

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
July 11, 2019

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, July 11, 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 Bob Pieti, Butch Karvonen, and Ed Burger. When additions to the agenda were requested the pay limits for the Deputies was added. When public comment was asked for, no comments were made.

The regular meeting minutes from 6/13/19 were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Treasurer's report was presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The budget review was done next, covering what some of the expenditures were for. Next the bills were discussed. Some bills were paid ahead and discussed: AT & T, tree trimming, and unemployment insurance. The Clerk realized after the recent water bills were sent out that the recent water rate increase of \$7/month did not appear on every bill--only on a few. It will have to be added to the next bill in about 3 months. Trustee Connell wondered why there wasn't a Board meeting to vote on the recent tree trimming and why estimates were not obtained first. Quite a few companies were called, but none replied except the one. All are very busy and having trouble finding workers. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to vote ahead of time when having work done and placing a dollar limit at that time. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	July salary	375.00-22.50-5.44		
347.06					
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	July salary	500.00-30.00-7.25	462.75	
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	July 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	
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy Clerk	- election equipment training - 8.5 hrs.			094.40
JT Reno	Water Plant Operator	(30 days)		416.47	
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief	- 6/2019			046.27
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator & township maintenance				342.43
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (46.24), 17 st. lights (152.79), fire hall (68.07)			267.10	
A T & T	Fire hall (66.57) Office (66.57)			133.14	
Cardmember Service	Refund from FD, check printing, batteries			552.95	
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -7/2019			200.00	
Erhart Assessing	Assessor fee - 7/2019			400.00	
Odd Jobs & Tree Service	Trim 3 maples and cut stump (P.A. 48 funds)			800.00	
State of MI	Unemployment insurance liability			021.30	
Kelly Jarvi	Mileage to election equipment training			014.26	
Krans Oil Company, Inc.	Gas & diesel				085.86

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Credit Cd. reimbursement-Pitot gauge kit, canopy tent	370.96	
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Reimbursement for building materials on personal cr. cd.		3,419.90
Eric Smith	Reimbursement for MFR exam fee	075.00	
Sandra Loy	Reimbursement for MFR exam fee	075.00	
Bob Pieti	Reimbursement for MFR exam fee	075.00	

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1205 KWH)		249.23
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions	498.05	
2018 Water supply Well Savings	\$16/month water rate increase on 7/12/19 deposit	1,232.00	
RRI Water Savings	6/month water rate increase (7/12/19), 1/4 of annual saved	1,149.50	
JT Reno	Reimbursement on water sample sent 5/25 & 6/19/19	010.38	
Hawkins, Inc.	Chemicals for water plant	098.08	

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1364 KWH)	277.52	
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions		227.36

CORRESPONDENCE: AT & T sent a letter saying that phone rates were being raised. If the agreement was agreed to this month, the increase would start 2 months before the previous agreement runs out.

The Township received official notice that it is now enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program. Anyone wanting that kind of insurance will have to contact their insurance agent to obtain it.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The Supervisor received a letter from the attorney of the property owner where the septic drain field is encroaching. The attorney does not think that if the property owner is given a formal easement to cross Township property

between his two properties, that it would affect the current status/access of the Township's property as MTA said it might. After much discussion it was decided that it would not be in the best interest of the Township and a possible future drain field to issue a formal easement. The Supervisor made a motion that the Board not allow a formal easement on the Township's property between the property owner's two properties, still allowing informal access, and offer to pay fair market price for the encroached property (about \$200 for about 1/8 acre). Trustee Bennetts seconded, and there were 4 "ayes" and one "nay."

The trees on Township property were planted mostly by the mining company about 100 years ago and many will need to be replaced when they are cut down in the next few years (5-15). Many are in a deteriorated condition. P.A. 48 funds could be used. The Supervisor had looked into what grows up here, had priced some, and recommended they be planted in the fall for better survival. Many things have to be considered: where snow is usually piled, where the water mains and storm sewers are, what grows best in the soils and climate we have, how many trees will be needed and where should they go. The Board decided to think about the details another month. The Supervisor asked for a volunteer to lead the whole process, but no one spoke up for now.

The next Board of Review meeting will be July 16th at 3 PM. The assessor will be here and 2 issues will be discussed.

The Supervisor had called several contractors about bids for replacing the Office roof. Everyone is busy and not able to do anything at this time. Trustee Connell offered to contact contractors she knows.

The Smokestack Committee met with the Historical Society a few times. From what she heard Trustee Connell had concluded that a professional assessment might say it needed to be torn down and it could cost the Township too much (hundreds of thousands). In an informal assessment some local engineers said it will just continue to deteriorate, peeling away, but probably won't fall down--even with 100 mph winds. None of the people involved in the informal assessment was willing to put anything in writing. An estimate for a professional assessment was \$15,000. After a very long discussion the Board decided it would be best for Sherman Township not to buy the property.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The license and liability for starting up the Medical First Responders group will be under the Keweenaw County Sheriff's Department. Three of the fire department members passed the very intense practical exam and the state written exam: Sandra Loy, Bob Pieti, and Eric Smith. They still have the written (computerized) national exam to take. Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown is working with the Sheriff's office to find out what medical equipment they recommend. If the FEMA grant is obtained by the Sherman Fire Dept., it will be used to equip the MFR unit. The next ISO 5-year inspection will be August 7th. The next Keweenaw County Safety Day will be in Mohawk on July 20 from noon to 4 PM.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Trustee Connell gave Water Plant Operator JT Reno's report. Water usage has returned to a normal level after July 4th. Bob Pieti is working on a water quality parameters report and will be driving samples down to Lansing for new special tests (chloride/sulfide). Bob described many other new tests the State is requiring. Otherwise everything was okay.

**NEW WELL:** The lab where the samples for the new well are being processed is about 2 months behind. Results may be here in September for the samples taken after the well depth was changed. Both the re-grading and seeding still need to be done and could be done before the tests come back on the well. It was pointed out that the piping and electricity did not have to be done before the well was approved.

The Portage Health Foundation denied the Township's grant request for the well.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT:** Bob Pieti reported that he cut the grass again. He has been trying to getting in touch with Tony to schedule a time to flush the system and to get the flow meter repaired.

**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

The lead pipe issue is coming up. All the homes in town have to be inspected to see if they have galvanized pipes coming into them. If they do, the pipes will have to be replaced from the curb stop to the house, possibly paid for by the Water Dept. The State has mandated that a percentage of connections (possibly 5%) be replaced each year. Occupied homes will be done first and any information about what was put in when the system was changed will be sought.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Initially a limit was placed on how much was budgeted for the Deputy Clerk and the Deputy Treasurer--\$100/month. Now that it has been decided to raise their pay to \$12/hour along with raises in other positions, it was decided to make the limit 10 hours/month which would not be affected by the pay rate. A motion was made by the Supervisor to change the wording of the limit to "10 hours/month," seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes."

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 6:30 PM.