

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2020**

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, seconded by Payton to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- Move agenda item #1 Closed Session to the end of New Business
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2020
- Accounts Payable for the period 10/09/20-11/12/20 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$51,224.13
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$7,178.49
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$73.77
Total Expenses	<u>\$58,476.39</u>

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

General Fund	\$1,465,059.01
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$363,301.42
Total WRT Fund	\$1,914.80
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,830,275.23</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 October Fire Department report.

SMCAS *(on file)*

Matt Remmo emailed the report.

SE Berrien County Landfill *(minutes on file)*

Treasurer Kuhn and Trustee Zelmer gave a brief verbal report.

Planning Commission

Treasurer Kuhn gave verbal report.

NATS

No meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. Planning Commission Appointment

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Vite to accept Supervisor Hicks' recommendation and appoint Marvin Newell to the Planning Commission board for a two year term beginning January, 2021.

Discussion: He is filling a vacancy that will be left when Phil Moore retires at the end of 2020.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

2. Buchanan Library Agreement

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Payton to approve a Library Service Agreement Between Buchanan District Library and Bertrand Township, assigning 76.8% of the penal fines allocated to the township which will be \$2,000 budgeted annually.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. 2021 Landscaping Maintenance Agreement

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Payton to approve Creative Landscaping's 2021 Landscaping Bed Maintenance program for the Community Building grounds for \$4,782.51.

Discussion: Make sure they do not charge the township \$29.34 as mentioned in the quote.

Roll call vote: **Ayes – Payton, Kuhn, Hicks; Nays – Zelmer, Vite** **Passed 3-2**

4. Closed Session to Discuss Attorney-Client Material Exempt from Disclosure

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Vite to enter Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(a) Open Meetings Act.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

At 8:08 p.m., the Board entered a Closed Session. The closed session was requested by Bertrand Township Attorney Sara Senica. At 8:46 p.m., the Board ended the Closed Session.

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Vite to authorize Attorney Senica to work on the settlement offered by the City of Niles in the resolution of obtaining easements from Saratore Co.

Roll call vote: **Ayes – Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite; Nays – none; Abstain – Zelmer**
Passed 4-0

Public Comments

None.

Board Member Comments

Clerk Vite gave a brief report on the General Election. 1,707 people voted, up from 1,500+ in 2016. He also thanked his election workers for an amazing job.

Supervisor Hicks proposed that the office close at noon on Thursday, December 31. Also, due to COVID, there will be no annual Brunch with the Board.

Communications

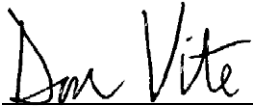
None.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



November 17, 2020

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk