

APPROVED MINUTES
Bertrand Township (Est. 1836)
3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107
Regular Township Board Meeting
March 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Hicks, Kuhn, Lano, LeClaire, Zelmer Absent: none

The Township budget hearing took place at 7:15 p.m. and was closed at 7:31 p.m. after a period of discussion and answering questions.

The Fire Assessment District budget hearing took place at 7:45 p.m. and was closed at 7:47 p.m.

Consent Calendar

Approval of agenda, Township board meeting minutes from February 12, 2015 & February 28, 2015; Bills presented for payment; budget amendment (Hicks directed that \$3,000 be moved from Cemetery mowing 276-807 to Township Hall & Grounds Capital Improvements 264-967)

Added to the agenda:

Item 6.G: Berrien County Reference Standard Library

Item 6.H: Various Costs

Item 7.A: Berrien County Road Commission

Item 7.B: Berrien County Master Plan

Motion was made by Lano seconded by Zelmer to approve the consent calendar as amended.

Roll call vote:

Motion carried unanimously

Reports:

Sheriff's Dept. Report: Deputy Sullivan and Deputy Frucci and Sheriff Bailey of the Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. were present. Deputy Sullivan handed out the Stat Sheet report for the month of January, 2015 and provided a brief review.

Fire Dept.: Chief Knisely provided a brief review of the March 12, 2015 FD report.

SMCAS: SMCAS rep Nick Gowen provided a written report describing what took place at the February 12, 2015 board of directors meeting.

Other Reports: Reports were received from the Treasurer & Planning Commission.

Public Comments:

A presentation was made by township resident Tom Wrasse on the subject of establishing an American Chestnut breeding orchard situated on township owned grounds. He passed out information to the board members and provided details and proposed a plan for this project. After brief discussion Mr. Wrasse was asked to create a project site map and have it presented to the board for the April meeting so further consideration can be given to his request.

Board Member Salary Resolutions 031215 A, B, C & D

No salary increases occurred. Salary reductions can only occur with consent of the office holder.

Resolution 031215 A - The salary resolution for the township supervisor position was amended to show the amount paid for the assessing duties which is an annual salary of \$18,900 and the annual salary of the supervisor being received for non assessing duties which is \$27,078.

Motion was made by Lano seconded by Zelmer to adopt Resolution 031215 A as amended.

Roll call vote: Yes: Kuhn, Lano, LeClaire, Zelmer Abstain: Hicks motion carried

Resolution 031215 B - The salary resolution for the township clerk with annual salary of \$24,040.

Motion was made by Kuhn seconded by Zelmer to adopt Resolution 031215 B as presented.

Roll call vote: Yes: Hicks, Kuhn, LeClaire, Zelmer Abstain: Lano motion carried

Resolution 031215 C - The salary resolution for the township treasurer with annual salary of \$24,040.

Motion was made by Lano seconded by Zelmer to adopt Resolution 031215 C as presented.

Roll call vote: Yes: Hicks, Lano, LeClaire, Zelmer Abstain: Kuhn motion carried

Resolution 031215 D - The salary resolution for the township trustee with annual salary of \$4,000.

Motion was made by Kuhn seconded by Lano to adopt Resolution 031215 D as presented.

Roll call vote: Yes: Hicks, Kuhn, Lano Abstain: LeClaire, Zelmer motion carried

Consideration of Township 2015/2016 Budget Resolution 031215 E

Motion was made by Lano seconded by Zelmer to adopt Resolution 031215 E as amended for the 2015/2016 General Fund and West River Terrace Budgets.

Roll call vote:

Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of Fire Department 2015/2016 Budget Resolution 031215 F

Motion was made by Zelmer seconded by Kuhn to adopt Resolution 031215 F as amended for the 2015/2016 Fire Department Budget. Roll call vote:

Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of RFP for 2015 Mowing Service

Motion was made by Lano seconded by Kuhn to approve the mowing bid specifications as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Fire Department Officer Appointments

Chief Knisely stated that only four individuals expressed interest in serving as officers on the fire dept. for 2015/2016. The list provided to the board showed: Bill Knisely - Chief, Matt Remmo - Asst. Chief, Chris Burks and Chris Huston - Captains.

Motion was made by Zelmer seconded by Kuhn to approve the list of officers as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Hicks will administer the oath of office to each of the newly appointed officers prior to April 1, 2015

Fire Department Probationary Hire

Motion was made by LeClaire second by Kuhn to extend an offer of employment to Anthony Nichols subject to obtaining favorable back ground check, driving record check and employment physical.

Roll call vote:

Motion carried unanimously

Berrien County Reference Standard Library

Motion was made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn to authorize Hicks to communicate that Bertrand Township will pledge to participate in the establishment and of the Building Dept. Reference Standards Library at a cost plus or minus \$1,000. Roll call vote:

Motion carried unanimously

