

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
May 13, 2021

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Sherman Township Community Hall. Other Board members attending were Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Clerk JT Reno, Trustee Frank Kastelic and Trustee Deneen Connell. There were also 8 community members in attendance. The Supervisor made a motion to approve the agenda, the Clerk seconded. All votes were “ayes.” Updates from the Park Planning Committee were added to the agenda.

S. Middlemis-Brown read a statement that she had prepared (a copy has been included with the minutes). A community member asked that the minutes be emailed to them. Another community member mentioned that the bills and agenda were not posted online and that the members of the public were not listed on the minutes.

The minutes from the April 8, 2021 regular meeting were presented. The Clerk made a motion to approve the minutes, Trustee Connell seconded. There were no comments or additions, and all votes to approve were “ayes.” Trustee Connell made a motion to approve and discuss expenditures, the Treasurer seconded. The Clerk stated that the power bills, a water sample bill and a payment from the Fire Dept to the general fund for a grant finalization were added. All votes to approve the expenditures were “ayes.”

The Supervisor made a motion to table The 2021-2040 Capital Improvement plan until after the Park Planning Committee has a chance to come up with a plan so the park can be a part of the Capital Improvement Plan. The Clerk seconded, all votes were “ayes”.

The Supervisor made a motion to make an offer to B. Fortin for the sewer operator position, the Clerk seconded the motion for discussion. Trustee Kastelic brought up that the board had no input on the compensation offer for B. Fortin. The Supervisor stated that the board members should contact him before the meeting if they have questions or concerns about agenda items. A member of the public created a disturbance and the Supervisor had to return the meeting to order. There was discussion about compensation for B. Fortin, Trustee Kastelic mentioned that the costs for the sewer operator license weren't listed as part of the compensation package, wanted reimbursement after a year, and wouldn't vote for something if he didn't know the full cost. Treasurer Kastelic mentioned that the budget for the sewer department was “tight” and suggested tabling the license compensation until after exact figures were determined. Trustee Connell was concerned that the compensation was too much and wanted to postpone the vote to look for another candidate. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay B. Fortin \$10/day and wait to increase his pay after his license is obtained, Trustee Kastelic seconded. Trustees Connell and Kastelic voted “aye,” the other three board members voted “nay.” The clerk made a motion as a compromise to offer \$15/day and table the rest of the compensation package until later, Trustee Connell seconded. The Supervisor voted “nay,” all other board members voted “aye.” If there is a counter offer a special meeting will be held to discuss the offer.

The building and grounds position was discussed and there currently isn't anyone interested in the position. It was discussed that the grounds and maintenance position be left vacant until the next meeting if a candidate isn't located before then.

A policy for purchases by board members without board approval was discussed and it was decided to table the matter until June, keeping the \$400 limit that is currently in place.

The Supervisor made a motion to postpone the expansion of the water/sewer system until after the water/sewer advisory committee meets and brings recommendations to the board, the Clerk seconded. All votes were “ayes.” It was suggested that all water/sewer users attend the advisory meeting and the Clerk stated that he would send out emails to all interested

parties. Trustee Connell stated that she would be the Board representative at the advisory meeting.

A member of the public stated that they agreed with the choice of B. Fortin as sewer plant operator, but didn't agree with reimbursing his license cost until he was operator for 6 months or a year. Another member of the public asked if the other sewer plant technicians only checked the plant once a week, the Supervisor stated that we follow EGLE recommendations and once a week is the current minimum requirement.

A memorandum of understanding between the township and the Fire Department Auxiliary was discussed next. Trustee Connell made a motion to discuss and the Clerk seconded. The Clerk asked whether having a MoU with one group could lead to legal issues if another group tried to enter into a MoU with the township. There was discussion with an auxiliary member about legal issues concerning this. Trustee Kastelic mentioned that there was never any MoU in the past and didn't think we needed one. Treasurer Kastelic mentioned that the auxiliary had a lease/usage agreement in place already and wanted to know if that covered the issue already. Trustee Connell mentioned that she was concerned with lawsuits against the board members or the township based upon what she had read about other MoU issues. The Clerk made a motion to table the MoU until the board members got more information, Trustee Connell seconded. The supervisor voted "nay," all other members voted "aye."

Two different grants for the Fire Department to replace SCBA airtanks were discussed next. The Supervisor made the motion to discuss and Trustee Connell seconded on both. Trustee Kastelic asked whether or not the FD was authorized to be labeled as "Fire and Rescue." The Supervisor stated that the Fire Department had two trained Medical First Responders and was "Fire and Rescue." All votes to approve the grants were "ayes."

Trustee Connell (the Chairperson for the Park Planning Committee) mentioned that the PPC had met and there were a few ideas brought forward. The Clerk had contacted the risk assessment specialist from the insurance company and they sent a packet about park safety. The next Park Planning Committee will be held on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. All members of the public are encouraged to attend.

The Clerk made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 PM, the Treasurer seconded.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on June 10, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Community Hall.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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JT Reno, Clerk

13 May 2021

Sherman Township Board of Trustees,

I feel that the efficacy of this Board of Trustees has been affected by a lack of decorum. I ask this board, with all five of its trustee members, to revert to its stated policy on meeting procedure, which is based of Robert Rules of Order. If that policy is obsolete, I ask this board to establish a meeting-procedure policy that will keep order and avoid a hostile environment.

All trustees are tasked with knowing procedural policy and preparing for a board meeting. I would like to thank Deneen for looking through past ordinances, preparing herself for substantive discussion. I thank Marilyn for her years of faultless preparation and presentation as a trustee and treasurer. I thank JT, as a new trustee and clerk, for his preparation of minutes and bills. I feel that trustees that neglect preparation and expect special treatment during the meeting insult the board and the public.

According to Robert Rules, the moderator must keep order by enforcing proper procedures; the moderator controls the floor and neither a trustee nor the public, may take privileges. During discussion of a supported motion, the moderator determines who may speak and calls the vote at any time. Speakers must request the floor and must yield the floor when asked by the moderator. I feel that both the board and the public have fallen short of expectations of decorum during meetings. I include myself here because I have spoken out of turn as a member of the public. For this, I am deeply sorry and apologize to the trustees.

Rules of order do not permit accusations and personal assaults, which if unchecked, create a hostile environment that the other trustees and the public must endure. A hostile environment does not get the job done! Remember, EVERYONE in this room is here to see this community, this township, thrive and be a community where we WANT to live.

So, you may say, "how do I make my point if I can't say what I want, when I want?" Under rules of order, members of the public wishing to make comment come prepared to the meeting and share their comment during the proscribed period. No one should chime in willy-nilly. Also, the savvy trustee prepares for the meeting and finds a solution to their issue of concern. If the issue must come before the board, then the trustee places the issue on the agenda, provides background materials, does not blind-side fellow trustees, and comes to the board meeting with a solution in the form of a motion.

A motion is never a complaint. It cannot change the past. Motions ensure that actions are employed in the future. Motions must be stated in a positive manner, addressing what shall occur, not what did occur. They are addressed to the board and do not single out an individual. Problems with individuals and personnel should be managed outside the meeting and handled with respect. A motion that defines a new policy that avoids the recurrence of that perceived problem may be offered at a meeting.

The Board of Trustees meeting is not a place to vent, opine, and bully. Transparency in governing does not mean airing gripes from the past, but rather it brings substantive issues involving the future into the light for action. Good governance is knowing the proper time and procedure to have each issue addressed effectively. I thank those of you exercising good governance and I most sincerely appreciate your work.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry Middlemis-Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sherry Middlemis-Brown