

# Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022, Minutes

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**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Ontwa Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti at 7:00pm on March 14, 2022.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Jerry Marchetti, Clerk Tina VanBelle, Treasurer Sharee Leist, Trustees Meryl Christensen, Dan Stutsman, and Dawn Bolock were present. Trustee Jeff Kozinski arrived at 7:01

**Approval of Agenda:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to amend the agenda and add Ambulance Budget as item 9 in New Business, second by Treasurer Leist. All in favor, motion passed. 7 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the amended agenda, second by Trustee Bolock. All in favor, motion passed. 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Public Comment:** Christine Grove of 69326 Sundance representing the HOA of Fox Crossing requested the road be repaved with asphalt.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Roseann Marchetti: The Commissioners authorized a bond resolution to refinance the Edwardsburg sewer and passed a resolution urging the return of state workers to in-person operations. Assistance is available through the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund for eligible homeowners in Cass County to help in avoiding foreclosure. For details contact the Cass County Treasurer.

**Committee Board Reports:**

**Zoning Administrator: John Hanson:** Letters will be going out to homeowners with blight prior to the township cleanup day in April so they can take advantage of the free disposal. Short term rental permits are being issued. Homes having ice retardant systems were inspected and are in compliance. Signage is in place at those locations.

**Wastewater:** Brigid Forlenza: The Wastewater budget was approved by the Wastewater Board and will be presented tonight for Board approval. A fence will be installed at the lift station on May Street this year. Redoing manholes is in the budget for this year.

**Ambulance:** Trustee Stutsman: The new name of the ambulance service is Edwardsburg Ambulance Authority. There were 117 calls in March and 15% were transfers. The service continues to need additional personnel.

**Police:** Trustee Christensen: No meeting in February. An open house will be held March 15 to honor Sargent English who is retiring after 25 years of service.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Christensen: Looking into repaving the parking lot at the Township Hall this year.

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Bolock: The Commission approved two rezoning requests: Eddies Key Lock Storage and the parcel east of the township hall. A gas station and convenience store will be constructed on the empty parcel adjoining the Township Hall.

**Township Roads:** Trustee Kozinski: A meeting will be held to review the budget with Joe Bellina and Bob Thompson.

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

**Old Business: Elkhart Road Bike Path:** Trustee Kozinski had a meeting with the Road Commission and discussed applying for a grant in April 2023. A committee to apply has been formed.

**New Business:**

**Resolution to Appoint Professional Service Providers:** Motion to pass Resolution 2022-03-14.1 was made by Clerk VanBelle, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Resolution to Adopt the Annual Exemption Health Insurance Act:** Motion to pass Resolution 2022-03-14.2, choosing option 3, was made by Clerk VanBelle, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Resolution to Establish Regular Scheduled Meeting Dates:** Motion to pass Resolution 2022-03-14.3 was made by Clerk VanBelle, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7ayes 0 nays.

**Resolution to Adjust/Amend the FY 2021-2022 Budget:** Motion to pass Resolution 2022-03-14.4 was made by Clerk VanBelle, second by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7ayes 0 nays. This resolution transfers \$10,000 from Park Maintenance to Building Inspection.

**Approval of Wastewater Budget:** The budget was approved by the Wastewater Board and needs approval of the Township Board. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve, second by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7ayes 0 nays.

**Burnham and Flowers Coverage:** Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve the township's property and casualty insurance coverage at a cost of \$16,477, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7ayes 0 nays.

**Mowing Bids:** Two bids were received by the Township: McCall's Outdoor Chores, and Real Property Maintenance. After discussion Trustee Stutsman made a motion to continue contracting with McCall's, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7ayes 0 nays.

**Edwardsburg Pedestrian Project:** Based on a study done by the Edwardsburg School District all traffic for drop off and pick up will be diverted from Claire Street to Section Street. The increased turning will meet MDOT signal warrants. MDOT will install a full traffic signal on US 12 at Section Street including a pedestrian crosswalk and signal. To make this function the non-motorized path on US 12 will need to be extended from Claire Street to Section Street. The initial project was proposed as a pedestrian crossing signal for US 12 at Claire Street. This new proposal is to abandon that plan and redirect the funding towards the current proposal of a non-motorized path along US-12 from Claire Street to Section Street. In approving this new proposal, the Board feels it will be an advantage when applying for a grant for the Elkhart Road Bike Path. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the pedestrian project, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Edwardsburg Ambulance Authority Budget:** This budget needs to be approved by both the Township and the Village. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Announcements:** Next regular Township Board meeting will be April 11<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance Board April 13<sup>th</sup> Wastewater Board March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Police Board April 14<sup>th</sup>, Planning Commission April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Marchetti noted that March 24 at 6pm is a public hearing on the proposed 2022-2023 budget and Saturday April 30 is Township Cleanup Day from 9am-3pm

**Adjourn:** Treasurer Leist made a motion to adjourn, second by Clerk VanBelle. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

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

Recording Secretary

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Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary