

Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2024

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Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Ontwa Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Meryl Christensen at 7pm on December 9, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Supervisor Christensen, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Bolock and Stutsman were present. Trustee Marchetti was absent. Trustee Kozinski arrived at 7:11pm.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Christensen requested to amend the agenda by adding item #5 Cleaning Bid and item #6 Pickleball Court under New Business. Treasure Leist made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended, second by Trustee Bolock. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment: Patricia Patzer of 23383 Lakeview Drive spoke on the proposed updates to the basketball court at the Edwardsburg Sports Complex.

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

Commissioner's Report: No report this month

Committee Board Reports:

Wastewater: Brigid Forlenza: The Baker Tilly report will be presented to the Board next month. There are no wastewater rate increases planned for 2025.

Zoning: Zoning Administrator Bolock presented a Complaint Status report showing information on properties within the township that are in noncompliance.

Ambulance: Trustee Stutsman stated that the average run time within the township is less than 7 minutes and within the village is 3 minutes. The new ambulance is expected to be delivered in April or May. There will not be an Ambulance Board meeting this month. The meeting in January will be held at the Village Hall.

Planning Commission: Trustee Bolock reported that a special meeting was held on December 4th regarding piers. She will be conferring with the township attorney.

Township roads: Trustee Kozinski toured some township roads with the Road Commissioner. Among the roads under consideration for repair next year are Hess, Christiana Creek, Hillview, and Ridgewood.

Parks: Trustee Kozinski reported the DNR will meet on Wednesday the 11th about disbursement of grant monies. The next Parks Committee will be February 4th at 6pm.

Police: Supervisor Christensen reported that purchase of body cameras was discussed, health insurance for the department is looking at a 11% increase for next year and the possibility of purchasing a new vehicle.

Adamsville Cemetery: Supervisor Christensen reported on ongoing maintenance of the cemetery including trash cleanup of the grounds, trimming trees, and fence repair. No new foundations will be poured until spring.

Fire: Clerk VanBelle reported the at large position at the department was filled at the last meeting.

Old Business:

Elkhart Road Project: No update on the grant yet.

New Business:

2025 Ontwa Township Poverty Guidelines: Trustee Stutsman opened discussion questioning why the township has raised the guidelines by \$4,000 each year. After discussion it was decided Clerk VanBelle will confer with the township assessor and clarify the process. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to table the vote, second by Clerk VanBelle. All in favor, motion passed.

Wastewater CT Electrical Services: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to accept a bid from CT to furnish and install a lift station transducer at C-1 not to exceed \$3,800, second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote 6 ayes, 0 nays. Trustee Marchetti was absent.

Wastewater-Selge-Ontwa Township Shed Slab: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to accept a bid from Selge Construction not to exceed \$24,000 to prepare a shed base at C1. Trustee Kozinski made a second to the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote 6 ayes, 0 nays. Trustee Marchetti was absent.

Board Appointments: Supervisor Christensen made a motion to reappoint the following to township Boards. Chris Marbach and Shane Szalai to Planning Commission, a three-year term expiring January 2028. Mike Mroczek and John Bossler to the Wastewater Board, a three-year term expiring January 2028. Mike Mroczek, Pat Bellaire, Patty Lauten to Board of Review, a two-year term expiring January 2027 and Jeff VanBelle as an alternate. Trustee Kozinski made a second to the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Cleaning Bid: Clerk VanBelle stated that the township will need to hire someone to replace the current cleaning lady who is moving. The township has a sealed bid that was submitted. Discussion followed on whether to review the bid or advertise for bids. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to open the bid for discussion, second by Clerk VanBelle. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to accept the bid, without a contract, second by Trustee Bolock. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, Trustee Marchetti was absent.

PickleBall Court: The Edwardsburg Sports Complex has requested a donation be made by the Township for the update of the basketball court so it can be used as a basketball court and a pickleball court. After discussion by the Board Trustee Stutsman made a motion to table the issue, seconded by Trustee Kozinski. All in favor, motion passed.

Announcements: The next regular Township Board meeting will be Monday January 13, 2025. Ambulance Board will be January 9 at the Village Hall, Police Board December 12, Wastewater Board December 18, Planning Commission January 8, Parks Committee February 4.

Adjourn: Supervisor Christensen a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Bolock. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____

Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary