

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021**

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

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:

- Add New Business item #4 – Emergency Management Coordinator
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from June 10, 2021
- Accounts Payable for the period 06/11/21-07/08/21 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$23,056.26
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$19,370.34
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$74.99
Total Expenses	<u>\$42,501.59</u>

- Treasurer's Report and month-end fund balances as of June 30, 2021:

General Fund	\$1,484,491.48
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$424,189.56
Total WRT Fund	\$2,089.46
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$1,910,770.50</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 July 2021 Fire Department report. He discussed establishing a schedule of fines for unpermitted burning after a resident with multiple offenses once again needed fire assistance. Currently, the fine is \$75/offense. The board felt consideration should be give for more punitive charges in the range of:

- \$100 – 1st offense
- \$250 – 2nd offense
- \$500 – 3rd offense

SMCAS (*on file*)

Matt Remmo emailed the report and gave a verbal presentation.

SE Berrien County Landfill (*minutes on file*)

Treasurer Kuhn and Trustee Zelmer gave a verbal report.

Planning Commission (*minutes on file*)

Treasurer Kuhn gave a verbal report.

NATS

Trustee Payton gave a verbal report.

Public Comments

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. 425 Agreement

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Payton to go into closed session under section 8H of the Open Meetings Act.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

{ Closed-session entered into at 7:27 p.m. }

{ Closed-session ended at 8:55 p.m. }

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Kuhn to instruct Bertrand Township Attorney Senica to proceed with an investigative financial impact study with Bertrand Township Assessor Story re: the City of Niles counter 425 Agreement proposed offer and other possible outcomes if the 425 Agreement is rejected.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion made by Kuhn, seconded by Payton to give Bertrand Township Attorney Senica authority to review our current water utility contract with the City of Niles.

Roll call vote: **Ayes:** Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite; **Nayes:** None; **Abstain:** Zelmer **Passed 4-0**

2. MTA – Bertrand Township Principles of Governance

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Zelmer to accept, sign, post, and abide by the Principles of Governance as written by the Michigan Townships Association.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. American Rescue Plant Act (ARPA)

Discussion: Supervisor Hicks presented what is known about the ARPA that was passed today, July 11. The township is eligible to receive as much as \$272,416 based on tax roll figures provided by Treasurer Kuhn. There are specific COVID-related guidelines for using these funds, and there will be detailed accounting requirements by the government. A couple of significant township expenses falling within the guidelines would be broadband installation and the BSA software purchased earlier in the year.

Clerk Vite has obtained a DUNS number and a SAMS account, and a Michigan.gov SIGMA VSS account will be obtained. Having these three accounts are prerequisites to receiving funds from ARPA.

The township will move forward in procuring whatever funds possible.

4. Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Vite to approve Resolution 210708A – Bertrand Township Liaisons to the Berrien County Emergency Management Coordinator and appoint the following township liaisons:

- Primary – Steve Hicks
- Backup 1 – Don Vite
- Backup 2 – Dave Kuhn

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

None.

Board Member Comments

Congratulations to Treasurer Kuhn on achieving certification in his second year of Basic at the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Institute.

Communications

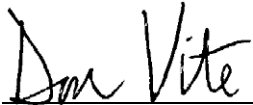
None

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



July 14, 2021

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk