

Minutes of the January 3, 2023, Regular Board Meeting of Sherman Township

The regular scheduled meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Tuesday January 3, 2023, 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 attendance was taken and members present were Karen Berens, Doug Berens, Stan Stroven, Ken Smalligan, and Jamie Kukal.

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

Motion was made by D Berens and 2^{ns} by S Stroven to accept the minutes from the December 5, 2022, meeting with corrections. All approved, motion passed.

There was no public comment at that time.

Jim May, the Ryerson Lake Association President presented resolution 2023-1 for consideration. The Resolution is a 5 year renewal of the mute swan management and control program policy and procedures for mute swan nest and egg destruction and/or mute swan removal. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to accept Resolution 2023-1 for mute swan management and control as presented. All approved, motion passed.

Treasurer-Berens presented the treasurer's report for review, confirming receiving the revenue sharing check for \$39,815. With no questions on the report, a motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to accept the treasurer's report and approve the paying of the bills. 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 for review and there were no questions at that time. For communications, Kukal present the MTA BOR February training and the MTA's Annual Conference & Expo for members to consider and if interested contact Treasurer-Berens for registration. For open position appointments we had two candidates for BOA from Bill Redinger and Jim May. After reviewing the candidates and realizing that Mr. Redinger was not a resident of Sherman Township, a motion was made by J Kukal and 2nd by D Berens to appoint Jim May to the ZBA. All approved, motion passed.

For lawn care and township maintenance there were three candidates to consider. Wes Hoppa, a non-resident, Basil Hill and Vonda Tollefson are both township residents. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to appoint Vonda Tollefson for Hall lawn care using the township mower and other tools. All approved, motion passed. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by J Kukal to appoint Basil Hill for township maintenance and park lawn care using his personal mower for the park lawn. All approved, motion passed.

For Hall coordinator Vonda Tollefson verbally confirmed her interest in reappointment. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by K Berens to reappoint Vonda Tollefson as Hall coordinator. All approved, motion passed.

For the Hall rental changes and contract review, Clerk-Kukal presented the current contract with two issues to consider. First, the hall coordinator has recently encountered an issue with date cancelations or changes and there is no current rules on such an issue. The second issue is whether or not to increase the rental fee. After discussion, a motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by K Berens to increase the hall rental fee from \$70 to \$100. All approved, motion passed. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to add a cancelation policy to the contract that will read "Any cancelation at 15 days or less of the reserved date, the renter will forfeit \$70 of the rental fee. All approved, motion passed.

For the annual review of elected officials' salaries, clerk-Kukal presented the resolution and a salary comparison from MTA for review. According to the MTA comparison, the salary of positions for supervisor and clerk are below the base line of the comparison, where the salary of treasurer position is in the lower half of the

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comparison, and the salary of the trustee position is in the upper half of the comparison. J Kukal stated her opinion on bringing all wages more in line with adequate pay wages and read her request for a pay increase for the clerk's position from \$725 a month to \$1,000 a month, highlighting the fact that with the increased work load, due to election changes, she would not be able to justify staying in the position if she did not get the pay increase. Ken responded with support to bring the salaries more in line with the comparison and expressed his gratitude for all the support that both the treasurer and clerk provide him on a regular basis. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to accept the clerk's request for a pay increase from \$725 a month to \$1,000 a month. During discussion K Berens commented that she does the job because she loves doing it, not for the wages. She agrees that the clerk's duties have vastly increased due to the election duties increasing. S Stroven proposed an amendment to the motion by adjusting the \$1,000 a month to \$900 a month and to increase the web management rate by \$150 a year. K Smalligan presented his own county comparison where the average clerk's salary was \$1,600 back in 2021. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, and K Smalligan No; S Stroven, Abstained; J Kukal. Motion passed.

S Stroven commented that he felt that Treasurer-Berens deserved an increase from \$1,050 a month to \$1,100 a month. Motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to increase the treasurer's salary from \$1,050 a month to \$1,100 a month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan and J Kukal, No; none, Abstained; K Berens. Motion passed.

Supervisor-Smalligan confirmed that he would like to see the supervisor's salary increased from \$750 a month to \$835 a month. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by K Berens to increase the supervisor's salary from \$750 a month to \$835 a month. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, and J Kukal No; none, Abstained; K Smalligan. Motion passed.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to increase the trustee's wages from \$110 per meeting to \$125 per meeting. 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 J Kukal and 2nd by D Berens to accept Resolution 2023-2 of township board officers' salary as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, S Stroven, K Smalligan and J Kukal No; none, Motion passed.

Supervisor-Smalligan did not have any communications at this time and for ARPA funds he reminded the board to review the previously proposed broadband expansions options from NCATS and if anyone had any more questions, to direct those questions to him and he would get the answers from Will. He also encouraged the board to consider other project options for future discussion.

For trustees' reports, S Stroven reported on last month's County Township Officials meeting where he was elected as vice president. He also commented that there was some discussion, for townships to offer a pay compensation for officials who attend the meetings to help increase participation.

Sexton-Tollefson did not have anything to report for the cemetery at this time. Clerk-Kukal presented this existing cemetery rates, the bid from West Michigan Vault and a comparison spread sheet along with a proposed rate change for review. After discussion, a motion was made by S Stroven and 2nd by D Berens to increase the grave opening rates to cover the cost to have West Michigan Vault to perform the openings plus \$50, to up the exhumation fee to \$600 and to increase the Saturday and overtime rate to \$200 with the removal of winter burial option from November 1st to April 1st, affective February 1st, 2023. All approved, motion passed. Columbarium pricing was tabled for further review.

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S Stroven presented two bids from Nieboer Electric for lighting at the cemetery. The first is for material and labor to mount an LED flood on the existing flag pole for \$530. The second was for material and labor to mount an LED flood on the existing flag pole and to mount LED farm light on the peak of the building for \$975. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to accept the bid for both LED lights at the cost of \$975. 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 and did not provide a report at this time. Next month he will need to present the annual assessor related resolutions for consideration.

D Berens reported for the planning commission on the upcoming public hearing for proposed ordinance and zoning map changes. He encouraged the board to review the proposed changes and to attend the public hearing if anyone had questions or concerns.

Building inspector-Smalligan presented his monthly report of no permits issued and 10 inspections.

Zoning administrator-Kukal confirmed that no permits were issued last month and that 37 regular zoning permits and 5 Ag permits were issued in 2022.

There was no report from White Cloud Sherman Utilities due to the holiday displacement of the regular meeting.

For Fremont Fire district report, K Berens billed \$131.40 and collected \$0 last month. For White Cloud, S Stroven reported that they were still working through the agreement documentation for any updates and changes. Next month will be the budget meeting and he provided the clerk with a copy of the audit report for retention. Next month the board will need to consider the appointments, so K Smalligan will check with MTA and see if those need to be advertised.

There was no new or unfinished business at that time.

There was no public comment at that time.

There was no board member comment at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Clerk, Jamie Kukal.

Visitors present were;	Gary Smalligan	Chad Kukal	John Borgman
	Vonda Tollefson	Wayne Berens	Jerry Engel
	Mark Kukal	Wes Hoppa	Steve McQueen
	Chuck Yonker	Jim May	

Jamie Kukal, Sherman Township Clerk

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MASTER ACCOUNT	
101-001 · General Fund cash	220,149.19
203-001 · Mayo Drive cash	16,298.89
220-002 · Robinson Lake Cash	21,647.98
221-001 · Crystal Lake Cash	44,888.86
336-001 · Fire protection millage Fr & WC	4,443.72
Total MASTER ACCOUNT	<u>307,428.64</u>
151-001 · Cemetery cash	4,350.13
202-001 · Road Checking	20,446.99
249-001 · Capital acquisition cash	3,626.29
260-001 · Gerber FCU	
261-336 · Gerber Fire Runs Savings	5,182.03
263-001 · Gerber FCU ARPA Account	135,634.05
Total 260-001 · Gerber FCU	<u>140,816.08</u>
401-001 · Winter Tax Account	355,594.18
402-002 · Summer Tax Account	31,048.98
Total Checking/Savings	<u>863,311.29</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>863,311.29</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>863,311.29</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	863,311.29