

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
July 12, 2018

Supervisor Middlemis-Brown called to order the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 6:31 PM. Board members attending were Supervisor Rob Middlemis-Brown, Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Sherry Middlemis-Brown, Kelly Jarvi, JT Reno, Bev Spehar, John Kastelic, and Frank Kastelic. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown asked for additions to the agenda, and Treasurer Kastelic said several people had asked about additional carvings on the park pavilion and requested that it be included in the agenda. Under "public comment" Sherry Middlemis-Brown gave an account of what the Auxiliary is doing, including donating 30% of the proceeds to the Flood Relief Drive through the River Valley Bank which is matching donations for the drive. She also commented that, after paying the trash bill for the Auxiliary, she realized that people renting the Hall might have more than \$50 worth of trash and cleanup. The Board might need to change the charge for use of the Hall.

The regular meeting minutes from 6/14/18 were presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to accept the minutes, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. Treasurer Kastelic commented that while helping with accounting tasks, JT suggested part of the PILT Fund be put into a CD. A discussion followed with a decision to look at the suggestion after the Water Well Project was finished. Trustee Connell made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by the Clerk, and all votes were "ayes." The bills were presented next and discussed. Trustee Bennetts made a motion to pay the bills, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown 347.06	Supervisor	June salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Marilyn Kastelic 347.06	Treasurer	June salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
Adeline Schmidt 347.06	Clerk	June salary 375.00-22.50-5.44	
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(6/12-6/30/18), Grounds Maintenance		298.94
Charles Bennetts	Sewer Plant Operator - 6/2018		194.35
JT Reno	WPO (6/1-6/11/18)		122.17
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 6/2018		046.27
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy clerk duties		055.00
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (47.03), 17 st. lights (160.65), fire hall (69.22)		266.90
A T & T	Fire hall (54.04), Office (64.09)		118.13
Cardmember Service	Refunds from CRRP, water, sewer and Auxiliary		3,339.31
State of MI	Unemployment insurance		041.37
Erhart Assessing, LLC	Assessor – June 2018 fee		370.00
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -6/2018		200.00
Superior Equipment	Auger rental 2018 Fire Station addition construction		287.00
A-1 Toy-lets, LLC 390.00	2 portable toilets(7/4), Park outhouse serviced 6X		
MI Sip Homes, Inc	Trash service		026.90

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Gitzen Company	Popcorn, equipment cleaner, 6" plates for Auxiliary	062.59
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CAPITAL RENOVATION & REPLACEMENT PLAN (CRRP)

General Fund	Fire Hall addition building supplies & auger	3,539.70
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WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1289 KWH)	264.18
General Fund	WPO salary, empl. contri., pay cr. cd. - postage	408.77
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests (INV159455, 6/20/18) copper & E. coli	049.00
2018 Water Supply Well Savings	\$9/month water rate increase (7/13/18 deposit)	540.00
RRI Water Savings	\$6/mo. rate increase(7/ 13/18 deposit)	360.00
UP Engineers Inc.	INV 1801679 - professional services (from 2018 Well Savings	701.40

The Daily Mining Gazette 480.00	Ad - "Advertisement for Bids"(from 2018 Well Savings)	
American Water Works Assn. Adeline Schmidt 051.15	Annual dues - 9/1/18 - 8/31/19 Roll of stamps, postage to Finland used personal cr. cd.)	083.00
<u>SEWER FUND</u>		
Ontonagon County REA General Fund 292.59	Electricity – Sewer (1233 KWH) SPO salary, employer contri., pay cr. cd. - markers for valves	254.21

SEWER AMORTIZATION

USDA - Rural Development	Loan 92-02, interest \$2,486.25, principal \$2,500	4,986.25
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CORRESPONDENCE: A notice came out that the Keweenaw Co. Road Commission was abandoning a 1/4 mile stretch of a county right-of-way in the Gay area--Tobacco Road which used to intersect 5th St.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: Supervisor Middlemis-Brown contacted a different surveyor about part of the sewer drain field possibly being on someone else's property. The new surveyor expressed conviction that the first surveyor's readings were accurate and it is partly on someone else's property. A land swap could be made or the property could be bought outright. The Supervisor realized the Township's property has never been surveyed. With a new water well being put in near the property edge, it probably should be partially surveyed first.

