

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2016
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Onondaga Township Board was called to order on January 14, 2016 at 7:30PM.

We said the pledge and had a moment of silence.

Present were Jim Tow, Diane Johnson, Matt Schindewolf, Rhiannon Schindewolf-DeShais, and Russ Bodell. Present also were 10 citizens.

SET AND/OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Jim made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Diane seconded. All ayes

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS AND/OR

PUBLIC COMMENT Public comment started at 7:33 and ended at 7:33.

TREASURER

Report submitted. The ending balance on December 31 was \$10,163.45. She discussed the quit claim deed and purchase agreement for the property we are selling. Diane will get with Brandi on this.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Tow discussed the report he submitted. His report included the annual numbers which he stated are up approximately 10%. He stated we did not receive the DNR Grant so he will need to request money to purchase three sets of turn out gear, pay for a barrel of foam and get some extra hose. 9394.89.

Jim made a motion to approve these purchases. Rhiannon seconded. All ayes.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Jim reported they had a meeting and he mentioned two members terms have expired. Richard mentioned he is working on having training on the 2nd Tuesday of a month partnered with Rives.

CLERK

Diane mentioned Ron Symonds former building Inspector passed away. She also mentioned a pamphlet on the elections for 2016 available in the hallway.

TRUSTEES

None

PARKS

Russ stated the grant process is moving forward. He is also getting bids for a new roof for the bathroom. Discussion followed.

SUPERVISOR

Matt mentioned he missed the last meeting. He stated I want to give his point of view on how we have done over the last year at the township. There have been many strides taken toward making improvements for residents. He was not saying that anything in the years previous were wrong or not done properly, but what he is saying effective good people that all have something they are

interested in, that all have done there (inaudible) what it takes to get the work done. We have volunteers that help out. Many communities of this size aren't blessed to have a park like we have and if there is a park it's probably like that park was two years ago. Just an out-county park that nobody paid attention. Now I drive by and I am very pleased to see what's sitting there. It's a wonderful little park. We've got a fire department that is in my opinion second to none in any of the rural township fire departments out here in this area. If you notice on that report that chief Tow gave us, our run calls increased by 10 % a year but, the complexity of some of our run totals increased also. Our ability to go in as a department to provide other departments in this area with the type of mutual aid assistance that this department can give to people no matter where they are, big, small, midnight, big fire chemical fire, small fire, we have the ability to do those things because we as a board recognize it as being expensive but essential to the lives of the people that not only live in this township but live nearby. We also have the type of equipment now that allows us to go into areas that we may not have been capable of doing so in years past. A lot of that is through the efforts of Chief Tow, things that he's been able to obtain through grants. Things that he's been able to obtain just through being dedicated to his role as our fire chief. When we had the fire in Leslie, the Chemical plant, not only did we go in there as mutual aid to help with that fire, but nobody was able to get anywhere because they needed an excavator and they needed it fast, well we happen to have a gentleman on our fire department, he was willing to get his excavator, put it at risk to come in to get that roof off there and let these guys do their job. and do that job quickly and be able to get that thing extinguished and stop as much of the run-off as they were able to stop coming off that site which was not good run-off, so in addition to trustee Bodell and firefighter, planning commissioner, trustee and many other things Jim Tow and our fire chief Jim Tow Jr. I would stack us up against any rural township anywhere in the state of MI. especially in this area, where rural townships really don't know hard times like they know them up north. Down here we are real good representative of a small township, we're able to do a lot of things. Up north some communities we'd be a shining star, and that's not, please don't take me to say we're not a shining star because we are (inaudible) In comparison, so many thanks in my behalf, to everybody I'm talking about tonight, even down to the planning commissioners; cause their all doing a D..N good job and I don't think this township could ask for more.

PITITIONS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Rhiannon made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim seconded. All ayes,

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Jim made a motion to approve the bills. Russ seconded. All ayes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS;

1. AUDITOR; Rhiannon explained she has not had time to check with other auditors but will have more time this month. Discussion followed. Diane made a motion to table this again until next month. Rhiannon seconded. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS;

1. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS;

Matt made a motion to appoint Matt Austin to the planning Commission Rhiannon seconded All ayes.

Matt moved to appoint Rodger Hector. Rhiannon seconded. 4 ayes. 1 nay. Diane explained MTA does not recommend having the zoning officer on the Planning commission, so she cannot support him.

Diane questioned who the third person would be since we appoint 3 a year. The third is the board member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Started and ended at 8:12 pm

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim questioned the PA116 left from last month. Diane explained Tri County had called and needed more time. Rhiannon asked for Diane to get ahold of Brandi to get the paperwork on the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Rhiannon made a motion to adjourn. Russ seconded. All ayes meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes written and submitted by
Diane Johnson,
Onondaga Township Clerk