

Minutes of the January 3, 2022, Regular Board Meeting of Sherman Township

The regular scheduled meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7:00 pm, in the meeting room of the township hall. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Smalligan at 7:03 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 S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to accept the minutes from the December 6, 2021, regular meeting with corrections . All approved, motion passed.

There was no public comment at that time.

Treasurer-Berens presented her report of outgoing funds indicating that there were few bills due to the early meeting date. Berens confirmed that a separate account was opened through Gerber Federal Credit Union to hold the ARPA funds with an opening balance of \$111,001. She is confirming interest in the spring BOR training and will send in registrations this week. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens 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 a few issues that recently were brought to her attention by the cleaning staff. The vacuum is no longer working and due to the age of the machine it would be wise to purchase a new bagless model. The women's handicap toilet needs maintenance because it continues to run nonstop. A few cleaning practices need to be highlighted in the rental contract to prevent stains on the walls and floor. Also, the no tape on walls rule needs to be enforced. Kukal recommended the addition of a cleaning instruction to the contract instructing them to be the walls behind all food display areas and garbage bins. It was agreed that Jamie would call Orchard Hill for the toilet maintenance and make the addition to the cleaning instructions. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to allow LeAnn to purchase a new vacuum from Ace Hardware with a cap of \$300. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

There were no reports from either trustee at that time.

Supervisor- Smalligan reported For the remaining open positions on the planning commission, no one submitted a letter of interest prior to the meeting. Wayne Berens voiced his interest and was asked to put it in writing. Once he presented his letter of interest he was added as a candidate. Supervisor-Smalligan made a recommendation to appoint Wayne Berens for the remaining open position. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to accept the recommendation to appoint Wayne Berens to the planning commission for a 3-year term. All approved, motion passed.

Smalligan provided each board member with a copy of a recent email about the ARPA funds and highlighting the revenue Loss section. He asked that both the clerk and treasurer look that section over and begin the process.

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Supervisor-Smalligan presented the annual review of elected officials' pay scale. Smalligan each board member if they wanted a raise. S Stroven-no, K Berens-no, D Berens-no, J Kukal-yes, K Smalligan-yes. Discussion was opened. J Kukal felt that all positions need to be looked at for at least a cost-of-living increase of 3%. The pay scale no longer adequately represents the workload requirements. K Berens said she understands how difficult it is to ask for a raise, but she just can't justify asking at this time. S Stroven said historically, when the board does the budget, they do the necessary funds, and every penny leftover goes into the road funds. He feels our township has some of the better roads due to that practice and with prices continuing to rise we will need to concentrate on that. No one is not sitting on the board to get rich. D Berens agreed that it may not be the time to look at raises. K Smalligan presented an increase to the wages as follows: Supervisor from \$715/month to \$833.34/month, Clerk from \$675/month to \$916.67/month, Trustees from \$100/month to \$125/month. This would be a total budget increase of \$4000 a year.

Jerry Engel asked the board to give an average of monthly hours they worked. J Kukal responded that it varies given position and times of year. However, she reported about 5 hrs a week on a slow month and up to 60 hrs a week on election months.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to increase the trustees' wage to \$125 a month. K Berens suggested just taking the raises and being done with it because we need to move on to more important things. S Stroven suggested he would be in support of a \$10 raise to the trustee's wage not the \$25 proposed. K Smalligan amended his motion to go from \$125 to \$110 a month wage and it was 2nd by J Kukal. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to increase the Supervisor's wage to \$750 per month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, and J Kukal No; K Smalligan Motion passed.

Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to increase the Clerk's wage to \$725 per month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to increase the treasurer's wage to \$1,050 per month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes;, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; K Berens Motion passed.

Resolution to establish township officers' salary 2022 -1 was presented by Clerk-Kukal. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to approve the resolution as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Assessor-Story was not present, so Supervisor-Smalligan presented the annual tax resolutions for review. Resolution 2022-2 was a resolution updating state required poverty level income standards for property tax poverty exemption guidelines for tax year 2022. One clerical error was needed to correct the amount to \$10,000, which was previously established and misprinted on the resolution. Motion was made by D

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Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to approve Resolution 2022 -2 with that correction. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Resolution 2022 -3 is a resolution to provide for alternate starting dates for the March 2022 Board of Review. One clerical error needed to be corrected to eliminate the word protest from the first paragraph. Motion was made S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to approve Resolution 2022 -3 with that correction. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Resolution 2022-4 is a resolution accepting letters of protest from township residents for the March 2022 Board of Review. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to approve resolution 2022-4 as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan, and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Sexton-Tollefson was absent, Chad Kukal reported that the surveyor will start with lot # 350 and work should begin soon.

For the Planning zoning commission, Doug Berens reported that at last month's meeting Mr Coffey was not present. So the group reviewed what he had previously presented.

Building inspector-Smalligan reported doing 1 permit and 9 inspections last month.

Zoning Administrator-Kukal confirmed the one permit for the month and a total of 43 permits for the year. The Amish are looking to put a cemetery in at the old golf course off of Ferris. Kukal said he asked Mr. Coffey advice about handling it and he advised a letter on Township letterhead stating that the township would be okay with such as long as the Health department regulations are followed.

White Cloud Sherman Utilities, Karen Kopolces reported on the earlier meeting. She said the authority has authorized the video scooping of the White Cloud city underground pipes to see which improvements need to be made to update them. They are looking to make the improvements to the worst areas of the underground piping and stay under the estimated \$127,000 cost. The new truck was ordered, however the original model ordered is no longer available and the alternative is more costly. Herm Becker has been appointed to the board as the new city representative.

For Fremont Fire District, K Berens reported billing \$950.75 and collecting \$394.40.

For new or unfinished business, Clerk-Kukal reminded everyone that the new wages would go in effect with the new fiscal year, on April 1, 2022. Karen Kopolces asked if Vonda could withhold a portion of the hall deposit for not cleaning or damages. Kukal responded that it may be an option that will need to be considered for the future. S Stroven asked Chad Kukal what his opinion on the park bathrooms would be for improvements. Kukal responded that he would like to see a pavilion with bathroom options. It was agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting for review.

