

Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Regular Board Meeting of Sherman Township

The regular scheduled meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 7:00 pm, in the meeting room of the township hall. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Smalligan at 7:00 pm. After the pledge of allegiance, roll call was taken, and members present were Karen Berens, Doug Berens, Stan Stroven, Ken Smalligan and Jamie Kukal.

Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to approve the agenda as presented. All approved, motion passed.

Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to accept the minutes from the January 3, 2022, regular meeting with corrections . All approved, motion passed.

For public comment, Jim Maike spoke about the ARPA funds and all the confusion sifting through the regulations for usage of funds. He invited the board to the next county meeting in April, where a lawyer will be speaking on the subject. He reported that county parks are closed at this time, and under some maintenance and renovations for the upcoming season.

Treasurer-Berens presented her report of outgoing funds indicating that a new vacuum was recently purchased and already damaged by a renter. Apparently, the latch for the bagless container was broken, however it is still usable. Karen and Leanna will look into warranty or replacement options for the broken latch portion. Berens also reported that the bathroom issue had been fixed by Orchard Hill Mechanical and she was able to apply a coupon that she had for a slight discount. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to accept the treasurer's report and authorize the paying of bills for the month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Clerk-Kukal presented the clerk's report, highlighting the balance sheet, the revenue replacement calculator example for the ARPA funds and the eligibility for charter township status. Kukal will be running the needed public notices to advertise the eligibility for consideration at the March meeting. K Smalligan asked for pros and cons to becoming a charter township and S Stroven responded that he thought there were some perks but also more restrictions. It was tabled until next month where board members should have had an opportunity to research the benefits before deciding. Kukal also presented the flier for upcoming zoning training options through MTA.

There were no reports from either trustee at that time.

Supervisor- Smalligan presented his report and communications with a few subjects for review. First being the subject of park bathroom improvements. He asked the board and others present to consider possible options for improvements to be discussed next month. Chad Kukal requested that a committee be formed for this project. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to form a committee, composed of Chad Kukal as chair, Doug Berens and a few other volunteers, to look into improvement or renovation options. All approved, motion passed.

Smalligan then explained his proposed wage increases for township employees. The increases would be as follows; Building inspector increased by \$100 per month, Zoning administrator and deputy increased

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by \$50 per month, Appointed board members (BOR, ZBA, and Planning) increased by \$15 per meeting, Hourly labor increased to \$13 per hour, Hall cleaning increased to \$65 per cleaning. S Stroven said he could live with the small increase to those wages. K Berens said after last month's increase to elected officials, it was only right to consider these increases. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to accept the proposed rate increases as printed along with the one addition of the hall cleaner position. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Next Smalligan touched on the ARPA funds and the Final Rule as supplied in the latest addition of The Township Focus and how it will eliminate the need calculator that Clerk-Kukal presented earlier. He also advised the board to consider who should be named as the three points of contacts for the recording purposes of the funds and we will officially appoint those next months. A few possible project options were offered up for consideration for usage of the funds. Some being the improvements of the park bathrooms, improvements of the acoustics in the meeting room, cemetery data upgrades and broadband to name a few.

For his final piece of business, Smalligan presented the proposed road projects from the Newaygo County Road Commission for consideration this summer. The possible projects present were as follows; Wedge and overlay of 24th St between old M20 and Parson Ave. with some valley gutter, approximately 4600feet for a township share of \$86,000, Overlay of Luce Ave between 8th St. and 16th St., approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$88,200, Wedge and overlay of Luce Ave. between 8th St. and Baseline Rd, approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$100,400, Wedge, overlay and raise area on Croswell Ave. between 40th St. and 48th St., approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$113,600, Wedge and overlay of Croswell Ave. between 32nd St. and 40th St., approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$93,200, Wedge and overlay of Croswell Ave. between 24th St. and 32nd St., approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$99,200. Smalligan said he talked to Derrick at the Road Commission earlier in the day and he advised us to partner with the County drain commission as they will be working on new culverts and grades on Croswell between 40th and 48th. That way all the work could be coordinated. S Stroven commented that he was thinking the 24th St section would be a good one to consider given the possible traffic increase that walleye fishing will bring to Crystal Lake. However, given this new information he would agree that the timing is ideal to partner with the drain commission on the Croswell section between 40th St. and 48th St. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to approve the project bid presented by the Newaygo County Road Commission for the wedge, overlay and raise area on Croswell Ave. between 40th St. and 48th. ST, approximately 1 mile for a township share of \$113,600. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Smalligan also presented the Brine bid from D&B Brine for \$0.13/gallon for the 2022 season. They have estimated using 15,000 gallons resulting in a cost of \$1,950. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to accept the bid from D & B Brine for \$0.13/gallon estimated at 15,000 gallons for \$1,950. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

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Assessor-Story reported that the 2022 tax roll has been turned in and tax assessment notices will be coming out within the next week. There was an increase across the boards on taxable value, so everyone can expect to see those increases represented on the assessment notices. Stan asked if the county will be printing the scale to show the school assessments on the right-hand side of the notices and Brian responded that he has requested the notices to be printed as such. However, this year's continual employment turnover at the county level has left room for more than one error and he cannot guarantee they will be printed as he requested.

Story reported that the March Board of Review is coming up and 4 of the 5 members took advantage of the county held educational course. March BOR dates are as follows; TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022- 3:00 P.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING APPEAL HEARINGS MEETING SCHEDULE: MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022- 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00PM AND 6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022- 9:00 A.M. TO NOON AND 1:00 P.M TO 4:00 P.M. Brian and Karen have updated several forms and have them available for pick up in the entryway and Jamie will add a page to the website to accommodate new documents for downloading.

Sexton-Tollefson reported that all was quiet in the cemetery.

For the Planning zoning commission, Doug Berens reported that at last month's meeting they were able to get through some of the list with Ryan Coffey. He also voiced his concern that both the chair and vice chair would be absent for the coming meeting, and he wondered about canceling for the month. It was decided that Jamie would publish the cancellation notice and Doug would reach out to the members to inform them.

Building inspector-Smalligan reported doing 3 permits and 8 inspections last month. K Smalligan asked about permit # 2334 and if the structure would be attached to the home. G Smalligan confirmed that it will be attached, and a new permit was just recently issued for such. C Kukal confirmed this information and added that the property owner was waiting on locating the underground utilities so he could know the specs of the area where the attachment could be placed. G Smalligan presented a proposed increase of permit fees to align with the county's recent increases. He also pointed out that it was assumed that the cost of a zoning permit was already included in the \$70 base fee cost all this time and it was not included. So, for years residents have not been getting charged for zoning permits. So, the proposal shows the slight per square footage charge increase and the addition of a zoning fee for \$30. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to accept the proposed increases as presented to align with the county. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Zoning Administrator-Kukal confirmed the 3 permits for the month and asked when the board would like to host the junk drive. After referencing the hall calendar, June 11th was chosen as the preferred date. John Borgman will get with his contact for the dumpsters and confirm the date and cost. J Kukal will adjust the ad and present it for review next month.

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White Cloud Sherman Utilities, Dick Chenard reported that the earlier meeting took only 20 minutes with little to review. The new White Cloud City manager, April Storms has joined the board. 2.8 million dollars was spent on sewer renovations, with the pumphouse still left to renovate.

For Fremont Fire District, K Berens reported billing \$1,438.97 and collecting \$100.85. For White Cloud Fire District, the 2022 proposed budget was presented for the township to assist in the calculation of appropriated funds.

For new or unfinished business, Clerk-Kukal asked the members to review the provided contact list for any errors and reminded them of upcoming term expirations.

There was no public or board member comment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

Submitted by: Jamie Kukal-Clerk

Visitors present:	Gary Smalligan	Wayne Berens	Jerry Engel	Chad Kukal
	Dick Chenard	Jim Maike	Vonda Tollefson	Brian Story

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Sherman Township
Balance Sheet
 As of January 31, 2022

		Jan 31, 22
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
MASTER ACCOUNT		
101-001 · General Fund cash		181,459.56
203-001 · Mayo Drive cash		11,658.36
220-002 · Robinson Lake Cash		24,167.14
221-001 · Crystal Lake Cash		46,388.86
336-001 · Fire protection millage Fr & WC		11,731.08
Total MASTER ACCOUNT		275,405.00
151-001 · Cemetery cash		7,563.26
202-001 · Road Checking		19,752.28
249-001 · Capital acquisition cash		3,626.29
260-001 · Gerber FCU		
261-336 · Gerber Fire Runs Savings		2,955.19
263-001 · Gerber FCU ARPA Account		111,448.01
Total 260-001 · Gerber FCU		114,403.20
401-001 · Winter Tax Account		449,805.67
402-002 · Summer Tax Account		23,041.73
Total Checking/Savings		893,597.43
Total Current Assets		893,597.43
TOTAL ASSETS		893,597.43
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		893,597.43