

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
May 9, 2019

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:34 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, John Kastelic, Ed Burger, and JT Reno. When additions to the agenda were requested, Trustee Bennetts asked about the status of the stamp sand project. The supervisor said he had not heard anything yet. When public comment was asked for, no comments were made.

The regular meeting minutes from 4/11/19 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. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, the Clerk seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were discussed next. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown 347.06	Supervisor	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Marilyn Kastelic 462.75	Treasurer	May salary 500.00-30.00-7.25	
Adeline Schmidt 462.75	Clerk	May salary 500.00-30.00-7.25	
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 416.47		Water Plant Operator (30 days)	
Charles Bennetts 138.82		Township maintenance	
Rob Middlemis-Brown 046.27		Fire Chief - 5/2019	
Robert Pieti 194.35		Sewer Plant Operator	
Ontonagon Co. REA 273.79		Office (54.11), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (66.89)	
A T & T 135.44		Fire hall (68.89) Office (66.55)	
Cardmember Service 191.24		Refunds from W/F & FD, LED bulbs for Office ceiling	
Water Fund 200.00		Hydrant rental -5/2019	
Erhart Assessing 400.00		Assessor fee - 5/2019	
Western UP District Health Dept. 345.00		Community Hall kitchen food service license	
Keweenaw County it.) 210.00		Building permit on Fire Hall (Ck. later voided, builder gets	
Telrite Corporation 005.31		Long distance phone calls	
B S & A Software Co. 401.00		Tax system - annual support	
41 Lumber 055.07		Concrete & bolts for mounting park bench	
<u>CRRP (Capital Renovation & Replacement Plan)</u>			
Reed Construction		Down payment on 4/10/19 bids - Fire Hall construction	7,000.00
<u>SHERMAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT.</u>			

General Fund		Pay cr. card - Antenna & cable	
075.46			
<u>WATER FUND</u>			
Ontonagon Co. REA		Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (741 KWH)	
166.68			
General Fund		WPO salary, employer contributions, Cr.cd.	
refund	508.21		
White Water Assoc., Inc.		Water tests - E. coli (4/22/19)	
034.00			
JT Reno		Postage water samples, paper towels, paper	
025.00			
RRI Water Savings		\$6/mo. water increase on 4/29/19 & 5/10/19 deposits (75	
mo.)	450.00		
2018 Water Supply Well Savings		\$16/mo. water rate increase on 4/29/19 & 5/10/19 deposit	1,200.00
<u>WATER AMORTIZATION FUND</u>			
USDA - Rural Development		Interest on Loans #91-09 & #91-11	3,079.06
<u>SEWER FUND</u>			
Ontonagon County REA		Electricity – Sewer (1976 KWH)	
386.40			
General Fund		SPO salary, employer contributions	
227.37			

CORRESPONDENCE: Treasurer Kastelic volunteered to meet with the Township's insurance agent to review the policy while the Supervisor is away before July 1st.

A T & T sent a 5-year renewal agreement to be signed by the Township to permit utility lines to go through (the Metro Act). A motion to sign the agreement was made by the Supervisor, seconded by Trustee Connell, all votes were "ayes."

A newspaper article about water rate increases in nearby towns was discussed. The Township's rates are comparable.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Trustee Bennetts had attended the April 17th meeting of the County on the federal flood insurance program and presented them with the document they had to sign in order for Township residents to be allowed to buy flood insurance. They signed it and sent it back. Now the process can be finished. (1)The Supervisor made a motion to approve the resolution of the intergovernmental agreement between the Township and the County to enforce the National Flood Insurance Program. Trustee Bennetts seconded and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." (2)Next, the Supervisor presented a resolution for a Township ordinance identifying the County as the enforcer of the construction code for flood plain management provisions. Trustee Connell seconded and, on a roll call vote, all votes were "ayes." (3)Next, the Supervisor made a resolution that the Township will manage the flood plain development according to the National Flood Insurance Program, seconded by Treasurer Kastelic, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote. (4)MI Resolution for Intent - The Supervisor made a motion that the Township intends to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all roll call votes were "ayes."

Nothing new has been heard back from the attorneys about the drain field easement.

