

**Bertrand Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

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, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

Members Absent: Hicks

Special Guests: Dave and Carol Swanstrom – Bertrand Township Building Inspector; Todd Herter – Silver Creek Building Inspector

Vite nominated Treasurer Kuhn to moderate the meeting in the absence of Supervisor Hicks. Voice vote carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda** (see attachments)

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

- Added item #1 to New Business – Hiring Firefighter
- Added item #2 to New Business – Fallen Tree at Bakertown Cemetery
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2018
- Accounts Payable for the period 06/15-07/12 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses:	\$32,903.52
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses:	\$12,975.61
Total WRT Fund Expenses:	\$88.96
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$45,968.09</u></b>

- Treasurer’s Report as of June 30, 2018:

General Fund:	\$1,411,177.42
Total Fire Dept. Fund:	\$282,510.04
Total WRT Fund:	\$2,465.30
<b>Total Fund Current Assets:</b>	<b><u>\$1,696,152.76</u></b>

**Discussion:** Treasurer Kuhn included research results he has accumulated regarding other municipalities in Michigan that have an Ordinance on the books for cost recovery fees of their emergency services, and he asked the board to review for more discussion next month on our potential for adopting a similar ordinance.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**Reports**

Sheriff’s Department

None

### Fire Department (see attached)

Chief Knisely submitted the July 2018 monthly Fire Department report, including statistics for the month. 65 calls year-to-date. Because of the dry conditions, a burning ban will be put in place.

### SMCAS

Chief Knisely gave a verbal report:

- Cathy Ganus resigned and at present he's not sure who is replacing her
- The new ambulance will be placed into service with the next week

### SE Berrien County Landfill

Trustee Zelmer gave a verbal report:

- There was a breach of the leachate – the state was involved in the resolution and was impressed with the landfill's policies & procedures in place
- Testing tanks for the SBR

### Sexton

A very large branch is down in Bakertown Cemetery. Sexton Redmon submitted photographs and is pursuing estimates. Board members expressed concern over whether the remaining standing portion of the tree has been compromised and whether the whole tree should come down.

### NATS

Nothing to report

### Public Comments

Dave Swanstrom handed in his letter of resignation to the board and introduced Todd Herter, the Silver Creek Building Inspector he will be using as his substitute while he is on medical leave with his fourth knee replacement, and who he is recommending to the board for his replacement.

Carol Swanstrom pointed out there are two distinct positions the township must have: Chief Building Administrator and Building Inspector, and Todd has the qualifications and licensing for both.

Todd Herter introduced himself and was questioned by the board re: his qualifications and past experience, other obligations, etc. Treasurer Kuhn said he will pass on the information to Supervisor Hicks and recommend expediting the process in finding the next Building Inspector.

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

#### 1. Hiring Firefighter

**Motion** made by Vite, supported by Zelmer to accept Chief Knisely's recommendation and hire Kimberly Gingell as a firefighter with Candidate pay and status.

**Discussion:** She has successfully completed all background and medical checks.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. Fallen Tree at Bakertown Cemetery

**Action Item:** The conclusion from the discussion in Sexton Report part of the meeting is that Sexton Redmon will get some quotes on removal of the branch and tree.

**Public Comments**

None

**Board Member Comments**

- Kuhn said three zoning tickets were issued
- Payton has a place on Baldwin Lake and noted that the local electric company there is responsible for laying fiber-optic line for internet.

**Communications**


- Treasurer Kuhn reminded everyone to take the survey on the BertrandTownship.com website created by the Planning Commission.

**Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule**

- The Election Commission Meeting will be on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Public Accuracy Test of the voting tabulator will be on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 6:15 p.m.
- The Primary Election will be Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at the township hall. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, August 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion** by Kuhn to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



July 18, 2018

Don Vite

Dated

Bertrand Township Clerk