

**Bertrand Township Board  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, July 11, 2019**

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, Vite, Zelmer

Member Absent: Payton

Special Guests: None

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

**Motion** made by Zelmer seconded by Kuhn approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2019
- Accounts Payable for the period 06/14/19-07/11/19 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$104,539.08
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$12,059.56
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$76.01
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$116,674.65</u></b>

- Treasurer's Report and June Month-End Fund Balances:

General Fund	\$1,387,242.96
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$364,413.77
Total WRT Fund	\$2,329.74
<b>Total Fund Current Assets</b>	<b><u>\$1,753,986.47</u></b>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

**Reports**

Sheriff's Department

None presented.

Fire Department *(see attached)*

Chief Knisely submitted the June 2019, monthly Fire Department report. Nothing extraordinary. The FEMA Grant applied for last year (see August 2018 minutes) is still in play. Treasurer Kuhn commented that we should check with Attorney Senica with how the new auto insurance laws will affect Fire Department chargebacks for services rendered.

SMCAS

Chief Knisely presented the SMCAS report.

SE Berrien County Landfill

Treasurer Kuhn and Trustee Zelmer gave a verbal report:

- Installing a new gate at the Mayflower Rd entrance
- Upgrading gas wells for increased volume which will increase revenue

- GM annual review forthcoming using new organically created criteria

### Planning Commission

Did not meet.

### NATS

None.

### Public Comments

Three residents made comments.

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

1. Property updates

The court has not taken up the case for the postponed demolition of the home on 4630 US12 W due to the Independence Day holiday. Supervisor Hicks speaks regularly to Attorney Senica to stay abreast of the issue.

Building Inspector Todd Hurt has condemned a house on Sage Rd. and has informed the township attorney and Zoning Administrator.

2. Cemetery Pillar Quote

**Motion** made by Zelmer and seconded by Vite, to table the cemetery bid on the Howe Cemetery entryway pillars to provide time for other bids.

Voice Vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Niles District Library

The Niles District Library is cancelling the contract between the library and the township effective in October which has been in place since 2004. This contract required the township to pay \$1,000 annually and assign 43.65% of penal fines and 43.65% per capita state aid to the library in exchange for a reduced annual fee for township residents. Some township residents have petitioned the supervisor to work with the library to keep the special rates. The library's position is that the township does not contribute enough money annually. The township's position is that only a very small percent of residents live in the Niles Library District. It is the pleasure of the Board to have Supervisor Hicks negotiate with the library manager to ascertain his expectations and determine if the two parties can come to a mutual agreement to continue with this arrangement.

### **Public Comments**

Four residents made comments.

### **Board Member Comments**

Trustee Zelmer asked if a railing will be installed on the new steps at the Community Building main door. Supervisor Hicks said they will be installed this month.

Supervisor Hicks said the inside projects at the Community Building will begin the week of July 22.

Clerk Vite said the state auditor Derek Hall finished the office work portion of the annual audit. No glaring issues were uncovered. He is working on the final report.

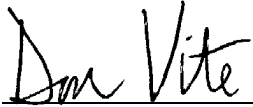
**Communications**

**Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule**

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, August 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



July 11, 2019

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk