

Ontwa Township Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2018

Final Minutes

www.ontwatwp.org

Call to Order: Supervisor Jerry Marchetti called the regular monthly meeting of the Ontwa Township Board to order at 7:00 pm on March 12, 2018.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Edwardsburg High School students

Present Board Members: Supervisor Jerry Marchetti, Clerk Tina VanBelle, Treasurer Meryl Christensen, Trustees Dawn Bolock and Jeff Kozinski. Trustees Jerry Duck and Dan Stutsman were absent.

Approval of Agenda: Clerk VanBelle requested to amend the Agenda to remove item #4 and add under New Business the Approval of the Ambulance, Police, Fire and Wastewater Budgets, and Approval of Authorization of Public Road and Dock on 8th Street. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Marchetti, second by Trustee Kozinski. All in favor and motion passes.

Public Comment: Pat Makielski questioned why the Ambulance, Police, Fire and Wastewater Budgets and Approval of Authorization of Public Road and Dock on 8th St. were not on the Agenda, rather than be added as an amendment.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Trustee Bolock made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented and Treasurer Christensen supported the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Rosanne Marchetti - March 2018 Report to District 4. Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz, who has testified in Washington DC in front of a Congressional committee, gave a presentation on the opioid crisis in Cass County. Opioid addiction cost the county many thousands of dollars each year and the Board voted to approve joining a class action lawsuit against a number of pharmaceutical companies and a couple of drug stores. There is no fee to do so, as the fees will be taken from the settlement if the lawsuit is successful. A workshop on strategic planning was held on February 23, focusing on goals and objectives the county will pursue in the next three to five years. The next vision session with MSUE will be on Wednesday, May 9, at Samuel Adams School in Cassopolis.

Committee Board Reports:

Zoning Administrator – Leroy Krempec –Cass County has been approved for emergency funding, as of today, due to the flooding. He is working on a possible contract to have cars that have been cited throughout the township to be removed. His office has received many inquiries about solar panels for farming, tiny homes, marijuana, subdivisions, and new business showing interest in locating in Ontwa. The US 12 work from M62 west to the village limits will begin after July 4th.

Wastewater –Brigid Forlenza- On February 14 there was a break in the force main on Elkhart Road. The original break in this line occurred 10 years ago when GTE placed a pole through the line which was repaired at that time. Over time the repair broke down creating the recent break but was promptly repaired. Work is progressing on the preliminary design for JCP1 and C1. The Wastewater Board approved the Budget for 2018-2019 on February 28, 2018. Copies are available at the Township Hall or on-line.

Ambulance – Supervisor Marchetti – The Ambulance Board meeting tomorrow evening, March 13 will be held at the Village Hall due to the Zoning Appeals meetings to be held at the Township Hall at the same time.

Police – Treasurer Christensen –Tickets were up and calls were down for the month of February. Brigid Forlenza was appointed Board Member at Large for the Wastewater Board.

Building & Grounds - Brigid Forlenza – The Township advertised for bids for work to be done in the Township Hall. Contained within the ad was electrical, signage, finish existing walls with insulation, drywall, and painting. There was no response. Several companies were contacted to view and bid on the proposed project and only one company; Blue Ribbon Builders came back with a bid. This proposal appears on the Agenda and will be discussed and voted on tonight.

Planning Commission – Trustee Bolock – No meeting occurred.

Township Roads – Trustee Kozinski – The Ontwa Township Road Project Proposal for 2018, prepared by the Road Commission, was distributed. Estimated cost is \$168,762.21. Supervisor Marchetti was pleased with the proposal and noted that the Board had budgeted \$175,000 for road work. This project sheet may be viewed at the Township Hall and is available on line.

Fire Board – Supervisor Marchetti – An ad-hoc committee will be assembled to discuss options for the use of the repayment of \$10,096 received from the Joint Fire Board last month.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Appoint Professional Service Providers: Resolution 2018-03-12.1, Clerk VanBelle read the proposed Resolution. This resolution offered by Clerk VanBelle and supported by Treasurer Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Resolution to Adopt the Annual Exemption Health Insurance: Resolution 2018-03-12.2 Clerk VanBelle read the proposed Resolution. This resolution offered by Clerk VanBelle and supported by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Resolution to Establish Regular Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2018/2019: Resolution 2018-03-12.3 Clerk VanBelle read the proposed Resolution. This resolution offered by Clerk VanBelle and supported by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Office Remodel: Supervisor Marchetti reviewed and asked for approval of the bid received from Blue Ribbon Builders, in the amount of \$20,300. Discussion followed. Supervisor Marchetti noted this amount is budgeted in Capital Outlay and will still be \$60,000 below budget. Motion offered by Treasurer Christensen and supported by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Adams Remco New Copy Machine: Clerk VanBelle presented a quote from Adams Remco as an FYI regarding the current copier vs. the benefits of purchasing a new one. Discussion followed regarding future replacement. No action was taken at this time.

Approval of Ambulance, Police, Fire and Wastewater Budgets: The Board briefly reviewed the individual budgets, previously approved at each of the department's monthly board meetings. Supervisor Marchetti noted each budget is available for viewing and residents are encouraged to attend Board meetings, held monthly, to ask questions. Motion offered by Supervisor Marchetti and supported by Trustee Kozinski. All in favor Motion passed.

Approval for Authorization of Public Road and Dock on 8th Street: LeRoy Krempec presented an Application for Public Pier Authorization from Christopher Grove of 23953 S. Shore Drive, Edwardsburg. He reminded the Board and attendees that the Township can only recommend to the DEQ to allow or not allow a request. In all cases the DEQ has the final say and may or may not agree with the Township. The applicant has completed the required forms and LeRoy is in favor of his request. Discussion followed. Motion offered by Trustee Kozinski and supported by Treasurer Christensen. All in favor Motion passed.

Announcements: Next regular Township Board Meeting will be April 9th, Ambulance Board Meeting March 13, Police Board Meeting March 14, Village Board Meeting March 19, Waste Water Board Meeting March 28, Planning Commission Meeting April 4.

Supervisor Marchetti announced Ontwa Township Trash Days would be Friday, April 27 and Saturday April 28, 2018.

Adjourn: Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Bolock. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Date Approved _____

Linda Weaver

Recording Secretary