

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2020**

Via Video-Conference during the historic COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic

Supervisor Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite, Zelmer

Member Absent: None

Special Guests: Sara Senica, Bertrand Township Attorney

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Motion made by Zelmer, supported by Kuhn to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Township Board Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2020
- Accounts Payable for the period 08/14/20-09/10/20 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$24,891.25
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$16,836.85
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$73.67
Total Expenses	<u>\$41,801.77</u>

- Treasurer's Report and month-end fund balances as of August 31, 2020

General Fund	\$0.00
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$0.00
Total WRT Fund	\$0.00
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$0.00</u>

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Reports

Sheriff's Department *(on file)*

The report was mailed in.

Fire Department *(on file)*

Chief Knisely presented the September Fire Department report.

SMCAS *(on file)*

Chief Knisely emailed the report.

SE Berrien County Landfill *(minutes on file)*

Discussion ensued regarding a fire at the landfill, probably caused by a burn barrel. There were some issues with the Fire Department gaining timely access because the Knox Box had been changed out. Treasurer Kuhn and the Executive Committee is going to suggest a top to bottom review of the policies and procedures: what went right, what went wrong, and what needs to be implemented to improve response. He is also going to suggest an annual meeting between the municipality Fire Chiefs and the landfill executives.

Planning Commission

SLU approved for Kennel on Bakertown Rd. Another SLU Special meeting on October 1 for Brant Benson Garage.

NATS (Verbal Report)

Discussion of scaled back future projects and changed schedules.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Township Attorney Sara Senica gave an update on outstanding legal issues in the township:

- An unemployment claim against the township from a Planning Commission member has been refuted. (Sept. 15 update: UIA has fully refunded all charges made against the township account going back to March. Clerk Vite now questions if the claim was an issue of attempted Stolen Identity. He will contact the alleged claimant to get more information and confirmation).
- Two tickets have been issued for litter and debris against properties in the township.
- The ongoing issue with 1980 Sage Rd: the squatter has been evicted. He is facing jail time w/ meth related charges. The property owner has also been ticketed for allowing this to happen (squatting).
- The court is currently not hearing civil infraction charges because of caseload and COVID restrictions.
- There is a case pending before the Michigan Tax Tribunal with Alro Steel protesting their \$4.2 million assessment. They claim it is \$2.1 million.

Public Comments

None.

Board Member Comments

None.

Communications

None.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is tentatively planned as our “comeback” to the Township Hall. The state auditor for the township, Derek Hall, is scheduled to present the 2019/2020 Audit.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite

Bertrand Township Clerk

September 15, 2020

Date