

# Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

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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 13, 2023.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to amend the agenda to add under Old Business the opening of landscaping and mowing bids as item 2, and the purchase of iPads under New Business as item 8, second by Trustee Christensen. All in favor, motion passed. Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by trustee Christensen. All in favor, motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Neal Bowman of Cassopolis spoke on his request to amend the zoning ordinance to allow more small animals to hopefully encourage kids to get into 4H. Patty Reedy of 24197 N. Shore and Jill Meuninck of 24097 N. Shore, both spoke on supporting no mow May to encourage pollinators.

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

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioners Roseann Marchetti and Sam Barrera: At the March Board of Commissioner meeting resolutions in support of a Midwest Energy grant to provide broadband access to outlying areas in Cass County and opposition to new gun legislation were passed. There will be a used passenger tire collection Wednesday April 26, from 3-6pm at the Road Commission on O'Keefe Street. Proof of residency is required. Hazardous waste collection will be at the same time and location. A tree and seedling sale will be held by the Cass County Conservation District. For more information call 269.445.8641 ext. 5.

## Committee Board Reports:

**Wastewater:** Brigid Forlenza: Selge Construction will be repairing manholes soon.

**Zoning:** John Hanson: Working on land splits, new homes, and short term rental inspections. Zoning has received numerous inquiries about having chickens in residential areas. The ordinance requires at least 5 acres and be zoned AR.

**Ambulance:** Trustee Stutsman: The ambulance is at full staff now with 12 medics.

**Police:** Meryl Christensen: Reported on stats for the month, budget has been approved, and permission was granted for the Chief to hire a part time courier to be employed at his discretion.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Stutsman: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to get the outside sign repaired at a cost not to exceed \$500. Second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Bolock: No report

**Township Roads:** Trustee Kozinski: Trustee Kozinski gave an update on road repair schedule for 2023. He made a motion to approve \$300,000 of township funds plus \$20,000 from ARPA funds for these projects. Second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Fire Board:** John Hanson: John gave an overview of the staffing report that was presented at their last meeting.

**Parks Board:** Trustee Kozinski: No report.

**Adamsville Cemetery Board:** Trustee Christensen: S&S will do the lawn care at the cemetery for the 2023 season.

**Old Business:**

**Elkhart Road Project:** The Village approved applying for a grant.

**Landscaping and Lawnmowing Bids:** Only one bid was received for each of the request for bids. After discussion, Trustee Bolock made a motion to accept the bids from McCall’s Outside chores, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes 1 nay (Stutsman).

**New Business:**

**Dredging Channels on Christiana Lake:** Michael Lucas of 78766 Twilight Street, presented to the Board a request to set up a SAD for this project. He has the support of the 17 properties that would be part of the agreement and has done the preliminary work necessary to proceed. Cass County Drain Commissioner Jeff VanBelle spoke in support of the proposal. Trustee Kozinski made a motion to prepare a resolution to be presented at the meeting in April, seconded by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

**Resolution to Adjust/Amend the FY 2022/2023 Budget:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-3-13.1 to transfer \$1,000 from Repairs/Additions to the Fire Board, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Resolution to Establish Regular Meeting Dates:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-3-13.2, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Resolution to Adopt Annual Health Insurance Act:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-3-13-3, option 3, second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Resolution to Appoint Professional Service Providers:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13-4, seconded by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Approval of Wastewater, Cemetery, Fireboard, Police, Ambulance Budgets:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve budgets from these departments, seconded by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**Board of Review Position:** Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to appoint Patty Lauten of 69303 Sundance, to the Board of Review, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**iPad Purchase:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to purchase 7 iPads to be used by the Board members. Following discussion Trustee Stutsman made a second to the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes, 1 nay (Kozinski).

**Announcements:** Next regular Township Board meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance Board April 12<sup>th</sup>, Police Board April 13<sup>th</sup>, Wastewater Board March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Planning Commission April 5<sup>th</sup>, and Cemetery Board on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

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

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Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary