

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
June 13, 2019

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, June 13, 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, John Kastelic, Bob Pieti, and Paul Campbell from the Keweenaw County Historical Society. When additions to the agenda were requested, Trustee Connell asked that the properties being auctioned by the State be discussed. When public comment was asked for, no comments were made.

The regular meeting minutes from 5/9/19 were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." 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." Next the budget review was done, briefly covering what was included in "legal fees." The bills were discussed next. The cost for property and liability insurance went up because the Township's buildings were appraised higher than their previous value. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	May salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	May salary 500.00-30.00-7.25	462.75
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	May salary 500.00-30.00-7.25	462.75
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 (30 days)		430.36
Charles Bennetts	Township maintenance		143.45
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 6/2019		046.27
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator		200.83
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (52.33), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (81.25)		286.37
A T & T	Fire hall (66.57) Office (66.57)		133.14
Cardmember Service	Refund from W/F, MTA workshop registration		097.85
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -6/2019		200.00
Erhart Assessing	Assessor fee - 6/2019		400.00
MI Municipal League Liability & Property	Insurance for Township 7/1/19-6/30/20		6,688.00
Michigan Township Association	MTA - annual dues and legal defense assessment		192.61
A-1 Toilets, LLC	Service on Park outhouse - 3X		105.00
Michigan SIP Homes, Inc.	Trash bags - (10) 32 gallons		053.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1072 KWH)	225.57
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions, Cr.cd. refund	510.30
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests - E. coli (5/23/19)	034.00
Mi Municipal League	Property & liability insurance - water portion	1,144.00

2018 WATER SUPPLY WELL SAVINGS

Range Bank	Interest on 2018 Capital Construction Loan	1,640.00
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2018 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND

UP Engineers & Architects, Inc.	Professional services (INV 1901267)	758.00
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SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1645 KWH)	327.51
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	234.95
MI Municipal League	Property & Liability insurance - sewer portion	968.00
Sewer RRI Savings	1/4 of annual to be saved	250.00

CORRESPONDENCE: The Township's copy of the 5-year renewal agreement with A T & T (the Metro Act) was received. The DNR is having a forest management meeting June 19th in Baraga. There will be a legislative update meeting at the Franklin Township office June 28th with Ed McBroom and Greg Markkanen.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Supervisor sent an email to the attorneys about the drain field easement, but nothing has been heard back.

Access to two hydrants on 5th Street has been made easier after the County put in culverts between them and the road. Some of the ceiling bulbs in the office were replaced with LED bulbs.

Estimates will be sought for tree trimming and removal on Township property. PA-48 funds will be used for it.

Several people applied for the grounds maintenance position (lawn mowing and snow removal). After a brief discussion a motion to hire Bob Pieti was made by the Supervisor, seconded by Trustee Bennetts, and all votes were "yes."

Ed Burger volunteered to paint the lines for the pickle ball game on 3rd Street. The street will only be closed when the game is being played. Interest in the game was expressed by neighborhood kids.

**SMOKESTACK AND MILL RUINS PROPERTY:** The County Road Commission wants to sell the smokestack in Gay by the end of the summer. They offered it to the Township and to the Keweenaw County Historical Society. Paul Campbell from the Society said it is the last historical site on the south shore of the Keweenaw area. It is used by fishermen and others as a geographical marker. The Society would like for it to be maintained. He presented a plan that was also being discussed at the Society's meeting being held at the same time as the Township's. The plan is that the Township buys the smokestack and the Society provides the maintenance on it. Treasurer Kastelic asked if the Society made the same offer to the County. They had not. After much discussion, it was decided that the Township needed a committee of Board members and local residents to explore if this could be done, what the costs might be, and anything else that would be needed. Trustee Connell and Trustee Bennetts volunteered to be on the Gay Smokestack Committee, to contact as many residents as possible for input and ideas, and to coordinate with the Society. Everyone recognized that a written agreement would be needed.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** There was a structural fire in Big Betsy May 24-25th which spread to another structure. It possibly was started by mice chewing on wires. Sherman Township was called out to assist Lac La Belle FD. The 230 lb. "portable" drafting pump was put in use, but was almost impossible to carry across uneven ground. Therefore, Fire Chief Middlemis- Brown applied for a 50/50 grant from the DNR for a lighter weight pump. He also recommended that people with camps turn the power off when they are gone for any length of time. A couple of fire fighters entered one of the buildings to fight the fire and should have showered afterwards as well as washed their gear to remove the soot that could cause cancer later. When the bathroom is finished in the Fire Hall addition they will be able to do so. The fire rekindled on May 26th and some of the firefighters returned to put it out. Business meetings have been moved back to the 1st Tuesday of the month. The ISO (Insurance Services Office which rates all fire departments) will be coming in August for the 5-year inspection of the department. Because of lowered attendance at the pancake breakfast in May, plans are to hold it later, maybe in June, next year. Shorewaves internet service, which helped sponsor the breakfast, was discussed.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Water Plant Operator JT Reno is working on the Consumer Confidence Report which will go out with the bills at the end of June. Otherwise everything was okay.

**NEW WELL:** Sampling was delayed because of a breakdown in the well drillers "packer." Two samples have been taken at different depths and the pumping rate was the same at both--about 12 gal./min. The results of the samples have not been returned. The re-grading and seeding still need to be done.

Nothing has been heard from the Portage Health Foundation about the Township's grant request for the well.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT:** Bob Pieti reported the flow is about 8000 gal./day, presumably some of it groundwater. He cut the grass around the cleanouts to make it accessible when Tony comes out to check out the system. He will call Tony to schedule a time. Plans are still to get the flow meter repaired this summer.

**WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** All residents are welcome at the meetings. The meetings are held every other month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 17th at 6 PM. Committee meeting minutes are on the website: [www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), "township officials"-Sherman Township

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Auxiliary has signed an agreement with the Township for use of the Hall for the summer.

A-1 Toilets has been contacted and arrangements made for 2 extra portable toilets for the 4th of July.

Since the assessor is not available the statutory date (the second Tuesday after the first Monday), the Board of Review meeting needs to be moved to Tuesday, July 16th at 3 PM. Trustee Connell made a motion to move the BOR meeting to that date and time, Treasurer Kastelic seconded. All votes were "ayes."

The roof on the main part of the Office was not put on when the addition was put on. It probably was about 25 years ago and is showing much deterioration. Estimates for replacement will be sought to try to get it done before winter. A discussion followed about where funds for replacement would come from.

Two properties in town are scheduled to be auctioned for taxes by the State. The process was discussed and who (which group) gets the proceeds was discussed. Trustee Connell wondered if the Township might want to buy one of them to put a new well on. A discussion followed about what is happening to other properties in town.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM.