

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 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, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

Special Guests: None

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Motion made by Zelmer supported by Payton to approve Consent Agenda as presented:

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2019
- Accounts Payable for the period 11/15-12/12 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses:	\$65,558.39
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses:	\$16,248.60
Total WRT Fund Expenses:	\$82.85
Total Expenses:	<u>\$81,889.84</u>

- Treasurer's Report and November month-end fund balances:

General Fund:	\$1,375,279.66
Total Fire Dept. Fund:	\$301,631.26
Total WRT Fund:	\$1,901.59
Total Fund Current Assets:	<u>\$1,678,812.51</u>

- Budget Amendment
- Resolution #191212A – Resolution to Adopt 2020 Schedule of Regular Township Board Meetings
- Resolution #191212B – Resolution to Adopt 2020 Schedule of Regular Township Planning Commission Meetings
- Resolution #191212C – Resolution to Adopt 2020 Holiday Schedule

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Reports

Sheriff's Department

None.

Fire Department *(on file)*

Chief Knisely submitted the December 2019 monthly Fire Department report. The fire department was not awarded the Assistance To Firefighters Grant applied for after approval by the board in the August-2018 board meeting. Chief is pricing 800mHz radios which will soon be needed based on state mandate of switching frequencies for emergency personnel.

SMCAS

Chief Knisely gave a verbal report.

SE Berrien County Landfill (on file)

Dave Zelmer and Dave Kuhn gave a verbal report.

- New compactor purchased.
- Christmas bonuses are being discussed. Major changes to previous bonus are certain.
- Audit report will be received on Monday.

Sexton

None

Planning Commission

- Reviewing budget
- Reviewing finalized ordinances

NATS

No meeting.

ZBA

Looking for a member to fill a vacancy.

Public Comments

A resident had a question for chief regarding 800 mHz radios.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Niles District Library

Stevyn Compoe, Niles District Library Director, sent an email to the board enumerating the costs borne by the library for each resident they service. His figure was 1,166 township residents (in the library district) @ \$25/yr = \$29,150. The township previously paid \$1,000/yr. The District discontinued its agreement with the township and thus does not permit township residents to check out materials.

Discussion: The board balked at the amount presented. Supervisor Hicks is going to ask Director Compoe to provide metrics showing how many residents utilize the services of the library. It was suggested a possible compromise by determining a figure based on the number of *actual* residents who regularly use the library.

2. Farm Land Lease Agreement-Gillette

Motion made by Payton, seconded by Zelmer to terminate the lease agreement effective immediately with the letter to include a request for payment in arrears.

Discussion: The board reviewed the lease agreement between the township and Mike Gillette, signed on May 19, 2014 and in effect through December 31, 2016. Gillette has defaulted on two years of payments. Supervisor Hicks will request the services of the township attorney to help draft a letter.

Roll call vote: **Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. 2020 Appointments

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Zelmer, to accept the supervisor's recommended 2020 Appointments:

Planning Commission

Mark Wagner – January 2020 through December 2022

Cindy Bauer – January 2020 through December 2022

Board of Review

Judy McDonald – January 2019 through December 2020

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

4. Treasurer Kuhn Bond

Motion made by Payton, seconded by Vite to approve Short Term Tax Bond #GICSTB0113 for taxes collected for the years 2019-2020 under Public Act 269 of the State of Michigan, 1945.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

5. Copp Road Speed Study Resolution #191212D

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Zelmer to adopt resolution #191212D – Copp Road Speed Study

Discussion: A resident of Copp Rd who lost a daughter in a traffic accident on Copp Road is requesting that a speed limit sign be posted. The resolution is a formality to have the speed study initiated.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

One resident had a question.

Board Member Comments

Treasurer Kuhn said that under a new state law the treasurer can assign additional tax collectors beyond his deputy. He has assigned Administrative Assistant Nancy Lentsch with that authority.

Clerk Vite said we have received the final draft of codified ordinances and they are being reviewed by the board. The books will be published after the first of the year.

Supervisor Hicks asked the board to begin thinking about allowing alcohol at the Community Building. He has confirmed from conversations with other municipalities that liability insurance would be purchased by the renter. Vite will confirm with our insurer whether the township would be liable in any way.

Trustee Zelmer thanked those responsible for decorating the township hall and community hall and the Hicks family for preparing the community hall for the open house and dinner.

Communications

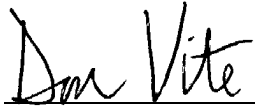
None

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The Berrien County Animal Clinic will hold its annual shot clinic at station one on January 11, 2020, from 10 a.m. – noon.
- The next regular township board meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

With no further discussion, **motion** by Hicks to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite
Bertrand Township Clerk

December 18, 2019

Dated

Draft

RESOLUTION NO. 191212 A

BERTRAND TOWNSHIP, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2020 SCHEDULE OF
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Bertrand Township Board deems that it is in the best interest of the Township to adopt an annual Schedule which sets forth the meeting dates, time and place for the regular monthly schedule of Bertrand Township Board Meetings.

WHEREAS, it is stated that all regular meetings will be held on the second (2nd) Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bertrand Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Bertrand Township Board hereby adopts the schedule titled PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS Bertrand Township Board 2020, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Dates of the 2020 meetings are as follows:

Thursday, January 9, 2020
Thursday, February 13, 2020
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Thursday, May 14, 2020
Thursday, June 11, 2020

Thursday, July 9, 2020
Thursday, August 13, 2020
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Thursday, October 8, 2020
Thursday, November 12, 2020
Thursday, December 10, 2020

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member: Zelmer

Second offered by Board Member: Payton

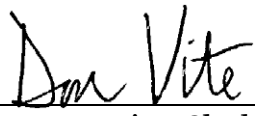
Upon roll call vote the following voted:

“Ayes” Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

“Nays” _____

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: December 12, 2019

Attested by: 
Don Vite, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 191212 B

BERTRAND TOWNSHIP, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2020 SCHEDULE OF
REGULAR TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Bertrand Township Board deems that it is in the best interest of the Township to adopt an annual Schedule which sets forth the meeting dates, time and place for the regular monthly schedule of Bertrand Township Planning Commission Meetings.

WHEREAS, it is stated that all regular meetings will be held on the First (1st) Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted in 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bertrand Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Bertrand Township Board hereby adopts the schedule titled PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS Bertrand Township Planning Commission 2020, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Dates of the 2020 meetings are as follows:

Thursday, January 2, 2020	Thursday, July 2, 2020
Thursday, February 6, 2020	Thursday, August 6, 2020
Thursday, March 5, 2020	Thursday, September 3, 2020
Thursday, April 2, 2020	Thursday, October 1, 2020
Thursday, May 7, 2020	Thursday, November 5, 2020
Thursday, June 4, 2020	Thursday, December 3, 2020

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member: Zelmer

Second offered by Board Member: Payton

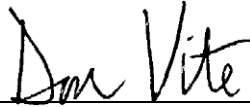
Upon roll call vote the following voted:

“Ayes” Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

“Nays” n/a

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: December 12, 2019

Attested by: 
Don Vite, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 191212 C

BERTRAND TOWNSHIP, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT Holiday Schedule for 2020

WHEREAS, the Bertrand Township Board deems that it is in the best interest of the Township to adopt an annual Schedule of Holidays which sets forth the dates when the township office will be closed.

WHEREAS, it is stated that regular township office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Bertrand Township Board hereby adopts the 2020 holiday schedule titled PUBLIC NOTICE Bertrand Township Holiday Schedule 2020, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2020 holidays that the township office will be closed are as follows:

New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 20
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 17
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Veterans' Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26
Christmas Holiday	Thursday, December 24

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member: Zelmer

Second offered by Board Member: Payton

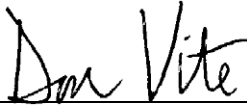
Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Ayes" Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

"Nays" n/a

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: December 12, 2019

Attested by: 
Don Vite, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 191212 D

BERTRAND TOWNSHIP, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO ENACT COPP ROAD SPEED STUDY

WHEREAS, the traffic on Copp Road from Bertrand Road to the Indiana State Line has steadily increased over the past years due to development and growth of the Township; and

WHEREAS, this development has increased the number of access points to the county road resulting in an increase in traffic congestion and the number of turning traffic along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult for residents to negotiate left hand turns, or move into and out of the flow of traffic safely due to the increased volume of traffic; and

WHEREAS, Bertrand Township would like to have a speed study conducted on the aforementioned road; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that in asking for a speed study to be conducted on the aforementioned road, that the Berrien County Road Department would work in cooperation with the Michigan State Police to collect engineering data; and

WHEREAS, the engineering data used to make a decision could raise the speed limit, lower the speed limit, or keep the speed limit as it is.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Bertrand Township Board is formally asking the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to direct the Road Department to conduct a speed study on Copp Road from Bertrand Road to the Indiana State Line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bertrand Township understands that in asking for a speed study to be conducted, the Township will abide by the decision made by the Berrien County Road Department and the Michigan State Police based on the data that is gathered.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member: Hicks

Second offered by Board Member: Zelmer


Upon roll call vote the following voted:

“Ayes” Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer _____

“Nays” n/a _____

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: December 12, 2019 _____

Attested by:  _____
Don Vite, Clerk