

Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 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 November 13th, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

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

Public Comment: Jill and James Meuninck of 24097 N Shore, Jeff Thomson of 23645 N. Shore, and Sherry Elliott of 23684 N. Shore all spoke about the speed limit from Oak Springs to Thatcher. Vicki Lints of 23597 S. Shore questioned the current dock ordinance. Clerk VanBelle read a letter submitted by Judy and Bob Kukla of 23983 N. Shore regarding the speed limit from Oak Springs to Lakeview.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Trustee Christensen. Motion passed on a roll call vote.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Marchetti: At the October meeting Judge Carol Bealor reported on the first meeting of the opioid abuse disorder committee. The committee will meet monthly. Alexander Peters, the newest Cass County Conservation officer, noted that in addition to their primary mission of enforcing game, recreational and natural resource protection, these officers are certified law enforcement officers and have authority to enforce all of Michigan's criminal laws.

Committee Board Reports:

Wastewater: Brigid Forlenza: The seawall on Eagle Lake Road has been repaired. The chemical feed pump at C1 has been repaired. Brigid addressed the Elkhart Board of Public Works on November 8th to discuss the end of pipe discharge from Ontwa to Elkhart that resulted in a \$100 fine. At her request Granger Indiana will be submitting monthly reports to Ontwa regarding their discharges.

Zoning: Andrew Moore sent results of the open house held to preview the new Master Plan that the Township and the Village have collaborated on. A survey showed items most important to residents are the bike/walking path, promote growth within the village, protect the lakes, and upkeep of sidewalks.

Fire Board: No report

Ambulance: Trustee Stutsman: The department has about 100 medical runs per month. Response time within the township is 5-6 minutes and outside of the township is 13-15 minutes.

Buildings & Grounds: Trustee Stutsman: Upgrade of the audio/visual equipment is underway.

Planning Commission: Trustee Christensen: No meeting last week.

Township Roads: Trustee Kozinski: He will accompany Bob Thompson, Road Commissioner Bellina and Supervisor Marchetti on a road tour to compile a proposed project list for 2024.

Parks Board: Trustee Kozinski: No current updates. The board does not meet every month.

Police: Trustee Christensen: A new copier/fax was purchased by the department and CDs are being renewed at 1st Source.

Adamsville Cemetery Board: Trustee Christensen: There was no meeting this month.

Old Business:

Elkhart Road Project: Trustee Kozinski: The revisions made in the request for a grant resulted in a 50-point increase in the score. The requested amount was \$300,000. If approved, we will have to wait for the state to make its budget.

New Business:

Resolution to Adjust/Amend the Budget: Clerk VanBelle made a motion to move \$40,000 from 101-000-528 ARPA Revenue to 101-651 Edwardsburg Ambulance, second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Disorderly Persons/Loitering Ordinance: Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve Trustee Bolock read Ordinance #11-2023 and Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Christensen. This ordinance will replace Ordinance 79-1 entirely. Trustee Bolock noted that Chief Westrick would like the Township and the Village to have the same ordinance, and this has been passed by the Village. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Board Reappointments: Supervisor Marchetti made a motion to approve the following reappointments for terms expiring 2026. For the Planning Commission Dick Gates, Mike Mroczek, and Sandy Seanor, Wastewater Jeff VanBelle, and Bruce Cassidy, and to the Zoning Board of Appeals Todd Haberland. Trustee Stutsman second the motion. Trustee Bolock recused herself because of her position as interim Zoning Administrator. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 Nays.

Oak Springs Road Speed Limit: Following discussion about two options presented via letter from Road Commissioner Bellina the board voted to approve option 2 which is to establish a 30 MPH limit from Oak Springs Road to Lakeview Drive. Trustee Kozinski made a motion to approve option 2, seconded by Trustee Stutsman. Motion approved on a roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Snowplow Bids: Clerk VanBelle reviewed the only bid received which was from McCall's Outdoor Chores. Clerk VanBelle suggested proposing a 3-year contract with a maximum 10% raise each year, as this is the only company to respond to the published bid each year. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Trustee Bolock. Trustee Kozinski opened a discussion regarding getting bids and the timing of doing so. Trustee Stutsman revised his motion to offer a 2-year contract, seconded by Clerk VanBelle. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 1 nay (Kozinski).

Ambulance – Down Payment for New Ambulance & Windows for Living Area: Trustee Stutsman reviewed a request from the head of the Ambulance department for the installation of windows in the employee's living area and assistance with the down payment of a new ambulance to be purchased in 2025. Supervisor Marchetti also noted that the living area of the department needs some improvements. Following discussion Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve a proposal from D&C Real Estate Revival, not to exceed \$6,000 to install 3 windows with ARPA funds. Also, to approve the purchase of a new table and chairs. Second by Trustee Kozinski motion approved on a roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve \$30,000 from ARPA funds as a down payment for the new ambulance, seconded by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayws,0 nays.

Wastewater – Kennedy Industries: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve a quote from Kennedy Industries for the purchase and installation of a FLYGT 3153 pump for C1, the main pump to Elkhart, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes,0 nays.

Announcements: Next regular Township Board meeting will be December 11th, Ambulance Board December 13th, Police Board December 14th, Wastewater Board November 15th, Planning Commission December 6th.

Adjourn: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____

Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary