

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
March 14, 2019

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, March 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 attendance were Sherry Middlemis-Brown and John Kastelic. No additions were added to the agenda. When public comment was asked for, no comments were made.

The regular meeting minutes from 2/14/19 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. A question came up about what interest the CD had earned since a notice had not yet been received from the bank. The first payment on the water well loan will be due in June. 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, also a 2012-2019 monthly balance trend graph of the General Fund. A discussion followed about the various funds that are informally set aside, but still part of the General Fund. The bills were discussed next. Treasurer Kastelic reminded the Board that there still are funds that need to be reimbursed to the Water Fund from the Well Loan for earlier work done on the well. 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	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	March salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt 347.06	Clerk	March 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		Water Plant Operator (28 days)	310.97
Charles Bennetts		Township maintenance	129.57
Rob Middlemis-Brown 046.27		Fire Chief - 3/2019	
Robert Pieti		Sewer Plant Operator	181.40
Ontonagon Co. REA		Office (61.58), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (69.44)	283.81
A T & T		Fire hall (56.59) Office (66.64)	123.23
Cardmember Service 1,243.24		Refunds from CHF & F/D, hard top tractor cab enclosure	
Water Fund		Hydrant rental -3/2019	200.00
Erhart Assessing		Assessor fee - 3/2019	370.00
John Deere Financial		Payment #4 (of 5) on John Deere tractor	3,290.00
Krans Oil Co.		6.8 gal. no-lead, 17.8 gal diesel	056.08
Sheryl Middlemis-Brown		Board of Review - 13.5 hrs.	135.00
Frederick Jarvi		Board of Review - 13.5 hrs.	135.00
JT Reno		Board of Review - 13.5 hrs.	135.00

COMMUNITY HALL FUND

General Fund		Toilet flushing kits (2)	039.96
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SHERMAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT.

General Fund		AED replacement battery, floor marking tape	244.28
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA		Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (715 KWH)	162.06
General Fund		WPO salary, employer contributions	363.79
White Water Assoc., Inc.		Water tests - E. coli (2/21/19), lead	034.00
JT Reno		Postage on mailed water samples 1/17, 2/21, 3/8/19	011.14
City of Houghton		Chlorine for water plant - 7.5 gals.	030.68
RRI Water Savings		\$6/mo. water rate increase on 3/12/19 deposit	198.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings		\$9/mo. water rate increase on 3/12/19 deposit	297.00

2018 WELL CONSTRUCTION FUND

Keranen Well Services, Inc.		Payment #1 on well drilling (Paid 1/10/19)	8,731.45
Miller Canfield Paddock & S##		Professional services (INV 1425283) (Paid 2/14/19)	5,000.00
UP Engineers & Architects		Professional services (INV 1900501) (Paid 2/14/19)	1,144.43
UP Engineers & Architects 706.07		Professional services (INV 1900591) (Paid 3/14/19)	

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1268 KWH)	260.44
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	212.21
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved (3/19)	250.00

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown received a letter from the owner of the old saw mill property stating the property is not available for walking on as previously reported. It is posted "No trespassing." Only people who have been invited may have access to it.

A-1 Toylets has changed ownership, but still plans to provide services for the Township Park.

The Supervisor received a FOIA request from a Marquette law firm exploring a fire that took place in Lake Linden. In explaining to them that the Sherman Township Volunteer Fire Department did not assist in the fire, he found out they were looking for instances when fire departments do not follow procedures as established by the National Fire Protection Guidelines in order to sue for negligence.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Supervisor reported again that the federal flood insurance program is stuck at the County level. He has called numerous people about it. The townships that are in the program already got it years ago when the paperwork was probably different (easier). The people who might be affected the most--Hermits Cove residents and people on the Tobacco River--need to know the Township is still not in the program. A suggestion was made that they might call the Township's representative on the County Board--Donald Piche--maybe he could get the County to move on this dilemma

Donations to the Community Hall Fund for food at the CopperDog 25 amounted to about \$205. Everyone considered it a worthwhile event and hoped that it will be continued. All the food donations were greatly appreciated and helped to make it a success.

The property transfer of part of the drain field to the Township is still in process.

The 2019 Spring Cleanup was discussed. Board members were favorable to pursuing it. Many questions came up: what would be accepted (electronics, appliances, furniture, trash?), the cost, who should be hired, etc. The Supervisor will call to see what is available and the cost. Plans are to schedule a spring roadside trash pickup at the same time.

Phase II of the revised plan for the Fire Department expansion was discussed next. Since the next things that need to be done (cement work, closing the ends, making it weather tight and insulated) are more complicated, it seemed best to hire experienced people. A request for bids has gone out. How much to transfer this year to the CRRP account was discussed but deferred to another meeting after the bids come in.

Several reasons for not using the rear of the new addition for the snow removal tractor came up: space requirement for new tractor cab, ease of getting to it in winter. In the end it was decided to keep it in the old fire dept. building and to put better garage doors on the building. An electric line is needed to the building in case a trickle charger is needed.

The tractor was discussed because it broke down again. Replacement parts were ordered for joints connecting the snow blower part to a PTO shaft of the tractor. A discussion followed about factors that might have contributed to another breakdown: poor design, lack of joints being greased, not enough parts replaced initially, and weaker metal used to make parts (not heavy duty enough).

Recoating the hardwood floor of the Community Hall will begin towards the end of April. It will take a couple of weeks to do it, but should be done before the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast (5/11/19). The previous Auxiliary has donated \$200 towards the floor recoating. A motion was presented by Trustee Connell that the rest of the cost to recoat the floor be taken from the Community Hall Fund, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes."

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Suggestions will be made to the CopperDog Committee about needs/problems that occurred at the crossings the Fire Department observed. The annual air tank (SCBA) training took place recently.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno had arrived and reported that everything was running pretty good. Usage has been less than 2000 gallons a day and holding steady, especially now that snow mobile season is slowing down. The DEQ sent out the sampling schedule for this year. There will be a lot more tests this year. It is all getting more complicated. Additional lead/copper training is coming up in May and he is already registered for it. Bob Pieti who volunteered to be the backup water plant operator has been getting training.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: The Supervisor reported that with all the snow this year Bob Pieti has had to do frequent digging to find the cover where the filters are in order to clean them. Every time it snows and blows it drifts in. Otherwise the system is working okay.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings which are held the 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:00 PM. The plan is to develop an operation manual for the sewer system. One was started on the water plant before Bob Strykowski left. It will help when there is a transition of people working on them. Committee meeting minutes are on the website:

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

BOARD OF REVIEW: The BOR will have its working session when it meets with the assessor on March 20th, probably meeting in the Hall in the evening. There were eleven (11) petitions for changes in evaluations at the recent BOR sessions mostly due to decreases in land values. Some petitions had to be set aside until the assessor comes because they could not check features on properties on the computer. According to the assessor there is a certain program needed on the computer before he can download information on properties. A question came up as to whether the program is there or not. A couple of programs

which the assessor said were needed have been paid for annually for several years. The BOR will check to see if the program is the correct one, then he can download the "record cards."

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM.