

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2016**

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

Supervisor Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Special Guests: Brian Scribner, Executive Director Southwest Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS)

Consent Agenda (see attachments)

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

- Separated out item #3 – Special Board Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2016.
- Added item #7 – Budget Amendment.
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2016.
- Accounts Payable for the period 11/09 - 12/08 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$83,590.31
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$40,358.77
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 86.62
Total Expenses	<u>\$124,035.70</u>

- Treasurer’s Report reflecting account balances through November 30:

General Fund	\$1,457,445.07
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$141,875.79
Total WRT Fund	\$2,877.99
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,548,558.33</u>

- Resolution #161208A – Resolution to Adopt 2017 Schedule of Regular Township Board Meetings
- Resolution #161208B – Resolution to Adopt 2017 Schedule of Regular Township Planning Commission Meetings
- Resolution #161208C – Resolution to Adopt Holiday Schedule for 2017

Discussion: Treasurer Kuhn noted the annual 2016 bill from the Berrien County Drain Commission for \$6,368.24 is due in early January.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Kuhn to approve the Township Special Board Meeting minutes from November 22, 2016.

Voice vote: **Ayes – Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite**
Abstain - Zelmer

PASSED

Reports

Sheriff's Department *(see attachment)*

Deputy Sullivan delivered the report. He noted that the new Chief Deputy is Robert Boyce, who is replacing retiring Chief Deputy Michael Bradley. Discussion on the serial litterer at the home on the east side of Redbud Trail just north of US12 occurred, and the Deputy said there's just not a lot they can do to resolve this without vigilance from the community.

Fire Department *(see attachments)*

Chief Knisely presented the December, 2016, monthly report. YTD fire calls stands at 93. Record attendance at the Chili Supper. On January 14, Berrien County Animal Control will be at Station #1 from 10:00 am – 12 pm for a small animal booster shot clinic.

Chief Knisely asked permission of the board to donate a decommissioned Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera to the Berrien County Training Council.

Motion made by Vite, supported by Kuhn to donate the Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera to the Berrien County Training Council pending the appropriate insurance review and procedures for asset relinquishment.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

SMCAS

None submitted.

Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority *(see attachment)*

Sexton Report

None submitted.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. Liquor Control Resolution

The township's attorney, Sara Bell, sent a letter to the board informing the board that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission only has information from the 1930's that seems to indicate the township is a dry township. They became aware of this as Signal Point has pursued reclassifying their license, which automatically puts them in violation of having a liquor license at all, as well as the other retailers in the township who have already received licensing from the Liquor Control Commission.

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Vite to adopt Resolution #161208D – Resolution to Clarify the Township's Position Regarding On-Premises Liquor Sales and Consumption.

Discussion: Kuhn wondered how the Liquor Control Commission could give licenses to these businesses except that they'd have the proper resolution on file from the township. Also, this resolution is necessary to have on file for any future consideration of businesses seeking to serve alcohol in the township, such as wine tasting rooms.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. SMCAS Future Funding Structure Recommendation

Brian Scribner, Executive Director of SMCAS, presented to the board two options drafted up by their attorneys that each owning municipality of SMCAS must consider and vote on for future funding. Option A – Keep SMCAS formed under Act 7 and give each Member Municipality discretion over its share of funding, and Option B – Reform SMCAS under Act 57.

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Kuhn that the township board agrees by consensus to pursue Option A.

Discussion: Many concerns were shared by the board pertaining to the vagueness and questions raised by the Foster Swift Funding Structure Recommendations letter dated November 23, 2016 laying out the two options. The board felt comfortable to make a vote of consensus but not an absolute ruling until a more thorough understanding of the details.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Appointments

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Vite to approve the following appointments for 2017:

- Zoning Board of Appeals
 - Tracy Young – Jan 2017 to Dec 2019
- Planning Commission
 - Cindy Bauer – Jan 2017 to Dec 2019
 - Mark Wagner – Jan 2017 to Dec 2019
 - David Kuhn – Jan 2017 to Nov 2020 (Ex Officio)
- NATS
 - Butch Payton – Jan 2017 to Nov 2020
- Board of Review
 - Patti Albert – Dec 2016 to Dec 2018
 - Anna Norton – Dec 2016 to Dec 2018
 - Kyle Smith – Dec 2016 to Dec 2018
- Southeast Berrien County Landfill
 - David Zelmer – Dec 2016 to Nov 2020
 - Dave Kuhn – Dec 2016 to Nov 2020
- Sexton
 - Steve Redman – Until Cancellation

Voice call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. Underground Storage Tanks

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Vite to table a decision of whether to remove or abandon in place the two underground storage tanks so as to get a cost of removing the tanks completely.

Discussion: The bid only had the cost of abandoning in place at \$9,400. Vite and Zelmer expressed an interest in considering the feasibility of removing the tanks just to eliminate all future concerns and asked for a cost to do that.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

5. Budget Workshop

Township Board Budget workshops subject to the Open Meetings Act for the 2017/2018 budget will be:

- Saturday, January 21 at 9 a.m.
- Saturday, February 4 at 9 a.m. as necessary to continue discussion

Public Comments

A resident commented.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Hicks thanked Ronni Redman for the nice Christmas decorations in the township hall as well as continuous decorations throughout the year with other holidays. He also wished the board and community a Merry Christmas.

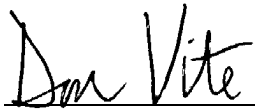
Clerk Vite thanked the election inspectors for a successful November 8 election and a certified, recountable results. Four residents helped in the Presidential recount Wednesday, December 7.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Hicks, seconded by Kuhn to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



December 10, 2016

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk