

Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 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 7:00 pm on February 14, 2022.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to remove Resolution to Adopt 2018 Plumbing code in new business from the agenda. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, second by Trustee Kozinski. All in favor, motion passed. 7 ayes 0 nays.

Public Comment: No public comment.

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

Commissioner's Report: See attached February 2022 Report from Commissioner Rosann Marchetti.

Committee Board Reports:

Zoning Administrator: No Report

Wastewater: Brigid Forlenza: Dan Stutsman stated the Wastewater operating under budget. C1 repairs completed.

Ambulance: Trustee Stutsman: William Soderberg attended the Ambulance meeting this month and praised the ambulance service on the great care he received. Looking into a third ambulance for a possible ongoing job at Coloma Motocross. Response time for ambulance run is 5.43 minutes, in the winter it's 7.35 minutes. 110 runs last month, 40 of them transfers.

Police: Trustee Christensen: No Meeting

Buildings & Grounds: Trustee Christensen: No Report.

Planning Commission: Trustee Bolock: No meeting.

Township Roads: Trustee Kozinski: Waiting on contracts/proposals from Joe Bellina.

Fire Board: John Bossler: December 2021 - 26 runs, January 2022 - 23 runs. New software for reporting is now being used. Budget was approved.

Old Business: Elkhart Road Multi-Purpose Path. See attached summary by Jeff Kozinski on the new information concerning the updates. The Board of Trustees is positive about the pursuit of the MNRFT grant for this project. Clerk VanBelle stated that we have an approved 5-year plan on file with the DNR MiGrants so that we can apply for a grant.

New Business:

Board Reappointments: Board Reappointments for the Planning Commission, Wastewater, Ambulance, Board of Review, and Zoning Board of Appeal Boards were made by Supervisor Marchetti. Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to approve the reappointments, seconded by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed 7 ayes 0 nays.

CT Electrical Service - C1 lift station: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the Vega Sensor for C1 with a bid not to exceed \$7,000.00, seconded by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

Ambulance Interlocal Agreement: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the Interlocal agreement, seconded by Trustee Kozinski. All in favor, motion passed 7 ayes 0 nays.

Ambulance Articles of Incorporation: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the Articles of Incorporation, seconded by Trustee Bolock. All in favor, motion passed 7 ayes 0 nays.

Announcements: Next regular Township Board meeting will be March 14th, Ambulance Board Meeting March 9th, Wastewater Board Meeting February 21th, Planning Commission March 2nd.

Adjourn: Treasurer Leist made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Kozinski. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____

February 2022, Report to Commissioner District

The last meeting in January, the Board approved a resolution to engage West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum to pursue a grant to rewrite our solid waste plan. EGLE is funding the grant. The new plan will be a materials management plan that will include recycling. New hardware was approved for the 911 center. Sheriff Behnke reported the January vaccination clinic at the Animal Control Center vaccinated 79 dogs and one cat. MSUE Director Julie Pioch introduced our new 4-H Coordinator Lorenne Witham. Judge Bealor reported on the courts. Zach Morris introduced the new marketing manager, Riley Lukomski, and Prosecutor Fitz reported that Raven Bakeman has been appointed Friend of the Court. At the February 3, 2022 meeting, the Board made a number of Appointments, and made changes to County Policies. We engaged Intersect Studio for the completion of Phase 2 Design Services and Development Services for the historic courthouse, and authorized the Capital Projects Committee and the administration to begin negotiations with Plaza Corp for further development services for the historic courthouse. Christian Lutes of the Medical Care Facility introduced the new administrator, Roger Garmendia. Treasurer Hope Anderson reported that her office streamlined the process to pay delinquent taxes on line with a credit card. Also Telamon Corporation will hold office hours in the county every Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be available by phone on Wednesdays. Telamon will assist residents with delinquent mortgages, taxes and/or utilities to apply for assistance through the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund. Sheriff Behnke introduced Manny DeLaRosa as the new Emergency Management Coordinator and Jonathan Shoup as the new Jail Captain. Sheriff also reported that during the cold, snowy and icy weather over three days there were 12 crashes and 5 slide offs. On Wednesday 2-2-22, even though the County Building was closed, thanks to the Sheriff and Clerk Monica Kennedy, a couple who wanted that special date were married at the jail.

Elkhart Road Multi-Purpose Path Update as of February 14th 2022
(Revised 2/14/22)

Summary by Jeff Kozinski:

Here is new information since our joint meeting on Thursday, January 27th:

- Joe Bellina informed me that we might be able to get a DNR Grant to cover an 8 foot path. Earlier we thought that we had to create a 10 foot path to meet the grant requirements. A 10 foot path is not a favorable width as discussed at the January 27th joint meeting.
- Cost: If we are successful with a DNR Grant, the cost for the project may get us near the original amount requested in my first presentation. The cost could possibly involve \$140,000 from the township and \$60,000 from the village. These figures are estimates. Estimates may change based on increased costs of materials.
- Joe Bellina was in touch with the utility company to inquire about moving the utility poles and the cost.
- The utility company told Joe that there is no cost to the township, village, or road commission if we need the poles moved.
- The utility company may move the poles to the other side of the street if they have to at no cost. It is still unknown where the poles would have to be relocated if at all.
- I asked Melanie Stanage, with Wightman Associates, to create some drawings of the project to give residents an idea of what the project would look like.
- I also asked Melanie to give us an idea of what the project would look like if we were going to fund the project with \$270,000 from the township and \$115,000 from the village.

Current action needed by Ontwa Township Board and Village Board:

- As of February 14th, 2022, I am asking both boards to give Joe Bellina and Wightman and Associates to put together a plan to meet the DNR Grant guidelines.
- So no action is requested for the February board meetings for the township and village.
- If Joe is successful in putting together a DNR application, I believe the application would be filed under the township.
- Both the township and the village may be asked to make a motion on the project application in the March meetings.
- The DNR application must be submitted by April 1st.
- If the DNR application is approved, we may be able to complete the project in 2023.

Closing Comments:

I appreciate the time and effort by all of those involved. We hope to learn more about the project in the near future. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Jeff Kozinski
Cell: 574-333-1310