

APPROVED MINUTES  
**Bertrand Township (Est. 1836)**  
3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107  
Regular Township Board Meeting  
April 9, 2015

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

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

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of agenda, Township board meeting minutes from March 12, 2015; Bills presented for payment;

Added to the agenda: Item 7.A: Boiler inspection

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

Roll call vote:

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Berrien County Road Commission Presentation**

Trustee LeClaire attended the recent NATS meeting and upon learning that there are important factors that need to be communicated about the roads in Berrien County and the impact of the state wide sales tax increase ballot proposal, he invited the township's Road Commissioner to speak to the township board. Jess Minks brought with him Berrien County Road Commission director Mr. Louis Csokasy. Mr. Csokasy provided a comprehensive presentation of information pertaining to the state wide sales tax increase ballot proposal that appears on the May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Through the presentation there were a number of questions and answers given and comments made. A 13 page handout was distributed that helped explain Proposal 1.

**Sheriff's Dept. Report:** Asst. Sheriff Boyce was present and stated that a printed report of Bertrand Twp. Statistics will be mailed.

**Fire Dept.:** Chief Knisely provided a brief review of the April 9, 2015 FD report.

**SMCAS:** SMCAS rep Nick Gowen provided a written report describing what took place at the March 19, 2015 board of directors meeting.

**Other Reports:** Treasurer Kuhn provided a written report; Trustee LeClaire gave a verbal report of what was discussed at the NATS meeting concerning the progressive degradation of the roads in the county.

**Mowing Bids for 2015 Mowing Season**

Motion was made by Kuhn seconded by Hicks to accept the mowing and trimming bid received from Flat Top Lawn Care in the amount of \$9,000 or \$360 per mow as per the lawn mowing specifications.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hicks, Kuhn, Lano

No: LeClaire, Zelmer    **Motion carried 3 to 2**

**Set Date for Public Hearing on IFT for Bauer Water & Wittorp**

Treasurer Kuhn explained that he spoke to Mrs. Bauer and specifically went over with her that being delinquent in paying their property taxes would cause the IFT that they have been granted to be revoked. It was also stated that the township attorney sent a letter to the Buaers informing them of the course of action now being taken. Attorney Bell was present and said that she mailed the letter the parties by first class mail. In regard to Wittorp, he explained that this company has gone out of business. Joe Sobieralski was present and described the process involved which included conducting the public hearing and based upon that outcome, the matter will move to the state for final determination.

**Motion** was made by Kuhn seconded by LeClaire to set the public hearing date to consider the revocation of the Bauer IFT for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. Voice vote: **Motion carried 4 to 1**

**Motion** was made by Kuhn seconded by LeClaire to set the public hearing date to consider the revocation of the Wittorp IFT for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously**

**FD Pest Control**

**Motion** was made by Kuhn seconded by Zelmer to accept the Rose Pest Control Contract for pest control service beginning April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 for a total contract price of \$844 for both fire stations. Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**American Chestnut Orchard**

**Motion** was made by Hicks seconded by Zelmer to table the matter until the May 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Communications**

Trustee LeClaire stated that the state boiler inspector conducted an inspection on the boiler as of today. We should be hearing back from the state inspector, but so far we have nothing in writing. The inspector told LeClaire that there were 3 items for follow up from the 2013 inspection.

The next township board meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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Sara A. Bell, Esq.                      dated  
Township Attorney