

**OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.
OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Desmond Pike.
A short prayer was given by Pike.

Members Present: Supervisor, Desmond Pike; Treasurer, Paula Byrnes; Clerk, Lynda Sower
Trustees, John Feuerstein and Joe Borek

Approval of Agenda: Pike stated he wanted to add h. under new business; Mowing concerns.
Feuerstein moved to approve the agenda with the addition and Borek supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2021- Borek moved to approve the minutes and Byrnes
supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Payables & Payroll: Byrnes moved to approve the payables & payroll and Pike
supported. 5-0 approved

Don Hopkins wanted to know about the moving of accts. From Mercantile Bank. Brynes
responded that she had moved a lot of the money, into several banks and credit unions.

Feuerstein wanted to know about all the accounts with checking.

Pike ask if the extra \$2,000 that we budgeted for the Sheriff account was moved to the sheriff
acct.

David Hodges suggested that Byrnes contact the County Treasurer about how te county does
their banking.

Payroll	\$ 9,004.66
Accts Payable	\$13,178.24
Sheriff acct.	<u>\$ 3,498.73</u>
TOTAL	\$25,681.63

Reports:

Township Deputy: Deputy Tobar reported that there were only 34 calls in Otisco Township. He
also reported that the township was doing very well. He gave us the news that he would no
longer by the deputy for our township, as he had an opportunity to change positions, and it was
hard for him, but he is moving on. He will be employed by the City of Belding. We will miss
Tobar and his good work that he has done for us. Congrats !

Assessor: All board members have a report In their folders.

Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats reported that the committee would still like to put a ground
covering on the hill in front of the Smyrna Cemetery.

County Commissioner: David Hodges reported on the Brine situation. The county was having trouble with the trucking of the brine. It should start soon. Hodges stated that they would be starting to grad roads soon. Pitch Landfill is expanding their operation into Otisco Township. Mr. Hodges stated that there would be ads in the paper for citizens to be on a committee to help with this; Rules & Regulations.

The Ionia Commissioners have given the Sheriff the ok to hire two deputies.

ZBA: There will be a meeting and Public Hearing next week. About the Smyrna Bar.

Zoning Administrator: All members of the board have a report in their folders.

Unfinished Business:

Independent Contractor Worksheet: Pike had a work sheet from our insurance company that contractors need to fill out for their records. It may not exempt them from the company's rules, but needs to be done. This has to do with work man's comp.

Chart of Accounts Worksheet: Sower reported to the board that the state is mandating all municipalities' to use the same chart of accounts. This has to be done and done right. Sower has made contact with other people and found that they were having the auditors help with the project. Matt Holland from Gabridge & Company submitted a bill for the services; \$750-\$1,500. Byrnes moved that we approve this and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved

Computers: Pike reported that Byrnes got the state sales tax removed from this bill and saved us \$500. Some of the equipment has arrived and more will be coming. We will have Betsy work in stages to get us up and running with all of the new computers.

Roadside mowing: The gentleman that did the mowing the previous years did not get his bid in yet. Desmond is working on this matter. There were no other bids received.

Tree Removal at the town hall: Sower suggested that they call Consumers to see about the birch tree in front, because the wires are in between and next to large braches, for safety reasons. Laura Staats suggested that her Husband would look at it and let us know.

Electric at Corner: Pike stated that we had paid a bill to consumers for the work and it should be done soon.

New Business:

Sign Upgrade: Pike reported that Pam had gotten the sign outside updated.

Recorder: Byrnes suggested that the board purchase a recorder, as the one that Lynda uses belongs to her, and all meeting should be taped and kept.

Hall Improvements: It was decided that the board would start with the bottom of the building outside.

Ionia County Equalization Dept: There is a form about the Mills that the township renewed last November that has to be sent back to them with information that they must keep. Pike moved that we do this and return it to them, and Byrnes supported. 5-0 approved

Proper action of Supervisor in dealing with the Road Commission: Pike stated that he and Feuerstein went to the road dept. for a meeting about the roads and he intended to continue to work with them in this manner. Sower stated that only two board members can go to these meetings and report back to the board about the situations of the roads. No agreements can be made at such meetings and must be voted on by the township board.

Pitney Bowes machine upgrade: Sower reported that they were discontinuing the model that the township has now and replacing it with a new model and will not be any raise in the charges per month. They will train Sower on how to operate the machine to get started.

Tombstone Maintenance: Pike and Borek walked through the cemeteries and seen alot of head stones that have broken and are in pieces in the cemetery. Pike would like to see them fixed, in respect to the dead. It was suggested that we call a granite company and find out if there is anyone there or if they know of anyone that can help us out. Sower suggested that they also can put them in the ground near their graves, somewhat like the servicemen plaques that they have in the cemeteries..

Lawn Mowing Concerns: As Pike and Borek walked through the cemeteries they noticed some flowers that were laying around, it was suggested that they might have be weed whipped off, but they should have been picked up. Also, the parking lot at the Smyrna Cemetery has not been mowed. Sower stated that maybe the new mowers did not know that they were supposed to do this. Pike is going to talk to them. The weeds in the lot need to be sprayed with Round Up.

Public Comment: Jeff Hunter stated that the board should not be hiring people that already work on the board or committees. It doesn't look good and could be a conflict of interest. Jeff also ask that we look at the In Home Business ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By:

Lynda Sower
Otisco Township Clerk