

# Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023

[www.ontwatwp.org](http://www.ontwatwp.org)

**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Ontwa Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti at 7:00pm on July 10, 2023.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Kozinski and Bolock were present. Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Approval of Agenda:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Board Appointments as item 2 under New Business, second by Trustee Kozinski. Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended, second by Trustee Stutsman. All in favor motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Jeff Brown, 68695 Oak Springs Rd, spoke on determining terms for board appointments and changes to 3.29 of the zoning ordinance. Dale and Cathy Snow of 68501 Scott Street, spoke on changes to the right of way ordinance. Jill and Jim Meuninck of 24097 N. Shore, spoke about lowering the speed limit in the Eagle Lake area.

Bob Thompson addressed the issue of traffic studies vs counting of access points when requesting the lowering of speed limits.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Treasurer Leist made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Roseann Marchetti: The commissioners approved the application of a Sparks Grant for Lawless Park for and nature center/observatory. Market Van Buren held its annual awards event in June and one of the awards for Best New Business went to Flat Rock Restaurant in Edwardsburg. On July 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a groundbreaking for the new veterinary clinic on M62.

## Committee Board Reports:

**Wastewater:** Brigid Forlenza: The check valve at C1 failed but will be replaced as soon as parts arrive. 9,220,000 gallons of wastewater was discharged to Elkhart last month.

**Zoning:** LeRoy Krempec: Continuing to work on ongoing violations and potentially 5 cases will be going to court for resolution.

**Ambulance:** Trustee Stutsman: There was no meeting in June. The department is currently underbudget, Next meeting will be this Wednesday.

**Police:** Meryl Christensen: Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Stutsman: Continue to get landscaping at township hall finished and getting a bid for audio/visual equipment.

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Bolock: One land division was approved and available dates to schedule an open house for the Master Plan will be given to board members.

**Township Roads:** Trustee Kozinski: Lane Street has had dust control applied.

**Fire Board:** John Hanson: No report.

**Parks Board:** Trustee Kozinski: Receiving positive feedback from several residents on Elkhart Road regarding the proposed bike/pedestrian path.

**Adamsville Cemetery Board:** Trustee Christensen: No report

**Old Business:**

**Elkhart Road Project:** Waiting for a report regarding the grant application.

**New Business:**

**Amend Ordinance 2018-09-10.5 (Public Roads or Right of Way):** There have been requests by residents to amend the ordinance to aid in cleaning up the public roads and rights of way. Supervisor Marchetti recommended an amendment to the ordinance with suggested wording to clarify. Trustee Kozinski suggested a separate ordinance. There is support from the police and fire chief in favor of changes. After discussion on both options Trustee Stutsman made a motion to table the issue, revise the ordinance to include the amendment and present it in August for a vote, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion failed on a roll call vote, 3 ayes (Stutsman, Kozinski, VanBelle) 3 nays (Marchetti, Leist, Bolock). Trustee Christensen was absent. Trustee Bollock made a motion to manually add wording at the meeting and vote on approval of the changes then have the ordinance retyped to include the change, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion failed on a roll call vote, 3ayes (Leist, Bollock, Marchetti) 3 nays (VanBelle, Stutsman, Kozinski) Trustee Christensen was absent. Discussion followed, Clerk VanBelle will retype the ordinance to include wording to prohibit specifically tents, canopies, and tables. It will be on the August agenda for a vote.

**Board Appointments:** Clerk VanBelle noted there are inconsistencies on the website regarding the terms for those who are appointed on various boards/commissions. Supervisor Marchetti noted the terms run for three years but no specific end date is required. Clerk VanBelle made a motion to change end dates for all appointees to the end of the appropriate calendar year on the website, second by Trustee Bollock. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Announcements:** Next regular Township Board meeting will be August 14<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance Board July 12th, Police Board July 13th, Wastewater Board July 26th, Planning Commission August 2nd.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to adjourn, second by Treasurer Leist. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

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Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary