

Minutes of the January 2, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of Sherman Township

The regular scheduled meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Tuesday January 2, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the meeting room of the township hall. The 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 S Stroven to approve the minutes from December 4, 2023, as presented. All approved, motion passed.

For public comment, Gary Fetterley submitted several zoning complaint forms again.

Treasurer-Berens presented her report of outgoing funds highlighting the short list due to the early meeting and more will come later in the month. She confirmed receiving the revenue sharing check for \$41,315. With no questions a motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to accept the Treasurer's report and authorize her to pay the bills. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, Ken Smalligan and J Kukal No; none. Motion passed.

Clerk-Kukal presented the clerk's report, highlighting the 7 hours she has into election related mailing and the purchase of a new keyboard for her office due to the previous one not working correctly. With no questions on her report, she went on to present the wording options for the lawyer contact policy. After discussion she is going to take the portions of the samples that were liked and create a resolution for consideration next month. For the code of ethics, she suggested taking the simplest sample and incorporating it into the current job description templates that the township uses for all employees. She will also present a copy next month for consideration. For the open position of Deputy Zoning Administrator, there was only one candidate, Brett Derks. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to accept the recommendation of Brett Derks as Deputy Zoning Administrator, for the remainder of the one-year term. All approved, motion passed.

There was nothing from the Trustees at this time.

Supervisor- Smalligan had a few communications to present. First was the bid from D & B Brine for the 2024 Season in the amount of \$0.135 per gallon. They are anticipating using 15,000 gallons @ \$0.135 per gallon for a total of \$2025. At this point the board would like to stick with D& B Brine for the service and the cost will be presented in the March budget for approval. Smalligan had also received an email from Reith & Riley of a potential scam where a third party is impersonating them requesting funds. Consumers energy gave a notice of power interruptions for improvements on the 1/17/24 or 1/18/24. The Heritage Museum sent a letter of yearly updates and encouraging a gift of support. As for the Robison Lake Creek bridge dedication, the road Commission has not provided an estimate of cost yet. Smalligan reminded the board to be actively thinking of needs that the remainder of the ARPA funds could go to. For the annual elected officer's pay scale review. Ken asked each position if they were looking for a change in compensation. The only position that spoke up for a change was the Clerk. Clerk-Kukal presented the MTA comparison of salaries to the board for review, where the clerk's salary is \$2,000 a

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year below the base for comparison. She also presented a breakdown of how the current salary and workload compute with a proposal of an increase from \$1,00 a month to \$1,300 a month to help compensate for the added workload that Proposal 2022-2 enforces on all clerks. The subject was tabled until next month.

Planning commission representative- Berens reported that the sub-committee had meet and presented a revised version of the proposed home businesses ordinance change and there will be a public hearing on those proposed changes on January 10th, 2024, at 7pm.

Assessor-Story was not present, Clerk-Kukal presented the annual Board of Review Resolutions and poverty standards for consideration and adoption. Resolution 2024-1, Accepting Letters of Protest From Township Residents for March 2024 Board of Review was presented. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, Ken Smalligan and J Kukal No; none. Motion passed. Resolution 2024-2, Property Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines was presented. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by S Stroven to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, Ken Smalligan and J Kukal No; none. Motion passed. Resolution 2024-3, To provide for alternate Starting Dates for March, July and December 2024 Board of Review was presented. S Stroven did not approve of the wording and request a revised version be presented next month.

Sexton-Tollefson reported that all was well and with the mild winter they have a funeral scheduled for the following day.

Building inspector-Smalligan presented his report indicating 0 permits and 4 inspections last month.

Zoning Administrator-Kukal's report confirmed the 0 permits, and he updated the board with a letter from the lawyer indicating that the current violation at 849 South Good Drive was being addressed.

For White Cloud Sherman Utilities Wane Berens reported that the meeting is scheduled for next week.

For Fremont Fire District, K Berens reported billing \$2,047.66 and collecting \$0 for the month. For White Cloud, S Stroven presented a copy of the 2024-2025 proposed budget where Sherman Township's projected contribution is \$26,151. The board agrees with the projected Sherman Township contribution of \$26,151 for the 2024-2025 budget and their responsibility to pay that contribution.

For new or unfinished business, Clerk-Kukal pointed out that in the south-east corner of the meeting room the new carpet is lifting. Stroven will reach out to see about this service.

There was no board member comment at this time.

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For public Comment, Joe Fox presented the highlights of his first year in office and informed us that he will be running again. Gary Fetterley voiced his opinion on the lawyer contact policy, where he approves of having two representatives present when contacting the lawyer. He is not sure why a deputy zoning administrator is needed. He also doesn't understand how the added clerk hours apply to the clerk's regular hours of duty. Gary also asked if the comment that the complaint is in the lawyer's hands applies for all complaints? Much discussion was had, where Supervisor-Smalligan had to redirect and asked Gary to speak with him after the meeting for further discussion and explanation on his questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Submitted by: Jamie Kukal-Clerk

Visitors present:	Wayne Berens	Vonda Tollefson	Jerry Engel
	Gary Smalligan	Chad Kukal	Gary Fetterley
	Michelle Klompstra	Butch Deur	Joe Fox
	Steve & Diane McQueen		

Jamie Kukal, Sherman Township Clerk

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MASTER ACCOUNT	
101-001 · General Fund cash	212,957.55
203-001 · Mayo Drive cash	21,848.89
220-002 · Robinson Lake Cash	16,885.57
221-001 · Crystal Lake Cash	43,618.86
336-001 · Fire protection millage Fr & WC	10,913.84
MASTER ACCOUNT - Other	-955.00
Total MASTER ACCOUNT	305,269.71
151-001 · Cemetery cash	1,480.35
202-001 · Road Checking	62,161.93
249-001 · Capital acquisition cash	3,626.29
260-001 · Gerber FCU	
261-336 · Gerber Fire Runs Savings	3,328.03
263-001 · Gerber FCU ARPA Account	13,713.18
Total 260-001 · Gerber FCU	17,041.21
401-001 · Winter Tax Account	321,424.02
402-002 · Summer Tax Account	24,128.80
Total Checking/Savings	735,132.31
Total Current Assets	735,132.31
TOTAL ASSETS	735,132.31
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	735,132.31