The floor in the Hall was recoated and is done in time for the pancake breakfast on Saturday. Thanks to those who got it done in 32 hours--Rob and Ed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The pancake breakfast on Saturday will also feature omelets and a bake sale. Trustee Bennetts described a difference of opinion that occurred at the County meeting he attended between the commissioners and the internet provider who has offered to sponsor the breakfast. Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown said the funding for the 4 people taking the Medical First Responder course is coming from the scholarship program of the Houghton/Keweenaw Medical Coordination Authority at \$500/person. He also talked about the equipment that will be needed to outfit the vehicle. The plan is to have at least two people available most of the time. No callouts last month.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported that the lines on the chlorine feeder were cleaned and it is running better. Also, the water system is running fine. The Supervisor said he gave the County permission to use a fire hydrant if they need it to fill a tanker rather than driving all the way back to Mohawk. He requested that they email him and the WPO when they do it so that they can be aware of the water tank usage.

NEW WELL: Additional water tests are being done on the well at lesser depths. First they have to plug the well, pump it out and allow it to refill before they take another sample. The sample readings take a couple of months to be

read. No one has yet observed the retesting being done. They are probably waiting until the "lake" around the well subsides. The Portage Health Foundation is still thinking about the Township's grant request for the well.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Bob Pieti reported before he left on a trip that everything was working okay on the sewer system. Plans are still to get the flow meter repaired this summer.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee's next meeting had been planned for Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Trustee Bennetts will be contacting members to change the date so that he can attend the County's meeting. All residents are welcome at the meetings. Since there is not a lot happening, the meetings will still be held every other month--time and date to be determined. Committee meeting minutes are on the website:

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

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown brought up the restricted PA48 funds the Township receives--usually about \$600 a year. The uses for it are limited. As a result it has accumulated and not been spent. He suggested the Township come up with proposals or a budget for ways to use it: street lights, dead tree removal or planting, things in the road right-of-way. Many suggestions were made and will be considered again later.

Some of the office ceiling lights which needed to be replaced were replaced with LED bulbs. Some of the older neon bulbs are flickering, giving people headaches. After a discussion it was decided that they all needed to be replaced. Trustee Connell made a motion that all the lights be replaced, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "ayes."

There will be an Assessing Workshop June 11th which the Supervisor plans to attend. After the recent Audit of Minimum Assessment Requirements (AMAR) which the Township went through, he realized the Supervisor needs to know as much as possible about what is going on with assessing activities. None of the townships nearby passed their initial review. The process was started about 2 years ago.

There is a Township and County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on May 30th at 7 PM for anyone who wants to go. Trustee Bennetts had read the plan and said we do not have any real manmade disaster potentials, mostly just natural disasters: floods, wildfires.

Occasionally Board members attend meetings that are not part of their statutory duties, such as when Trustee Bennetts attended the County's meeting and reported it to the Board. A discussion followed about whether mileage should be paid. It was reported that mileage is being paid regularly by other townships for trips that are done for township business. Also discussed was, if a Board member is formally or unofficially representing the Township at a meeting, they could be paid. The Supervisor made a motion that the Board approves paying mileage and compensation based on the circumstances being approved by the Board. Trustee Connell seconded and all votes were "ayes."

A copy of the County's Capital Improvement Plan with lists for each township was sent to Board members. Essentially it was a wish list of things that would be paid for out of the County's funds. Some of the items for Sherman Twp. included a new fire truck, a boat launch at the Tobacco River, a recycling program, a new storm sewer drainage system, and others. They also acknowledged that the Gay Smoke Stack needed renovation, but did not designate any funds for it.

There will be a vacancy for grounds maintenance beginning 6/1/19 (lawn mowing and snow removal on ramps and with the tractor). A lengthy discussion about the duties, the pitfalls, and who might be interested followed. It was decided to put up posters all over town to encourage a local person to take it.

Playing pickle ball on 3rd Street this summer has been proposed. The Road Commission has agreed the street could be blocked off while the game is being played, then the net removed for traffic when done. Lines could also be painted and left since the Road Commission does not plow that street in the winter. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown suggested applying for another grant in the future to pay for a cement pad to be put in on Township property for multiple sports: such as basketball, pickle ball, or volleyball.

The Township Park toilet is open and the water is on. The 3rd bench will be installed on the cement soon. The old wooden benches were discussed. Many are beginning to fall apart because they were never meant to sit outside. They could be hazardous and cause liability problems for the Township. After discussion, it was decided that they probably should not be put out on July 4th. People would have to be notified to bring chairs.

Trustee Bennetts reported that Economic Development people came to the Brownfield meeting expressing interest in putting windmills up on Mt. Horace-Greeley. He asked what people thought about it. That it's a flight pathway for birds was mentioned, also, it would be visible from miles around. Some thought putting solar panels in might be better. A lengthy discussion followed about local power rates and generation of electricity from alternative methods.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM.