

REGULAR MEETING  
Sherman Township Board  
January 11, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board to order on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Ann Strykowski, Bob Strykowski, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, John Kastelic, and Ed Burger.

The regular meeting minutes from 12/14/17 were presented. Trustee Bennetts said he did not question the correctness of the property numbering system as reported in the minutes, just the assessor's interpretation of it. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes with the different interpretation, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next. The Clerk explained that checks had to be written from the Water Fund to put the water rate increase funds into the new well fund and the Water RRI account because in the Quickbooks accounting program the funds could only be split two ways--water or sewer. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	January salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	January salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	January salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
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
Robert Strykowski	Water Plant Operator(12/1-12/16), Grounds Maintenance			247.11
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 12/2017			185.10
Mike Jarvi	Fire Chief - 12/2017			046.27
JT Reno	WPO (12/17-12/31)			166.59
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (62.76), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (93.44)			316.85
A T & T	Fire hall (43.45), Office (63.64)			107.09
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – Jan. 2017 fee			370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental - 1/2018			200.00
Card Member Service	W/F & FD Millage refunds-truck parts, postage, supplies			3,890.13
State Of Michigan	Unemployment Insurance Agency			038.08
David A. Heinonen, CPA PC	Forms prepared: annual tax, W-2,W-3, 1096, 1099,944			171.50

FIRE DEPT. MILLAGE

General Fund	Pay cr. cd., supplies outfitting Fire dept. trucks	3,326.12
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (801 KWH)	177.36
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri.,credit cd. - postage & supplies	410.66
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (Inv 156772)	034.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase	378.00
RRI Water Savings	1/4 annual to be saved (687.50), \$6/mo. rate increase	939.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1461 KWH)	294.78
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	218.68

SEWER AMORTIZATION

USDA-Rural Development	Loan 92-02, interest	2,486.25
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CORRESPONDENCE: The Township received a lengthy letter from a lawyer disputing having to pay the water bills that now are being sent for a property on which there is a building that was not hooked up when the newer water system was put in. He also sent several legal articles supporting his claim. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown explained the letter, the articles, and what an attorney at MTA had told him. More information will be obtained. The ordinance was discussed by the Board and it was felt the Township's expectations were reasonable.

The Keweenaw County Road commission will be holding a meeting January 23rd. They will present the plan for this year's work. The Township's roads may be resurfaced this summer. The Supervisor plans to attend and asked Trustee Bennetts to go with him.

The assessor contacted Supervisor Middlemis-Brown telling him the Township needed to approve using the Federal Poverty Guidelines concerning property taxes in case someone applies for an exemption, or develop our own. The Supervisor made a motion to adopt the Federal Poverty Guidelines, Trustee Bennetts seconded, all votes were "ayes."

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown handed out copies of the proposed meeting dates for 2018. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept those dates and times, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Meetings minutes can be viewed online at the website: [www.keweenawcountyonline.org/](http://www.keweenawcountyonline.org/), "township officials"-Sherman Township

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** At the 1/9/18 Fire Department meeting an election was held to replace the Fire Chief for the balance of the term which ends in December 2018. Rob Middlemis-Brown was elected as Chief and Mike Jarvi as Assistant Chief. Since the Board has to approve the selection, the Clerk made a motion to accept the Fire Department's vote for the new Chief and Assistant Chief, Trustee Connell seconded. On a roll call vote, all four vote were "ayes." Three people are taking Fire fighter II: Sandra Loy, JT Reno, and Bob Pieti. A training session will be held Sunday, January 14th on the thermal imaging camera and the AED (defibrillator). Most of the repairs on the secondary tanker are done. The next step will be the body painting which will probably be scheduled for the end of January. The DNR has approved the grant for 50% of the cost of the painting.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Water Plant Operator Bob Strykowski reported that the plant is running okay with no problems. However, one of the water sample containers sent in this week leaked out and had to be redone. The plastic bottles are sent in an envelope and rough handling might have knocked the lid off. The house that had high copper readings in a recent test was being retested. The lab said there was some turbidity in the initial sample. DEQ commented that high turbidity has contributed to higher readings in the past. There were other events concerning the Water Department: the propane tank for the water plant ran out this past week, but the company came quickly when called; JT Reno passed the water plant operators test recently and is now certified; UP Engineering is working on obtaining bids for the new well.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT:** Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts said the sewer system is working fine. The gate is now unlocked. He has not been stirring up anything per recommendation of the manual and the level of the water has remained the same. The gauges for the flow rate do not seem to mean anything. The forms he needs for DEQ licensing will not be available until February. The Groundwater Discharge Permit will be renewed April 2018 by Chris at UP Engineers.

**WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The Committee's is meeting next Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00 PM in the Office. Everyone is welcome. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked that the committee work on the 2018-19 budgets for the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Supervisor handed out a basic Capital Renovation and Replacement Plan 2018-2028 for the Board to study for the meeting next month. He explained that the State requires it and it would cover all Township equipment, the Office, the Community Hall, the Fire Hall, and the Park. He also asked the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee to do the same for the Water Department and the Sewer Department.

The Township Board Officers will be working on the budgets for 2018-19 so that drafts will be ready for the Board at the February meeting. Budgets will be approved at a meeting in March.

The weekly fire station siren testing has been cancelled due to noise complaints. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown explained that it had to be tested previously because it was the only way to call fire fighters in. On the new timer the length of time it sounds (90 seconds) cannot be shortened. It can still be operated by pushing the red button on the side of the Fire Hall.

**2018 BOARD OF REVIEW:** Members of the BOR decided recently to forego advanced training this year because it is not required, it is rather expensive, and they feel they get more training on the job than from the class. The free training offered in years past has not been offered this year. The first appeals meeting will be held on March 12, 3-9 PM. The other meeting times and dates will be decided later. The organizational meeting will be March 6 about 5:30 PM.

**CHARTS:** Supervisor Middlemis-Brown made up several charts to demonstrate where the Township's money comes from, the cash coming in during the year, and the percentage going out for major expense categories. He presented them and explained them in detail, suggesting that a fiscal year from January 1st to December 31st might give the Township a better cash flow.

**RAMP SNOW REMOVAL:** While cleaning the Office ramp recently Supervisor Middlemis-Brown fell off and broke several ribs. The Ward dealer suggested getting a compact electric snow blower to clean the ramp. A refurbished 18" wide one was ordered for about \$200.

**HALL USE:** It was decided at this time not to do a Hall rental agreement or to ask for a deposit. However, the people using it will have to clear the snow from the steps themselves and the ramp if they want to use it. They also will have to remove their own trash.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on February 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

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Rob Middlemis-Brown, Supervisor

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Adeline Schmidt, Clerk