

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2016**

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

Clerk Vite called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Kuhn, LeClaire, Vite, Zelmer

Members Absent: Hicks

Special Guests: Barbara Craig – Dean of Students, LMC/Bertrand Crossing; Lloyd Miller – friend of LMC.

Vite asked for a board member volunteer to be the meeting chairperson in the absence of Supervisor Hicks. Kuhn **moved** and Zelmer supported that Vite should be the chairperson, and voice vote passed.

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Motion made by Zelmer supported by Kuhn to approve Consent Agenda as presented:

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from July 14, 2016.
- Accounts Payable for the period 07/13 - 08/10 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$64,761.94
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$9,482.19
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 84.25
Total Expenses	<u>\$74,328.38</u>

- Treasurer's Report as of July 31:

General Fund	\$1,538,987.25
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$269,383.99
Total WRT Fund	\$3,301.69
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,811,672.93</u>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Lake Michigan College Presentation

Barbara Craig, Dean of Students, LMC/Bertrand Crossing gave a very insightful presentation and update of current events at Lake Michigan College. There are currently 500 students enrolled at Bertrand Crossing, and she invited the board to consider having her present annually so as to have a closer relationship with the community. There were many takeaways, but it boiled down to a “bricks and mortar” financial need for updating HVAC and some other infrastructure to keep them competitive with even some area high schools. There will be a capital millage proposal on the November 8 ballot for 0.48 mills for 10 years, expected to raise \$19 million toward their goal of \$40 million. She asked the board to consider passing a resolution in support of the millage proposal.

Lloyd Miller, a retired CPA from Crowe Horwath and a friend of LMC, followed her with a perspective as a local resident highly involved with the college. He's held numerous LMC board positions since 1972 and helped spearhead their endowment program, currently at \$20 million. He also gave a passionate plea to residents to vote for the passage of the millage.

Kuhn suggested to Ms. Craig and Mr. Miller to market their campaign well, and informed them that numerous residents called and complained about the summer tax from LMC, thinking their taxes had gone up when in actuality they did not. He also gave a profile of the average voter in Bertrand Township being on fixed income and approaching retirement age.

Reports *(see attachments)*

Sheriff's Department

None submitted.

Fire Department *(see attachments)*

Chief Knisely submitted the August, 2016, monthly Fire Department report. The new Spencer pumper fire truck was delivered on Tuesday, August 9, and was on display at this board meeting. It will take about 1½ - 2 months to get the truck fully outfitted at the fire station and placed in service. Its contents will come from the fire truck being replaced and items in storage. Chief said Spencer Mfg. would like to have the firetruck on display in Roscommons, MI, the second week in Sept. pending the board's approval. There's a fireman's tradeshow where various vendors present their products.

Chief said the annual open house will be at the township hall grounds from 11am-3pm, Saturday, September 17. The fire truck will be on display, and MedFlight will once again fly in.

Kuhn asked what the status of the parking lot refinishing at Station 1 was, and it is scheduled to be started on August 29.

SMCAS

None presented

Sexton

Sexton Wolf recently had a shoulder replacement and was not in attendance.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. BTFD New Hires

Motion made by Kuhn, supported by LeClaire to accept the recommendation of Chief Bill Knisely and hire Bill Fox as a candidate fireman for the Bertrand Township Fire Department.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. New Fire Truck / Roscommons Fire Festival

Motion made by Vite, supported by Kuhn, to permit Spencer Mfg. to use the new pumper truck in Roscommons, MI, in early Sept. for a trade show.

Discussion: Kuhn and Zelmer raised some concerns:

- Would our insurance cover the use of the firetruck by Spencer?
- Would Spencer bear the expense?
- Kuhn would rather see one of our firemen drive the truck than Spencer's employees.
- Would there be any gratuity by Spencer in the likes of additional accessories for the use of the fire truck?
- Would the fire department be able to support the absence of the truck and possibly the chief over that weekend?

Amended Motion made by Vite, supported by Kuhn, to permit Chief Knisely and/or another fireman to drive/accompany the fire truck to Roscommons, MI, at the expense of Spencer Mfg. and subject to our insurance company's approval, to be displayed at a trade show in early Sept.

Discussion: This would be great PR for Bertrand Township.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

Resident Scott Wooster asked the board to look into whether our new phone system would accommodate a reverse calling capability like other communities that use this feature in instances of natural disasters, Amber alerts, etc. He told an anecdotal story of an acquaintance getting her identity stolen in a credit card scam where the newly issued card is stolen from their mailbox as soon as it is delivered. Chief Knisely and Steve LeClaire interjected that in Buchanan and St. Joe there have been at least two instances of larceny whereby the homeowner is drawn outside their house by a person dressed as a service worker (eg, electric co., gas co., etc.) indicating they need to do a visual survey of the exterior of their home while a partner enters from the front and steals.

Board Member Comments

Vite said there was a very light turnout for the State Primary Election on August 2, with just 248 casts, 110 of which were absentee ballots. He thinks there will be heavy turnout for the November election by the indication of how many AV Applications have been received. Kuhn asked if anyone knew the status of the septic system, and Zelmer had heard by Hicks that the gentleman doing the work was recuperating from a medical issue.

Communications

- Auditor Derek Hall will be presenting his draft copy of the annual audit at the September board meeting.
- Bertrand Township Fire Department Open House at the township hall grounds on Saturday, September 17, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The new pumper truck and be on display and Medflight will land their helicopter. There will be a bouncy house for the kids, and a Buchanan caterer will be serving up pulled pork.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Vite supported by Kuhn to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Vite".

August 12, 2016

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk