

**SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JANUARY 14, 2020**

- Members Present:** Sharon Black, Bethany Bolduc, David Eggle, Dave Johns, Pete Nemish.
- Guests:** 3 people.
- Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Eggle with prayer by Nemish followed by the Pledge.
- Public Comment:** Eggle opened the floor for public comment at 7:02 PM. There were no comments and comments closed at 7:02 PM.
- Guest Presentation:** None this month.
- Clerk's Report:** The minutes from the regular meeting on December 10, 2019 were reviewed. Amend p. 3 waver to waiver. Motion to approve minutes as amended Eggle 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.
- Treasurer's Report:** Report for December was presented by the Treasurer – Checking account: Beginning balance \$91,087.79, Receipts \$18,614.51, Disbursements \$6,191.62, Ending balance \$103,510.68. Picnic Fund donated by citizens balance of \$0. CDs: Beginning balance \$130,848.65, Receipts \$4.32, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$130,852.97. General Fund Total ending balance \$234,363.65.  
Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$26,988.53, Receipts \$3.32, Disbursements \$4,335, Ending balance \$22,656.85. Encumbered \$ as yet to be determined following vote in December on road projects.  
Motion to accept the December report as presented, Nemish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bolduc. Passed.
- Bills:** Bills were presented and discussed. Decision to VOID Waste Management payment based on the dating of the email by Nemish to cancel the service due to their unwillingness to work with us and give us an out on a 3 year contract if we continue to have poor service as we did last summer. Motion by Nemish to pay monthly bills totaling \$3,909.26 (as listed by the Clerk excluding the WM bill) from General Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns. Passed.
- Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda as amended, Bolduc, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns. Passed.
- Co. Commissioners:** Commissioner Gregory attended and reported on the BOC business. He was re-elected BOC Vice-Chair for 2020 and Chair of the 911 Committee. The BOC approved a tax deferment, a policy on Co Investments, and a resolution on depository. 911 is considering a ballot request on the August 2020 Primary Ballot to increase the surcharge. Current surcharge revenue has been diminishing because many land line phones are being dropped and replaced with cell phones. The Road Commission structure is going to remain as it is with the addition of one appointed BOC member as a liaison to the Road Commission.
- Fire Board Report:** Johns read the December Fire Board report and presented a Fire Board proposed budget,

see attached. Bolduc MOVED to ratify the proposed budget as provided, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black. Passed.

**Plan Commission:** Nemish reported that there were no permits in December, but Grugal reported on the five permits from October. Also Eggle provided copy of an email resignation letter from Tim Liponoga giving up his position on the PC because he and his wife are moving out of the township.

**Parks Comm.:** **Grove Hill** – Nothing to report.  
**Center Lake** – Nothing to report.

**Road Comm.:** There was no meeting due to no new business at this time because all 2020 initiatives are under contract.

**Cemetery:** Bolduc reported that a meeting date has been set for the meeting between Twp officials, Kater, and the vault company. Eggle is unable to attend and asked if another other board member could attend? Johns indicated that he is available for Friday, January 17 at 10 AM. Also noted that we need to make some decisions on grass cutting for summer 2020 season. Nemish suggested we advertise for bids and review at February meeting. Ask Sexton about grave digging summer 2020. Bolduc suggests that we increase our charge for full burials (from \$350 to \$400) and pay the Sexton or their back up \$25 to always attend burials. In the past we have paid \$25 for this on cremains burials when the person who dug the grave could not attend the placement of the ashes with a split of the amount received by the twp which is \$75 between the digging person, \$50, and the attending person, \$25. The remaining \$25 of the \$400 would go to the entity digging the full burial. It has been 7 or 8 years since we increased this charge.

**Correspondence:** Bolduc had two items. 1) check from MOTA (Mecosta Osceola Transit Authority) as reimbursement for the 2019 November election \$1,351.46 which was the total amount requested (check & stub given to the treasurer), and 2) a certificate of liability insurance from Charter Communications, Inc.

**Old Business:**

**Area Fire Radio:** TAFD still waiting for warmer weather.

**Risk Mitigation:** Hoping to move forward on a couple things soon.

**Records Retention:** Still planning to do some of this during the colder months this winter.

**Open Seats:** Eggle is still searching for someone to serve on the RC and is now also searching for someone to fill the new PC vacancy.

**Millage 2020:** Request for Bolduc to bring wording from last time and proposed wording of Fire Protection millage for review at the February meeting.

**Hall Internet:** Casair told Eggle they can not provide service at the Twp Hall at this time.

**Election 2020:** Bolduc asked if the Public Accuracy Test for the March Presidential Primary could be held after the BOR Organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 10:30 AM. Eggle and Black indicated that time would work for them. Bolduc will let the County Clerk office know as they are doing a group publication. Bolduc passed around

examples of the new envelopes the State BOE has designed for absentee ballots. Of special notice is that they are color coded. Blue is outgoing ballots and Green is returning ballots. Bolduc opted to get them imprinted with the return address eliminating the need to purchase and print stickers. She also got specially imprinted application return #9 envelopes to replace the previously stickered and folded envelopes which she included with the AV applications. Overall, the imprinted envelopes provide a much more professional appearance to our work. Bolduc put together a chart of costs for the AV voter. Each AV ballot (not including the ballot) is \$1.56 for all the documents and envelopes plus postage of \$1.20 for a grand total of \$2.76. The March Presidential Primary is reimbursed by the State. Finally, the Co. Clerk shared reliable information that Pine River School has been discussing placing an item on a special May ballot. The State laws governing elections do provide for a possible annual May election date when needed. If carried through, this election's cost would be 100 % reimbursed by the school district.

**New Business:**

**Salary & Reimb 20:** Discussion of salary's, hourly wages, and mileage reimbursement. Point made to raise full burial cost to \$400 and require a twp official Sexton or assistant or clerk or deputy to attend all full burials. Review cost of living increase as given by Social Security. Consensus to not request a salary increase this year. Motion by Black to follow the IRS standards for mileage reimbursement in 2020 and lower our rate (from 58 cents per mile) effective immediately to 57.5 cents per mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.

**Budget FY19/20:** Reviewed budget changes number one. Moved by Black to make changes as provided by the Clerk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns. Passed 5 yes, 0 no.

**Budget FY 20/21:** Bolduc provided a copy of the FY 19/20 Budget for review. Bolduc also provided a first draft proposal budget for FY 20/21 which was reviewed. Revisions and continued discussion next meeting.

**Center Lk:** Considered PLM contract for weed control treatments in 2020. Nemish wishes to have costs spelled out or a clause indicating that the Twp has oversight to review proposed charges before they are incurred. Bolduc to push contract per last year and other years terms to Kettunen Center, Center Lake Bible Camp, and Center Lake Resident Association to split costs  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

**State Seal:** Eggle provided pictures, see copies attached, of the seal of MI and USA which can be purchased and a plan to mount them on the wall at the Twp Hall. Moved by Eggle to purchase seals, not to exceed \$220, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.

**PC App Process:** Nemish brought up the need for the Twp to streamline the zoning application process especially for the "Special Use Permit" where currently we require the application to be filed with the Clerk and then the Twp had so many days to render their decision. Proposed new processes would provide for a time between the requestor filing the application first with the Zoning Admin, a review by the PC, and then filing it with the Clerk. This is a continuing discussion.

**BOR Resolution:** See attached resolution for scheduling of BOR Petition Hearing Hours. Resolution offered by Eggle to hold the 2020 March BOR as follows Organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 3 at 9 AM, Petition hours on Monday, March 10, from 9 AM to 3 PM, and on Thursday, March 12, from 3 PM to 9 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black. Roll Call Vote. 5 Yes 0 No. Passed.

**Upcoming Dates:** Reviewed slide of upcoming dates.

**Announcements:** Tim Liponoga's resignation from the PC.

**Ext. Pub Comment:** Eggle opened the floor for extended public comment at 8:54 PM. There were two comments, and public comment closed at 8:55 PM.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Johns to adjourn at 8:55 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black. Passed.