

**Bertrand Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, October 12, 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

Members Absent: None

Special Guests: Brian Scribner, SMCAS Executive Director; Garrett Barkley, SMEGA Executive Director; Dave Eifler, SMEGA Board President

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

**Motion** made by Zelmer supported by Kuhn to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected:

- Treasurer Kuhn pointed out in the minutes' Public Comments that "Chief Kuhn" was referenced twice. Corrected to Chief Knisely.
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2017.
- Accounts Payable for the period 09/15-10/12 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$93,268.18
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$24,555.38
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$ 101.37
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$117,924.93</u></b>

- Treasurer's Report as of September 30:

General Fund	\$1,548,053.91
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$202,895.98
Total WRT Fund	\$2,645.90
<b>Total Fund Current Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,753,595.79</u></b>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**Discussion:** None.

{The Public Hearing for the SMCAS Special Assessment Roll commenced at 7:04 p.m. and concluded at 7:06 p.m. – see separate minutes }

**Reports**

Sheriff's Department (*see attachment*)

Deputy Pifer presented the monthly report. Nothing extraordinary to report. She answered a resident's question re: bicycling "rules of the road".

Fire Department (*see attachment*)

Chief Bill Knisely presented the October, 2017, monthly Fire Department report. An offer of \$3,000 has been made for the Tanker truck. Still looking to sell it for \$10,000. The annual Chili/Hot Dog Supper is scheduled for Saturday, November 11.

## SMCAS

Mr. Scribner said once the new funding structure has been approved, SMCAS is looking to replace a wheel-chair accessible vehicle and getting a new platform for documentation.

## Landfill (verbal report)

Dave Zelmer updated the board:

- The new cell permit is complete
- Limited amounts of garbage is now going into it
- They are advertising for a new Head of Maintenance and a New General Manager

## Sexton

Nothing new to report (bids received and in New Business).

## Public Comments

A resident asked the status of the Road Commissioner search. Supervisor Hicks said Louis Csokasy has been appointed Managing Director and reports to Bill Wolf. Hicks feels very positive about this development. Hicks also gave a broad and general overview of the process by which roads are identified for repair/improvement and the role residents play by bringing issues to the attention of the board and Road Commission.

## Unfinished Business

None.

## New Business

1. Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll (Resolution 171012A)

**Motion** made by Hicks, supported by Vite to adopt Resolution 171012A – Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll.

### **Discussion:**

None.

Roll call vote: **Ayes** – Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite; **Nays** – Zelmer

**Passed 4-1**

2. SMEGA Presentation by Barkley Garrett, GM

Barkley presented an overview of the Southwestern Michigan Growth Alliance (SMEGA) – her history, partnerships, successes, challenges, and future goals.

3. Tree Service Bids – Mt. Zion

**Motion** made by Vite, supported by Payton to accept Cisco's Tree Service bid to cut up the large oak tree in the Mt. Zion cemetery for \$1,700 and approve up to \$400 additional to grind the stump, the total project not to exceed \$2,100.

### **Discussion:**

Zelmer requested that it be notated in the minutes that Mr. Eric Gold of A Cut Above Tree Service is operating his commercial business on property zoned Agricultural. Kuhn suggested the board does its due diligence to locate Joe Kring's records pertaining to this issue and possibly ask the attorney for clarification since he may be grandfathered in before the ordinance was passed.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**Public Comments**

Resident Scott Wooster asked the board to consider placing signage along routes that will be used by large bicycling events a couple of weeks prior to the event that would help warn local residents to be aware of the bicyclists. Vite wondered if it's legal for these organizations to paint directional markers on the roadways like they do. Kuhn suggested talking to the Road Commission to get clarification of our legal status and options.

**Board Member Comments**

Kuhn said the Planning Commission has completed its review of the Master Plan, and that public hearings will be forthcoming. By the first quarter of next year the Planning Commission will make a presentation to the board with their recommendations.

**Communications**

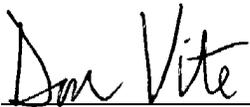
- The board will be reviewing our Ordinances to make sure each are still appropriate and relevant.
- BCRC Review is forthcoming.
- Community Building locks have been installed; French drains will be installed soon.
- Hicks is meeting with Wightman Associates on Monday to evaluate the community building's front steps and what to do with them, as well as look at interior issues like lighting and flooring.

**Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule**

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion** by Hicks to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



October 14, 2017

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk