

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2017**

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, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

Special Guests: None

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Supervisor Hicks amended the Agenda as follows:

- Add item #6 – Recommendation to Planning Commission – into New Business.

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

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2017.
- Accounts Payable for the period 05/12-06/08 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$24,012.05
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$ 4,998.50
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 100.12
Total Expenses	<u>\$29,110.67</u>

- Treasurer’s Report as of May 31:

General Fund	\$1,539,606.97
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$256,556.24
Total WRT Fund	\$2,995.11
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,799,158.32</u>

- Budget amendment to cover the 2016 expense of the Mayflower Road improvement for \$53,500 that wasn’t communicated from the BCRC when asked during the budget planning process.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Reports

Sheriff’s Department

None.

Fire Department *(see attachments)*

Chief Knisely submitted the June, 2017, monthly Fire Department report. Structure fires have been remarkably prevalent: in the last two months there have been more structure fires in the township than there have been in the last two years!

Firefighters practiced 14/10 drills in May. These drills help firemen practice speed and efficiency when they initially arrive at the scene of a fire.

SMCAS (verbal report)

Chief Knisely gave a verbal report: SMCAS continues to move in the right direction with money in the bank.

Supervisor Hicks also filled the board in on funding decisions that have been made by the owning entities, which are Buchanan Township, Buchanan City, Niles Township, Niles City, Bertrand Township, Howard Township, and a portion of Pokagon Township. The owners agreed to an increase of \$5/real parcel for a total of \$25/real parcel.

Landfill (verbal report)

- Fence is going up
- Liner installation on new cell is finished
- Sand being moved into new cell
- Leachate pipe will be going in after the sand
- Waiting on permit from the state

Methane gas fueling the turbines is about 80% and generating about \$50K/month. The board is looking to the future and considering solar panels and wind turbines as sources of revenue for the landfill area.

Sexton

Sexton Redman has been very busy beautifying the cemetery entrances with plants and uprighting headstones in Bakertown and Howe cemeteries. He uprighted 62 headstones that were laying down and or broken.

Public Comments

Two residents spoke.

Unfinished Business

1. BTFD Station #1 Door Quote

Motion made by Vite, supported by Zelmer, to accept Pearson Construction Company's quote of \$2,550.00 to replace the existing west facing door and hardware with a new Hollow Metal door and hardware including an electronic battery-operated punch code lever lock.

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

New Business

1. MTA Principles of Governance

Discussion: The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) encourages every new township board to deliberate on and adopt the Principles of Governance, which is a signed pledge by each board member to commit to governing the township with the highest standards of conduct. With the change of trustees in November, it was appropriate to circulate for the board members' signatures.

Every board member signed the Principles of Governance, which will be added to section 3.1.2 of the Bertrand Township Policies and Procedures manual.

2. Wightman Underground Tank Removal

Motion made by Vite, supported by Kuhn to accept Wightman & Associates proposal to remove and dispose of the two heating oil underground storage tanks – one from the Community Building and one from the Township Hall – for \$17,125.00.

Discussion: Previously, Wightman provided an estimate for abandoning the tanks in place, at a revised cost of \$10,400.00. The board felt it was in the best interest of the township to have the tanks completely removed and the area cleaned up. We have it budgeted for removal in accounts 264.967 and 265.967 (Township Hall/Community Building Capital Improvements).

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Condemned Property

Motion made by Hicks, supported by Zelmer to allow Bertrand Township Building Inspector David Swanstrom to begin the process of condemnation according to the 1997 Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings for the property at 3540 Bertrand Road, Niles, MI 49120.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. BTFD Recommendations

Motion made by Vite, supported by Payton to accept Chief Knisely's recommendation to hire fire cadet Nick Bailey and promote Laine Hicks from probationary status each to firefighter status and pay each the current firefighter wage of \$15.50/hr.

Roll call vote: **Ayes – Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer Abstain – Hicks 4-0 Ayes**

5. Community Building Gutter Quotes

Motion made by Vite, supported by Payton to accept Rain Guard's proposal to install 6" white seamless aluminum gutters at the Community Building for a total of \$1,268.00.

Role call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

Two residents had comments

Board Member Comments

Clerk Vite informed the board of the positive outcome of the recent state election audit of the May 2 election. Treasurer Kuhn informed the board he has submitted the summer tax bill and newsletter. Supervisor Hicks commented on the discussions he's having regarding possibilities of getting high speed internet into the township.

Communications

None

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Hicks to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



June 13, 2017

Don Vite
Bertrand Township Clerk

Date