

Minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting of the Sherman Township Board

The regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Monday November 4, 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 Berens and 2nd by D Berens to approve the agenda as presented. All approved, motion passed.

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

For public comment Stan Stroven brought the broken flag stand to the attention of the board. It was decided that a new one was needed for replacement.

After having the month to review the proposed fee increases for North Country Inspections' services a motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to accept the increased fees. Roll Call was taken, Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller and J Kukal Motion passed.

Treasurer- Berens presented her checking report for the bills approved for pay at the previous meeting. Berens reiterated the fact that a balance is still due to the road commission and in the past few years the account is paid in full by this time. A motion was made by k Smalligan to accept the report, pay the bills and transfer \$10,000 to the road fund to go towards the remaining balance. J Kukal voiced objections to the transfer at the current time due to lack of funds in the general account. Berens reported that the revenue sharing check had just arrived and would provide the extra funds needed. Kukal suggested that the transfer wait until next month when they had a chance to balance the books after that deposit was made. Berens voice a preference for a separate bank account for only general fund transactions, rather than the combined current master account which contains seven-line items. Kukal agreed that this is an important change that needs to take place. A revised motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the treasurer's report and authorize the paying of bills for the month. Roll Call was taken, Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller and J Kukal Motion passed.

K Berens reported that comcast would be in the following day to switch over the phone provider at a rate of \$227.10/month for 2 years. The phone system provider will be in to follow up with any updates and changes needed after the switch is made.

Clerk-Kukal provided a quick report on the monthly workings of the clerk, from election trainings to the monthly financial report. Kukal also presented the snowplow bids for both Mayo Dr and the Township Hall. After reviewing the bids Gordon Ringquist, from the Mayo Dr Advisory Committee, voiced the committee's preference for the acceptance of the Struble bid, due to the fact of the low cost and history of working for the previous service provider. A motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to accept the Struble bid of \$55/plowing. All approved, motion passed. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by K Berens to accept the Kukal bid of \$65/plowing for the township hall. Roll Call was taken, Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller and J Kukal Motion passed.

One letter of interest, from Stan Stroven, was presented to the board for the open position on the board of review. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to appoint Stan Stroven to the vacated position on the board of review, for the remainder of the term. All approved, motion passed.

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After having the month to review the proposed franchise renewal from Consumers energy, a motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the franchise renewal as written. All approved, motion passed.

Kukal read the public notice for board of commissioner's open appointments, directing those interested in applying to refer to the County website.

For the credit card subject, K Smalligan provided samples of other township polices. During discussion it was brought up that in the past private credit cards have had to be used and reimbursed. The intent of a township card would be for regular purchases of supplies and educational material. K Berens and D Berens both voiced their concerns for the likelihood of fraudulent use. A motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal for the township to prepare a credit card policy for supply and educational use. Roll Call was taken, Yes; K Smalligan, R Miller, J Kukal No; K Berens, D Berens Motion passed.

Supervisor-Miller asked if the issue of the website had been resolved. J Kukal reported that it appeared to be up to date and more would be supplied in the near future. S Stroven reported that he had not heard anymore on the issue of the large payment charge to his credit card. Miller reported that anyone with concerns over gypsy moths could refer to the newsletter coming out with the winter taxes. Miller read a letter from the White Cloud Fire Department concerning the spending of funds to update their radios. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by K Berens to approve the Fire Departments request to spend up to \$110,000.00 on updating the radio system. All approved, motion passed. Miller also read a recommendation from the Robinson Lake Special Assessment District Committee for a new contract with PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation. Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by K Smalligan to approve the new three-year contract with PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation. Roll Call was taken, Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller, and J Kukal Motion passed.

Neither trustee had anything to report on this month.

For Fremont fire runs, Treasurer-Berens reported billing \$377.48 and collecting \$0 last month.

For the planning commission D Berens presented the updated master plan for approval. The plan has been accessible through the website for the past 30 days and no neighboring townships voiced any objections. After questions about a few typo corrections, a motion was made by k Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the updated master plan as presented. All approved, motion passed. D Berens voiced the possibility of moving the planning commission meetings to bimonthly due to a slow period after all the work put into the master plan. They will discuss it more at this month meeting and maybe plan to start that after the first of the year.

Building inspector-Smalligan reported 6 permits and 10 inspections for the month. Smalligan presented a proposal of permit fee increases for the township to coincide with the inspection increases just approved for North Country Inspections' services. This would help balance out the increased cost to the township by increasing the township revenue from the permits. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to up the base fee from \$40 to \$70 and the Demo permit fee from \$30 to \$40. All approved, motion passed. Smalligan also brought it to the board's attention that the deputy zoning administrator, John Borgman, was seriously considering leaving, due to inadequate pay. Borgman has a full-time job and often has to leave there to travel to the hall to handle zoning issues and is losing money when he does so. After reviewing the pay history of the last few months and discussing options

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a motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by J Kukal to put John Borgman on a salary of \$350 per month plus mileage and expenses. Roll Call was taken, Yes; D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller, J Kukal No; K Berens Motion passed, effective immediately.

Zoning Administrator- Kukal confirmed the permit report previously provided by G Smalligan and reported that there were still no bills for the 2019 junk drive.

Dick Chenard reported for the White Cloud Sherman Utilities that a meeting was held earlier in the day and easements are holding up the progress of improvements. Miller read the copy of the adoption of rate increase set to begin of December 6, 2019.

Assessor-Wallace reported that she had been making some visits and had sent out letter to the veterans for reapplying for their tax exemptions.

Sexton-DeVisser was not present, so K Smalligan reported that there was no news for the cemetery. K Berens questioned the issue of the missing air compressor and no one have anything concrete to report on that issue at the time. No police report has been submitted for review. C Kukal reported that the survey was almost finished.

Nothing more to report on Fire District boards.

For new business Supervisor-Miller reported on the damage caused by the malfunction of the hot water heater earlier that morning. Service master was currently working on drying out the building from the flooding caused. A plumber and the insurance agent will be contacted tomorrow to look into the options for replacement and coverage.

For public comment Lee Hoppa voiced his displeasure that the inspection after hall rentals did not catch the damage done to the flagpole holder and would like the most recent renter's deposit withheld. It was advised that in the future more attention be payed to such details, but at this point we can not know for sure when the damage was done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm

Visitors present; Jerry Miller Colleen Hines Gary Smalligan Karen Koprolices
 Dick Chenard Robert Berens Lee Hoppa Stan Stroven Cindy Wallace
 Chad Kukal John Borgman