The addition to the Fire Hall is about a 1/3 of the way done. It represents about 80 man-hours of work. Volunteers are welcome to come and help.

A discussion followed about the swing set, bench, and plaque that are planned for the park which will be bought with a donation from the previous Auxiliary. A motion to go ahead and order the items discussed was made by the Supervisor, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes."

The State has mandated that every municipal water and sewer system have a CRRP (Capital Renovation and Replacement Plan). Supervisor Middlemis-Brown presented the plan which the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee had worked on. While money for each system has been set aside regularly because the USDA - Rural Development also mandated it to be put in the RRI (Repair & Replacement Investment) account, it has only been the minimal amount. With the CRRP the amount needed to replace each system after 20 years was estimated. At the end of the year, if there is enough extra in the user fee accounts, the proposed amounts will be transferred to the RRI accounts. The Supervisor made a motion to accept the plan, Trustee Bennetts seconded, and all votes were "ayes" on a roll call vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The regular meeting was held Tuesday. The pumper was recertified on June 27th. There was an incident on June 29th--a tree on a power line resulting in a fire. At the July 4th celebration most of the funds collected (about \$1470) came from the raffle and sales, not much from food. There will be another Keweenaw Safety Day on July 21st in Mohawk from 10-2. Everything will be free: food, demonstrations, and a bounce house. The Fire Dept. plans to do an extrication from a car with the Copper Harbor FD.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Water Plant Operator JT Reno reported there were a few spikes in volume, but everything went well for the month. The bids that were received for the water well project came in too high and are being redone after the electrical requirements and the rest of the setup are refigured. The new bids will probably be done by October. The financial aspects (a loan) are still in the works.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Sewer Plant Operator Bennetts has resigned, but is still covering the operation. The job pays \$200/month and involves checking the field at least once a week. Annual reports will still be written by Chris at UP Engineers. The DEQ checked the field in May and there was standing water. The drainage issue needs to be fixed before they check it again in a couple of months. The planned repairs that need to be done are estimated to be about \$7700 for ditches and a swale. The cost to replace the panel on the lift station is about \$800. An additional expense is the flushing of the system for about \$200. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown made a motion that the proposed work on the sewer system be approved by the Board, Trustee Connell seconded, and all votes were "ayes." The Supervisor had contacted UP Engineering and asked why the whole system has to be pumped before the DEQ does their sampling. With a cost of about \$2000 to pump out the septic tanks, the DEQ was informed the Township could not afford to pump it out whenever they want to collect a sample. It would be better for them to come when it is being pumped out.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, July 18th, 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings which are usually held at 6:00 PM the 3rd Wednesday. Minutes of the committee are on the Township website:

www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, "township officials"-Sherman Township

The Committee recently checked out the sewer system by pulling each manhole cover in town and just observing where wipes, etc. might be coming from. When they saw wipes they talked to the residents living nearby, and there appears to be less of a problem. The Committee does not feel an increase in rates is needed at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: New equipment was purchased for cleaning in the Hall--a vacuum cleaner and a large dust mop.

The refrigerator and stove in the Hall are beginning to have problems. Both are about 18-20 years old and need repairs, but replacement might be a better way to go. After much discussion it was decided to replace the refrigerator before it quits with a limit of \$730 for the refrigerator, plus disposal. The Supervisor made a motion that the Board approves buying a new one using the Community Hall Fund. Trustee Bennetts seconded, all votes were "ayes." Trustee Bennetts offered to check for parts to replace the stove time/temperature display.

The Road Commission filled in the old sewer pit on the Adkins' property today and removed the old heavy metal cover. The Fire Dept. filled in the sink holes in the Township parking area. They come from the old steam tunnel and were fixed by digging down and filling it in with cement.

Trustee Bennetts suggested that historic narrative signs be put up for the Hall and Office, similar to the one in the Park. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown also suggested "welcome" signs in three locations, done by the Road Commission, using PA. 48 money. After much discussion, it was decided to get all the signs.

There was a brief discussion about whether or not to allow more carvings on the Park Pavilion posts. Most felt they were filled enough. Since others were denied in the past, it was felt the issue is closed.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on August 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM.