

Minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting of the Sherman Township Board

The regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Monday October 7, 2019 at 7:00pm in the meeting room of the township hall. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Miller at 7:00pm. After the pledge of allegiance, roll call was taken and members present were; Karen Berens, Doug Berens, Ken Smalligan, Roman Miller and Jamie Kukal.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to approve the agenda. All approved, motion passed.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by K Berens to approve the minutes for the June 3, 2019 special meeting. All approved, motion passed. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by K Berens to approve the September 3, minutes with the corrections in paragraph 4. All approved, motion passed.

For public comment Karen Kopolces spoke of the need to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Review before the meeting scheduled for Dec. 10th. It was discussed that more seats will need to be filled and an add is planned for November and will be touched in clerk's report later tonight.

Duane Cruzan provided a proposal for inspection fee raises. 2008 was the last time the fees were raised, and they are looking to get all townships on a uniform scale. He asked that we look over the information provided and consider adding to the November agenda for a vote. The subject was tabled for the November meeting.

Treasurer-Berens provided her checking report for the bills approved, for pay at the previous meeting. She also presented two PA 116 applications for the board to review and decide on. All approved and clerk-Kukal will finish the filing and send off to the state. Berens presented a quote from Comcast for providing internet and multiple phone lines for the hall. Currently the board pays \$185. For two phone lines to AT&T and \$104.85 for internet to Comcast, for a total of \$289.85. The quote is \$89.90 for internet, \$10.45 for Business TV, \$124.80 for 4 phone lines, \$16.95 equipment fee and \$20.42 taxes, totaling \$262.52 with a on-time activation fee of \$99.95. Karen will investigate dropping the TV and 4th phone line. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens for Karen to contact comcast and if the cost is \$262.52 or less, then she has approval to go ahead with the change of phone providers. Roll call was taken, Yes; D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller, J Kukal No; K Berens Motion passed.

Berens also expressed her frustration with the new phone system ringing into everyone for the first three rings before the message is offered. K Smalligan suggested that she contact the installer and have that adjusted. Berens then reported that the township still owed \$65,363.39 to the road bill and she would like to wait for the new revenue sharing check to make another large payment. It was discussed that a transfer of \$40,000 was approved last meeting and only \$20,000 was transferred to prevent any overdrafts of the general fund. It was discussed that after the balancing of the accounts, the remainder of the previously approved amount be transferred and applied to the road bill. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the treasurer's report and authorize the paying of the bills as the treasures saw fit, with the transfer from the general to the road account of the \$20,000. Roll call was taken, Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller, J Kukal. Motion passed.

Clerk-Kukal provided the clerk's report, reporting on the status of both the L-4029 filings and the 2018 delinquent Qualifying Statement. The L-4029 for the township had a misprint and was refiled and the auditor is handling the qualifying statement. A public ad is needed for opening positions and with approval will go out in November. The board agreed with the positions, term lengths and quantity

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needed to fill said positions, the only concern was the timing for the board of review position. It was agreed that an ad needed to be placed immediately for that position and filled at the November board meeting. Kukul mentioned the upcoming Election Inspector's training being offered in White Cloud on October 29, 2019 and anyone interested should sign up with her later. The newsletter needed to accompany the winter taxes is in the works and any updates or new information needs to be submitted to Kukul by October 21st. Kukul expressed her disappointment in the status of the website recently and would like to see more information added to it. Kukul presented the board with the Consumers Energy Franchise renewal information to be looked over and addressed at the November meeting. The final piece of the report was the end of the month financial balance sheet. Kukul explained that due to the timing of the meeting and the mailing of bank statements, the treasurer and clerk are always a month behind on showing the accounts as balanced. So, in the future the balanced accounts sheet, check dispersals and deposits reports will continue to accompany the minutes of the previous month up for approval. In the clerk's report will be the most recent month's financial sheet to give the board a snapshot of current finances.

Supervisor-Miller asked Stan Stroven to elaborate on the website billing issue. Stan explained that he had been charge \$539 for 3yrs of service, which was a great increase from previous years. At the time of the setup Stan's credit card was used and in previous years he has been charged less then \$50 a year for renewal. After talking with a representative, it was determined that the company has changed their policies and the new charges represent that change. Jim Maike, who handles the township website was on hand and commented that he may be able to get the charges reduced since not all the services provided are needed or used. If a reduction results in a credit to Stan's card, he will make the adjustment on next month's pay. Jim also spoke to the complaints and said he was willing to work with Kukul on updating the website to get it more current and informative.

The previous issue of charges on a personal credit card brought up the debate for a township card. K Smalligan is questioning why the township does not have a card yet for convenience of payment in these situations. K Berens is concerned that there is room for fraud with a credit card. The subject is tabled until next month where it will be on the agenda for discussion.

With the winter season approaching fast there is a need for an add to solicit snow plowing bids for both the township hall and mayo dr. Miller presented a copy of the ad that Gordon Ringquist submitted and instructed Kukul to compose a similar ad and have it run in the next paper. It was noted that lot should be plowed, sidewalks shoveled and salted and all after 1' of accumulation before 6am.

Miller commented on the gypsy moth issue and that his neighbors were gathering information to be added to the newsletter. Miller also read a letter from the Department of Natural Resources pertaining to an upcoming state land auction. It is to take place from December 10, 2019 through January 8, 2020 and all over the internet, accessed from their website <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/>.

Neither trustee had anything to comment on.

Treasurer-Berens reported that \$1,043.48 were billed and \$141.75 were collected for the Fremont fire runs.

D Berens reported for the planning commission, that the new master plan was approved at the last month's meeting and now must be presented to all neighboring townships. Those townships have 30

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days to voice concerns, at which time it will be represented to Sherman Township Board for approval. Jim Maike suggested that we put the document of the new master plan on the website and email the neighboring townships instructions on how to access them. John Borgman was designated to coordinate that with Jim.

Gary Smalligan gave the building inspectors report of 4 permits and 9 inspections for last month. Chad Kukal reiterated the same report of permits for zoning and reported that there still has not been any communication on billing on dumpsters for the 2019 junk drive. The 2020 date is set for June 13th and no other details have been decided.

Karen Kopolces reported that the White Cloud Sherman Utilities meet earlier that day and passed resolution 2019-1 for a rate increase of \$103/quarter. The church Glory of the Latter House is requesting approval of a lot change for improvements. If granted it would allow the church to increase their footage without zoning issues. The request was tabled by the WCSU until further review.

Assessor-Wallace was absent, so S Stroven reported on the AMAR audit. There were two areas where the Township received a no rating and there for are in the process of rectifying the issues with a response letter of corrective actions. Both issues were dealing with commercial properties of which the township has no data to draw from and makes it difficult to provide the correct response at audit time.

Sexton-DeVisser reported that the water at the cemetery is off and winterized. He is also requesting some sort of posting to ask pet owners to clean up after their pets while visiting the cemetery. J Kukal said she would look into finding appropriate signage. C Kukal reported that the survey is still in progress and he has not received the report yet.

S Stroven reported for the White Cloud Fire District that it was a busy month with all the storms and that the board is looking for physical health equipment for the fire fighters to have in house. There will also be a fire prevention open house at the station tomorrow. Nothing to report from Fremont.

R Miller read a thank you letter from the American Diabetes Association for the \$105 donation in Warren Jahr's name.

For public comment J Maike urged everyone to take the EEE viral scare to heart and protect yourselves against it. He also highly recommends the township get a credit card for security and convenience. He reported that the parks closed for the year with money in the bank, representing a good year and last week was the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Dragon trail. S Stroven also voiced his concern that the board put great thought and care into the decision of a credit card.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm

Visitors present;	Karen Kopolces	Duane Cruzan	Jim Maike	Chad Kukal
	Gary Smalligan	John Borgman	Karl DeVisser	Jerry Miller
	Stan Stroven	Robert Berens	Robert Wallace	