

# Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022, Minutes

[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 7:01pm on November 14, 2022.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Trustee Christensen. All in favor, motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Kevin Karkiewicz of 25639 Windsor addressed issues with excessive speeding along Elkhart Road.

**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, 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Roseann Marchetti: Cass County partners with Dowagiac to administer Community Development Block Grants. Requirements include income eligibility and being up to date on mortgage payments and property taxes. Last year more than \$75,000. was given for emergency repair such as roofs and heating system.

**Committee Board Reports:**

**Wastewater:** Brigid Forlenza: No report

**Zoning Administrator:** John Hanson: Cleanup at May Street subdivision has been resolved. Short term rental renewals need to be done by January 1, 2023. The Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on November 29, at 6:30.

**Ambulance:** Trustee Stutsman: No report

**Police:** Trustee Christensen: No report.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Stutsman: No report

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Bolock: A special land use request will be heard at the next meeting for a veterinarian office on M62. Eagle Ridge land use was completed.

**Township Roads:** Trustee Kozinski: New stripping will be done on a portion of Elkhart Road.

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

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

**Old Business:** Trustee Kozinski reported on progress of the Elkhart Road bike/pedestrian path. An open house was held prior to this Board meeting with continued positive support for the project. Some additional pathway may be potentially added to the township portion resulting in the possibility of a 75/25 division of cost between the Township and the Village.

**New Business:**

**Approval of Master Plan Update Resolution:** Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-10-14.1 supporting a joint Master Plan between Ontwa Township and the Village of Edwardsburg. Trustee Kozinski questioned the benefits of doing so and if bike paths are in the Village Master Plan. There will not be additional cost to the Township with passage of this resolution. Both Boards must approve a joint Master Plan. The motion was approved by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**Metering Manhole Edwardsburg Sports Complex:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to accept a proposal by Selge Construction to install a metering manhole at the Complex not to exceed \$12,000. Second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**Manhole Casting Adjustments:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to accept a proposal from Selge Construction to adjust a manhole casting at 24097 North Shore drive at a cost not to exceed \$1,897, second by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**ARPA Funds-First Responder Pay:** Supervisor Marchetti proposed a bonus to Edwardsburg's first responders who continued to work through the Township's shut down from April 2020 through March 2021 due to Covid. This will include the Township Secretary who worked every day although the office was officially closed. Trustee Kozinski made a motion to do so second by Clerk VanBelle at an amount not to exceed \$28,000 based on the number of employees. After discussion regarding payment of taxes and verification of the number of full-time and part-time employees the motion was dropped. Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to up the amount not to exceed \$32,000 based upon verifying as noted above. Motion second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**Snow Removal Contract:** Clerk VanBelle opened and read the two bids received by the Township for snow removal. Following discussion Trustee Kozinski made a motion to accept the bid submitted by McCalls Outdoor Chores, second by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman was absent.

**Announcements:** Next regular Township Board meeting will be December 12<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance Board December 14<sup>th</sup>, Police Board December 15<sup>th</sup>, Wastewater Board November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Planning Commission December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Bolock made a motion to adjourn, second by Treasurer Leist. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

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

Recording Secretary

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Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary