget 2018 was also commented on particularly 5 chairs for the Sheriff's office for \$5000.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Supervisor reported that the federal flood insurance program is stuck at the County level. Before the Township can enroll, the agreement has to be signed at the County level by a County employee. The Building Inspector is contracted and is not an employee.

The Township is sponsoring the Copper Dog 150 race by providing the Community Hall for the CD 25 race finish. Food is being provided by volunteers for the mushers and their crew at the end of the race in the Hall. Part of Lake Street will be closed off for the race ending. The bar will still be accessible from Second Street. Electricity for the timers will be provided from the Office. A motion was made by Trustee Connell that the Township sponsors the event, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, with all "ayes."

The paperwork is not yet done at the lawyer level for the property transfer of part of the drain field to the Township.

The 2019 Spring Cleanup is on hold for now, but is planned for May. More details are needed.

The Supervisor presented a revised plan for the Fire Department expansion-Phase II. Bids have been sought from contractors for the concrete floor in the addition, plus additional building materials.

The need for a cab for the tractor was discussed again (cost about \$900-1000). After pointing out storage problems that may occur with one, compared to the hassle this year of snow blowing without it, a motion was presented by Treasurer Kastelic, seconded by the Clerk and votes were 4 "ayes" with one abstention.

The Supervisor reported that Board responsibilities according to the MI Township Association are the following: approval of payments (bills), appointment of necessary board members (BOR), approval of ordinances, acquisition of land for public purpose, approval of contracts. The MTA rep also said that items obtained for specific departments do not necessarily have to be approved by the Board beforehand as long as the costs for such do not exceed the department's budget. If the expenses exceed the approved income, Board approval would be needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Business meetings were changed to first Fridays to accommodate one member who is working afternoons. The 2019 DNR grant that had been applied for to cover air tank replacements was denied. Having received a grant from them last year for repainting the tanker put the department lower on their list.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported that everything was running about the same. Usage went up a bit, between 2000-3000 gallons a day, when it was so cold because people were letting it run. He still needs to send in the copper/lead tests results. Bob Pieti has volunteered to be the backup water plant operator.

WELL STATUS REPORT: The Supervisor reported that the well driller is about at 100 feet, hoping to be done by the weekend. Then they will put the pump down in it to see if they are getting at least 20 gallons/minute. If that is okay, a sample of the water will be sent in for testing to make sure it is drinkable. They plan to drill to 160 feet. If radium is found, it will be sealed up to a higher level. It will probably be another couple of months before everything is done.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Bob Pieti reported the system still is working as it should. He checked it just before the meeting. The meter will be fixed this spring.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee did meet Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM. They discussed the budgets for the water and sewer departments. All residents are welcome at the meetings which usually are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:00 PM. Committee meeting minutes are on the website: [www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), "township officials"-Sherman Township

NEW BUSINESS: Setting the 2019 Board of trustee meeting dates and times had been missed earlier. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Board will continue meeting the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, Trustee Connell seconded and all votes were "ayes."

BOARD OF REVIEW: **The BOR meetings will be Wednesday, March 13 from 2:30 PM to 9 PM, and Thursday, March 14 from 9 AM to 3 PM.** Since neither is on the second Tuesday, a motion to have them on those dates and time was made by the Clerk, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes." When the assessor will be there is still being decided.

2019 POVERTY EXEMPTION: At the BOR training it was learned that they can give exemptions for poverty. They received the guidelines which need to be approved by the Board of Trustees. A lengthy discussion followed. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Township adopts the guidelines for the Board of Review to follow when giving a poverty exemption, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

SALARY REVIEWS: The Supervisor presented a salary survey of similar townships. He proposed salary increases for the Treasurer and Clerk to \$500/month and the Deputies, Board of Review members and election workers to \$12/hour. A lengthy discussion followed about the pros and cons of increasing the salaries and what problems might arise if new people could not cover the job duties. A motion to make the Treasurer's salary \$500/month was made by Trustee Connell, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes" with one abstention. Next Trustee Connell made a motion to make the Clerk's salary \$500/month, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, with all votes "ayes" on a roll call vote and one abstention. The last motion to raise the pay rate for hourly workers (deputy clerk, deputy treasurer, BOR members, and election workers) was made by Trustee Bennetts, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes." All increases will begin April 1, 2019.

BUDGETS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented draft budgets for the General Fund, the Water Fund, and the Sewer Fund with pay increases included. Essentially they are all similar to last year's budgets with increases for salaries and insurance. Increases were also proposed for the water plant operator's salary to \$15/day and the sewer plant operator to \$7/day.

COMMUNITY HALL FLOOR: The hardwood floor is beginning to show wear in spots. The Supervisor proposed repainting it now while all the stuff is moved out. He discussed the cost (about \$1,150) and volunteered the Fire Department to do the labor. Additional funds may be needed since the Hall Fund has about \$750 in it.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM following the **Truth in Taxation Meeting at 6:00 PM.**