

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2016**

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.

Members Present: Hicks, Kuhn, LeClaire, Vite, Zelmer

Special Guests: None

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Supervisor Hicks amended the Agenda as follows:

- Add item #5 in New Business – Landfill Board Vacancy.

Motion made by Zelmer supported by LeClaire to approve Consent Agenda as amended:

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2016.
- Accounts Payable for the period 05/11-06/09 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$25,339.24
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,186.74
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 84.43
Total Expenses	<u>\$32,610.41</u>

- Treasurer's Report as of May 31:

General Fund	\$1,478,745.85
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$281,213.79
Total WRT Fund	\$3,433.55
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,763,393.19</u>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Reports

Sheriff's Department *(see attachments)*

Lt. Mazurek delivered the Sherriff's report.

Fire Department *(see attachments)*

Chief Knisely submitted the June, 2016, monthly Fire Department report. Chief also gave an update on the status of the new pumper truck construction. They are slightly behind and he projects delivery the first part of August. Spencer is ready to take delivery as soon as the body is attached to the frame.

{The Public Hearing for the SMCAS 2016/2017 Budget and \$20/parcel Special Assessment commenced at 7:12 p.m. and concluded at 7:14 p.m. – see separate minutes}

{The Public Hearing for the Signal Point Liquor License Reclassification commenced at 7:15 p.m. and concluded at 7:21 p.m. – see separate minutes}

SMCAS

None.

Sexton (see attachments)

Sexton Wolf said Abonmarche has surveyed Howe and Bakertown cemeteries. The Howe survey was delivered and is included in the packet. The Bakertown survey write-up will be completed soon. She also expressed disappointment that the work she did clearing brush and preparing overgrown areas to be mowed this spring have been neglected by Flat Top Lawn Care and are becoming overgrown again. Supervisor Hicks has placed a call with Mr. Legault to make him aware of the situation.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

1. Office Phone System Quotes

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Zelmer to accept Haas Systems, Inc. proposal of \$4,385.69 to install a new five-telephone VOIP system in the Township Hall.

Discussion: Treasurer Kuhn suggested the motion be amended to include the line item account number where the funds will come from.

Above Motion Amended to include the amount being charged to account 264.965 – New Equipment.

Discussion: Vite expressed reservation in the price tag and was reminded it was budgeted during our budget planning. Hicks said the Comcast proposal was open-ended in terms of length of the contract and that their equipment is rented. The board agreed their rates are continually increasing which raises a level of uncertainty in the true cost of accepting their proposal.

Roll call vote: **Amended motion carried unanimously**

New Business

1. SMCAS Special Assessment

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Zelmer to adopt Resolution #20160609A – Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS) Special Assessment.

Discussion: Treasurer Kuhn pointed out this Resolution does not account for any industrial levies, meaning some of the largest businesses calling on their services the most don't pay anything. He suggested the board talk with SMCAS Director Scribner and address these voids and present ideas how additional funding can be acquired.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. Liquor License Reclassification

Hicks read excerpts from the Bertrand Township Liquor License Ordinance including the 14 reasons in section 2D for which no license shall be issued. He briefed the board on his conversation with Attorney Bell where the conclusion was if the board does not allow the

reclassification, the process stops, but if the board allows the reclassification, the Michigan Liquor Commission will have thorough scrutiny and may or may not grant the request.

Motion made by Kuhn, seconded by Zelmer to table the decision since no representatives from Signal Point attended the Special Hearing tonight.

Discussion: LeClaire pointed out the 14 items are significant enough that the board should investigate to help make an informed decision.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. ZBA Appointment

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Vite to appoint Tracy Young to the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately, to fulfill the remaining term of Gretchen Carpenter who resigned and whose term expires on 12/31/16.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. Fair Week Hours

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Kuhn to set the township hall office hours for the week of August 15-18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. in support of staff participation at the Berrien County Youth Fair.

Discussion: The deputy clerk and deputy treasurer have agreed to help staff the office during this week.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

5. Landfill Board Vacancy

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Zelmer to appoint Dave Kuhn as the at-large representative to the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority effective July 1, 2016 to fill the spot vacated by Marty Couture whose resignation is effective June 30, 2016.

Role call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

Kevin Gillette introduced himself as a Republican candidate running for the Berrien County Drain Commissioner position.

Board Member Comments

Treasurer Kuhn reminded the board of our agreement with Lake Michigan College to collect their tax assessments at a fee of \$1.50/parcel should they so choose, and they have requested him to do just that wholly in the summer taxes and none in the winter taxes.

Supervisor Hicks said he and Admin. Assistant Nancy Lentsch have fielded numerous calls from residents re: why portions of the following roads that have been turned into gravel: Orange, Mayflower, Olive Branch, and Dayton. The county expects the roads to be completed with a chip and sealcoat by the end of July which seems to have satisfied most of the callers.

Communications

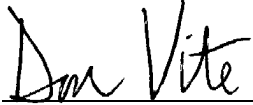
None

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, July 14, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Hicks to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



June 9, 2016

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk