

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Desmond Pike.

Short Prayer was given by David Hodges.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll Call: John Feuerstein, Trustee, Joe Borek, Trustee, Paula Byrne, Treasurer
Lynda Sower, Clerk, Desmond Pike, Supervisor

Approval of Agenda: Sower requested that the phone system and the cutting of trees at the cemetery be added to the agenda. Feuerstein moved to approve the agenda with the additions and Byrne supported. 5-0 passed

Public Comment: Sower stated that they had the cemetery Ordinance that was in 2017 and it was revised in 2018

Joana Johnson stated that there was a large portion on the agenda about the cemetery and the records. She stated that she would hope that they would have other complaints about the clerk and not only those that of the lead person, Laura Staats, taking the charge against the Clerk. But more people from the township. She also ask questions about the addition and money for this project.

Sonja Jakeway spoke about the cemetery and the mistake in 2010 when someone was buried in graves that Jodi Jakeway had purchased for her family. Sower stated that she was not the clerk in 2010. But had found a paper that had some notes on it about this matter, from 2010.

Donna Dorey told about missing things from the cemetery, coins and pots. Laura Staats stated that the cemetery committee does not remove things. She stated that the board hires someone to clean up the cemetery. Sower stated that she has been at the cemetery when they took things off the graves and it was Laura and the committee.

Cara Johnson ask about the tree trimming in the cemetery. Who went out to see what trees the arborist marked and who made sure the cutters cut down the trees on the cemetery property?

Approval of Minutes: Sower stated that there are some things that have to be in the minutes and that is who makes motions and supports them. These are permanent records. Feuerstein stated that there is a correction on page two about the house numbers, they come from the Equalization Dept. not the Road Dept. Byrnes noted a correction in the deputy report 4r crimes. Byrnes moved that the minutes be corrected and Feuerstein stated that Laura should be the one to correct them. And Sower supported. 4-1 approved Pike was the no vote.

Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable: Feuerstein moved that we pay these accounts and Byrne supported. 5-0 approved

Payroll	\$12,416.65
Accts payable	\$29,984.01
Roads	<u>\$ 6,001.60</u>
Totals	\$48,402.26

Communications: The Fire Chief, Tim Lubitz wants to remind people need to have address numbers at their residence. And they need to have their driveways cleaned up so they can get to anyone when they arrive at your homes.

Belding Post Office sent a reminder of Bulk Mail, it is due with an added cost this year. The Planning Commission wants to use it for a survey to send out to the residence. The board decided to continue to keep this current.

Reports:

Township Deputy: Was not in attendance.

Assessor: All board members have received the Assessor Report. Frain is requesting that the board give her money in her budget for Education and Supplies for the Deputy Assessor. Byrne moved that we put \$1,000 for education and \$100 for supplies in the assessor budget, and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved

Cemetery Report: Staats reported the records are back at the hall. The cemetery committee is trying to figure out how they are going to mark the unknown graves in the cemeteries.

County Commissioner: David Hodges reported that at their meeting they discussed; Health care, state fund, update pension, title 4 fund, and updated brining of the roads .

Planning Commission: NO MEETING

ZBA: NO MEETING

Zoning Administrator: The board has the report from Larry Mercer.

Unfinished Business:

Web Site Development: Byrne is working with the WIX Company

Hall Maintenance: There is a contract that needs some corrections before it is given to the individual that the board hires to work around the hall, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at \$18.00 hourly and maximum of 6 hours a week. The person that the contract is for must sign this contract.

Borek moved that we hire Lyle Chazzan as the maintenance person and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved

Recycling: There was discussion about recycling. If Gib Brown does do any recycling he will receive a 1099 at the end of the year.

New Business:

Point to Pay: Byrne reported that the setup fee is \$500 - \$50 monthly - \$1,100 for equipment. Byrne moved that we continue to pursue this avenue and Feuerstein supported. Roll call vote. Feuerstein-yes, Borek-yes, Byrne-yes, Sower-yes, Pike-yes 5-0 approved

Hall Expansion: Pike reported that they wanted to hire Tim Spitzley, from Lake Odessa, to make up blue prints for the hall expansion at the cost of no more \$10,000. Borek moved that we hire Tim to do the blue prints and Feuerstein supported. Feuerstein amended the motion to include the price of \$10,000 as the max to pay for this service, and Borek supported. Roll Call Vote- Borek-yes, Sower-yes, Feuerstein-yes, Byrne-yes, Pike-yes. 5-0 approved

Phone System: Joana Johnson remarked about the phone system at the hall. Pike said that we would work on it.

Tree Trimming: Pike state that the Porters made it known that the trimmers had cut some of their woods. Mrs. Porter wanted to know if they dropped the trees on her side or on the cemetery. There was discussion about the subject. Pike is going to talk with the Porters, when the husband gets home.

Theft in cemetery: Pike stated that we are not responsible for these.

Sower was called out by Pike for her missing meetings and the public got involved in the conversation. This went on for a while when Sower proceeded to read a paper that she had written up to explain the reason for missing the meetings. [REDACTED] At this time Pike admitted that he had not spoken to Sower but would now start talking to her.

Public Comment: Joana had some questions about the meetings and the Officers of the township.

Cara Johnson: Had some question for the board and some of their actions.

Jeff Hunter: Ask the supervisor about his promises at campaign time. He left with this quote "If you are not a man of your word -- What are you?"

Sonja Jakeway: Commended about the way the meetings are held and the interviews are done.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Minutes Submitted By

Lynda Sower -- Otisco Township Clerk