

## Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023

[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 7:00pm on September 11, 2023.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Trustee Kozinski. Clerk VanBelle noted the agenda needed to be amended by adding check numbers 9245 through 9250 to General Checking and check number 691 to Special Assessment.

**Public Comment:** Dave Szynski, Beach Drive, Vicki Lints of South Shore, Cory Johnson of Sheridan Drive, A.J. Wright, and Vicki Beauchem all addressed the Board.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes 0 nays. Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Sam Barrera: Provided insight into the purpose of the Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner Marchetti: The County has received a 1.5-million-dollar grant to remodel the Court House, which will begin on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and a 4-million-dollar grant, along with St. Joe County, over the next five years, for the adult treatment court. On Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> a fall festival will be held from 10am-2pm, at the Edwardsburg fire station. Lots of vendors and games for kids.

**Committee Board Reports:**

**Wastewater:** No report

**Zoning:** John Hanson: Working on 43 active complaints. He has made a permit report which will be updated monthly to present to the Board.

**Fire Board:** September 12 at 6:30 the staffing report will be reviewed. The public is welcome to attend.

**Ambulance:** Trustee Stutsman: There was not a meeting last month. There will be a meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. They are helping do transfers for Cass County. All equipment is in good shape and the department is underbudget.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Trustee Stutsman: Continuing to gather bids on audio/visual project for the township hall.

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Bolock: The attorney for Eddies Marketplace was given an extension until October 4<sup>th</sup>. They are waiting for a traffic study.

**Township Roads:** Trustee Kozinski: Working through scheduled projects for 2023.

**Parks Board:** Trustee Kozinski: Hoping to hear about the grant for the Elkhart Road path in the next couple weeks.

**Police:** Trustee Christensen: No report

**Adamsville Cemetery Board:** Trustee Christensen: No report

**Old Business:**

**Elkhart Road Project:** As above.

**New Business:**

**SAD Resolutions:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve the following SAD’s: 2023-9-11.1 Eagle Lake & Channels, 2023-9-11.2 Pleasant Lake, 2023-9-11.3 Garver Lake, 2023-9-11.4 Morton Dr/Christiana Lake, 2023-9-11.5, Regal Place Subdivision, 2023-9-11-6, Christiana Lake Dredge Project. Motion was second by Trustee Kozinski, approved on a roll call vote.

**Proclamation National Rail Safety Week:** Supervisor Marchetti read and made a motion to support proclaiming the week of September 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as National Rail Safety Week. Second by Trustee Stutsman. All in favor, motion passed.

**Zoning Solutions LLC:** Beth Pompey and Jeremiah Jones of Zoning Solutions, LLC presented a plan to assist in bringing major, ongoing blight properties into compliance with the zoning ordinance. The proposal would deal with only properties that have refused all attempts by the township to comply. Currently there are 4 properties in the township that are in this category and the Board agreed to do one property as a trial. After discussion among the Board members, it was agreed to proceed on a trial basis. Clerk VanBelle made a motion to proceed, second by Trustee Stutsman. Motion approved on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Resolution to Adjust/Amend FY 2023-2024 Budget:** Clerk VanBelle made a motion to approve additional funds from ARPA to the Operating Budget in the amount of \$32,061.00, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion approved on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, Trustee Christensen was absent.

**Announcements:** Next regular Township Board meeting will be October 9th, Ambulance Board September 13<sup>th</sup>, Police Board September 14<sup>th</sup>, Wastewater Board September 27th, Planning Commission October 11th.

**Adjourn:** Trustee Stutsman made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Kozinski. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

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

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Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary