

APPROVED MINUTES
Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
And
IFT Revocation Special Hearing
And
Bertrand Fire Department Special Hearing
May 14, 2015

Bertrand Township Hall
3835 Buffalo Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107

Supervisor Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

Members present: Hicks, Kuhn, LeClaire, Vite, Zelmer Absent: None

Consent Calendar

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn to approve the Consent Calendar as provided:

- Agenda
- Pre-approval of customary monthly bills to pay since accounts payable software is not currently accessible
- Township Board meeting minutes of April 9, 2015

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hicks, Kuhn, Vite, Zelmer No: LeClaire **Carried 4-1**

Reports

Sheriff's Department

Report submitted for March, 2015.

Fire Department

Chief Knisely submitted May 14, 2015 Monthly Business Report.

SMCAS

Rep Nick Gowan provided a written report of the April 16, 2015 SMCAS Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kuhn provided an April 2015 report of the status of the township's finances. He also provided an estimate of where the funds will be coming from to purchase the fire truck.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Eileen Glick provided the May 2015 Zoning/Code Enforcement Report she submitted at the May 2015 Planning Commission Meeting.

Public Comments

One resident made a comment.

ITF Revocation Special Hearing

Supervisor Hicks called the public hearing to order at 7:18 pm.

Dave Kuhn presented the township's case against Bauer Better Water Systems, LLC.

Owner Matt Bauer and his wife presented their case that the downturn of the economy in 2008 has put them in the position of making late payments on their taxes. They also argued that the revocation of their ITF exemption would have a ripple effect on other businesses and residents in the community.

Supervisor Hicks closed the public hearing at 7:27 pm.

Bertrand Township Fire Department Special Hearing

Supervisor Hicks called the public hearing to order at 7:27 pm.

Chief Knisely presented the need to purchase a new Class A Pumper truck that will replace the current 28 year-old truck.

Many residents spoke out in appreciation for the work of the fire department, and thanked them working as volunteers and the great service they perform to the community.

There were questions from a few as to whether aspects such as grants, leasing options, and other forms of financing were evaluated.

Supervisor Hicks closed the public hearing at 8:13 pm.

Old Business

Resident Tom Wrasse presented his proposal to plant an American Chestnut breeding orchard on township hall property.

Motion made by Vite seconded by Zelmer to plant an American Chestnut breeding orchard on the north edge of the Bertrand Township Hall property.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

New Business

1. 2015 Road Projects

Motion made by Zelmer seconded by LeClaire to approve the list of 2015 road projects with an estimated cost of \$170,400 as presented

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. Banking Resolutions

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Zelmer to approve resolution 051415A for Chemical Bank.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Zelmer to approve resolution 051415B for United Federal Credit Union.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Zelmer to approve resolution 051415C for Country Heritage Credit Union

Roll Call Vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn to approve resolution 051415D for Edgewater Bank

Roll Call Vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Zelmer to approve resolution 051415E for Honor Credit Union

Roll Call Vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn to approve resolution 051415F for Teacher's Credit Union

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. ITF Revocation

Motion made by Kuhn seconded by Hicks to adopt Resolution 051415G Revocation for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #2008-491 for Bauer Better Water Systems, LLC.

Kuhn asked for an extension to next tax season and asked the board not approve the Resolution. Zelmer concurred and warned Bauer's this will be last grace extension.

Roll call vote: **Motion failed unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn to adopt Resolution 051415H Revocation for industrial Facilities Exemption Certificates #2005-032 and #2006-614 for Wittorp Manufacturing Corp.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. Community Hall Non-Resident Increase

Motion made by Kuhn seconded by Zelmer to increase Community Hall rental fee for non-residents from the current amount of \$75 to \$100 effective June 1.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

5. Sexton Position

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Kuhn for Hicks to appoint resident Jean Wolf for the position of Township Sexton.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Kuhn, Zelmer, Hicks, Vite No: LeClaire **Carried 4-1**

6. Security Grant Proposals

Motion made by Hicks seconded Kuhn to accept Resolution #051415I to approve a Proposed Risk Reduction Grant Request for the amount of a security system up to \$5,000.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

7. Security System

Hicks presented three security camera proposals for the Bertrand Township Hall from 1) T.C. Security Co (\$2,030.00), 2) SCI Alarm, Inc. (\$3,020.15), and 3) NoBi Corporation (\$4,674.67). Hicks also pointed out the township is paying \$66/month for Fire Protection alarm services at the Community Building and noted we might revisit that expense.

Motion made by LeClaire seconded by Zelmer to accept NoBi Corporation's proposal for \$4,674.67 to install a burglar alarm system and a 4 camera IP closed-circuit television security system.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Hicks is going to check with NoBi Corp. to verify the cost of installing an 8 camera system to see if it would stay within the bounds of the Risk Reduction Grant.

Communications

Zoning Administrator Eileen Glick presented a letter to the board noting the results of an inspection of the gravel pits operated by Michiana Aggregate Inc.

Special Board Meeting for BTFD Fire Truck vote on May 21, 2015 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Don Vite
Bertrand Township Clerk

Dated