

**Bertrand Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 13, 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

Member Absent: None

Special Guests: None

**Consent Agenda** *(see attachments)*

Supervisor Hicks amended the General Fund budget by moving \$8,093 into account 446 for excess cost of Fire Station pavement bill from Michigan Paving.

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

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2016.
- Accounts Payable for the period 09/07 - 10/11 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$116,954.53
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$52,924.57
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 85.42
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$169,964.52</u></b>

- Treasurer's Report as of September 30 included account balances through August 31. September statement had not all been received by the meeting date:

General Fund	\$1,485,872.59
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$255,205.40
Total WRT Fund	\$3,049.41
<b>Total Fund Current Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,744,127.40</u></b>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**Reports**

Sheriff's Department

None submitted.

Fire Department *(see attachments)*

Chief Knisely presented the October, 2016, monthly report.

SMCAS *(see attachment)*

Chief Knisely submitted the October, 2016, monthly report.

Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority *(see attachment)*

August 17 Board Meeting Minutes and FY 2016-2017 Budget submitted.

Sexton Report (*see attachment*)

Sexton Wolf submitted the October, 2016 report. There are trees in Bakertown and Mt. Zion cemeteries that are in extremely dangerous positions due to storm damage and age. She submitted three bids for their removal.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

1. BTFD Hiring

**Motion** made by Vite, supported by LeClaire to approve Chief Knisely's recommendation to hire Dalton Shearer as a certified firefighter and Trevor Kendall as a candidate.

**Discussion:** Kendall is replacing Derrick Dye at the firefighter class. Dye was released in October.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. Cemetery Sub-Committee

**Motion** made by Kuhn, supported by Zelmer to create a Cemetery Sub-Committee that will be composed of the Sexton, a township board member, and an at-large township resident.

**Discussion:** Clerk Vite agreed to be the township board's member. The at-large resident hasn't been identified. This sub-committee will be responsible for making recommendations and does not have decision-making authority. Supervisor Hicks will draft guidelines for the committee to follow.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Cemetery Trees

**Motion** made by Kuhn, supported by Zelmer to approve Cisco's Tree Service proposals for removing very dangerous trees in Mt. Zion Cemetery (proposal #911013) for \$2,700 and in Bakertown Cemetery (proposal #911014) for \$4,000 as spelled out in the proposals.

**Discussion:** LeClaire suggested the possibility of approving an extra amount for additional work we may want them to perform while they have their equipment staged on-site. Hicks reminded the board the Sexton has pre-approved single-event spending authority of \$500. The board agreed that would be the limit should it be necessary.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. MI-MABAS Agreement

**Motion** made by Zelmer, supported by LeClaire to authorize the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association Agreement.

**Discussion:** Hicks and Chief Knisely gave a brief overview of MI-MABAS, which is an agreement for all participating interlocal municipalities to provide mutual aid as necessary in

large-scale disasters. This agreement is basically a renewal to what the township fire department has been a member of for many years.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

### **Public Comments**

Nancy Lentsch asked what the timeframe was for the condemned house on Bertrand Rd identified in the September meeting. She also said a resident wishing to remain anonymous witnessed Community Hall renters children break off the Redbud planted along Redbud Trail while playing.

Chief Knisely gave a brief update on SMCAS.

### **Board Member Comments**

Treasurer Kuhn said there's roughly \$150,000 in FD checking account.

Clerk Vite thanked Deputy Clerk Ronni Redman and Nancy Lentsch for their diligence in helping get absentee ballots out and processed. It has been a remarkable election cycle for AV ballot requests.

Treasurer Kuhn thanked Trustee LeClaire on behalf of the rest of the board for his service to the township and contribution to the township board. November will be his last board meeting since he chose not to run again so he can focus his attention on his ailing wife, Jan.

### **Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule**

- General Election is 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8.
- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion** by Hicks to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite  
Bertrand Township Clerk

October 19, 2016

Date