

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
April 8, 2021

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, April 8, 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 7 community members in attendance. The Clerk made a motion to approve the agenda, Trustee Connell seconded. All votes were “ayes.” AMAR (Annual Minimum Assessment Requirement), money spent without prior approval, and an ordinance discussion was added to the agenda. There was no public comment.

The minutes from the March 11, 2021 regular meeting were presented. Trustee Connell made a motion to approve the minutes, the Treasurer 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 tax report for unemployment, SCBA repair, and roadside vehicle repair for FD truck 3 were added. Trustee Connell had questions concerning the cost of repair for the township tractor and whether the tractor should be replaced. Trustee Kastelic brought up that the Board should have had input on the repair of the tractor. Trustee Kastelic asked about the payment to the health department for the Community Hall food handlers license. In the past the auxiliary paid for the license, but now the license is the Township's responsibility. Trustees Connell and Kastelic voted aye on the bills with the exception of the tractor repair to Wards. All other votes were “ayes” with no exceptions and the bills were passed.

The 2021-2040 Capital Improvement plan was discussed next. Insulation of the Firehall roof and replacing the township tractor were mentioned as being included in the plan. The Capital Improvement plan will be finalized in the next few months. The Supervisor stated that he would like to have a special meeting about the Capital Improvement Plan to get community input possibly in May or June.

A member of the public (B. Fortin) has submitted an application for the sewer operator position and he will be put in contact with the current operator (B. Pieti) to go over the system. A decision on hiring will be made at the May meeting. The Township is still looking for someone to hire for the building/grounds position. The Clerk and current grounds worker have been in contact with a possible candidate.

The reconciliation of the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was conducted with a few changes. A motion was made by the Supervisor to approve the reconciliation and Trustee Connell seconded. All votes were “ayes.”

Expansion of the water system was discussed. The USDA bond counsel was contacted and the Supervisor explained that a “benefit” connection was recommended. The recommended amount was \$5,000 which is around what the bond assessment amount is. The cost of connecting to the system and the “benefit” connection would be on the new user. It was suggested that an engineer be contacted to determine if the water/sewer system could handle the capacity. There was discussion about the assessment area, wells, and septic systems within the township. Trustee Connell asked to be able to see the water and sewer ordinances. Trustee Kastelic made a motion to table the new ordinance vote until an engineering firm was contacted concerning the capacity of the water/sewer questions. The Clerk seconded and all votes were “ayes.”

What to do with the 2021 American Rescue plan funds (\$6,500) was discussed next. It was suggested that a committee be formed to decide how to proceed with the money after the funds are received. The Township also received funds from the sale of 162 acres of CFR land to the Keweenaw Community Forest Company.

The Fire and Rescue Department requested permission to sell the 1991 International Tanker after approval paperwork is received from the DNR. The proposed selling price would be \$10,000. The FD received the vehicle at no cost and has put approximately \$6,000 and many hours of work into the vehicle. The funds from the sale of the 1991 tanker will be used to help purchase a replacement for the primary tanker. Trustee Kastelic stated that he was not made aware of the intention to sell the tanker and wanted the matter tabled until the next meeting so the Board has more time to think on the matter. The Supervisor made a motion to grant permission to the FD for sale of the vehicle, Trustee Connell seconded. Trustee Kastelic voted “nay,” all other board members voted “aye.”

Costs of PFAS testing for the water department will increase by approximately \$2400 for this fiscal year. The water plant operator stated that the amounts of PFAS contamination in the system are decreasing, but the system still has to continue sampling.

Trustee Connell asked about looking into ordinances and will be contacting the County and possibly the State about possible violations.

A public meeting for the Park Planning Committee will be held at the Township Hall on April 27th at 6:30 pm to discuss ideas for the Township park.

There was discussion about spending limits for Township expenses without Board approval. Trustee Connell stated that she believed there were already limits in place and is planning to look back through old minutes to find the limit. Trustee Kastelic stated that if there were limits they were not being followed and that Board approval was needed on expenses outside of the “normal” (power bills, propane, water testing, etc.) expenses. Trustee Kastelic made a motion that a \$1,000 limit be placed on non-emergency purchases by the Supervisor. There was no second and the motion was dropped.

Trustee Connell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the Treasurer seconded. All votes were “ayes” and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on May 13, 2021 in the community hall unless Covid restrictions are reinstated.

Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

JT Reno, Clerk