

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 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: None

Consent Agenda (*see attachments*)

Motion made by Kuhn supported by Vite to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- Add Consent Agenda item #5 Budget Amendment
- Add Unfinished Business item #1 Community Event Center Camera System
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2021
- Accounts Payable for the period 08/13/21-09/09/21 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$29,206.28
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$9,293.15
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$75.10
Total Expenses	<u>\$38,574.63</u>

- Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2021 – see attached comments. Still working through bank reconciliations in the BS&A conversion; no reports produced this month

Motion made by Zelmer seconded by Payton to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

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 August Fire Department report.

SMCAS (*on file*)

Mr. Remmo presented the August SMCAS report.

SE Berrien County Landfill (*on file*)

No additional comments

Planning Commission and NATS

No meeting.

Public Comments

Del Demao from Carmel, IN, introduced himself to the board. He is the realtor negotiating the MacAllister Caterpillar deal with Bertrand Crossing.

Tom Wrasse gave an update on the ten American Chestnut trees planted behind the township hall. They are starting to produce nuts, which will be collected for propagation. He wants to get a plan in place for growing more American Chestnuts and more involvement by the community.

Unfinished Business

1. Community Event Center Camera System

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Zelmer to approve the purchase of the proposed surveillance camera system from FSS Technologies not to exceed 3,083.03.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

New Business

1. Community Event Hall Rental Rates

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Zelmer to set the rental rate of the Bertrand Township Community Event Center for new rentals to \$400 daily rental with \$200 refundable deposit for non-residents and \$200 daily rental with \$100 refundable deposit for residents effective immediately.

Discussion: Trustee Payton said he has received complaints about the current \$100 resident rate being too high. Clerk Vite said the rate increase will help cover the expenses of the Community Event Center including custodian, landscape maintenance, mowing, and winter plowing.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Vite, Zelmer, Hicks Nays – Payton, Kuhn

Passed 3-2

2. BTFD Illegal Burn Ordinance

Discussion: Chief Knisely presented a first draft of the Illegal Burn Ordinance. The board agreed to modify the rate structure between the first and fourth offenses making the first offense a warning-only. Chief will make the corrections and present an updated Burn Ordinance for vote at next board meeting. **No action taken.**

Public Comments

Mr. W commented on the Kritzer Pumpkin Farm signs bolted to the township sign on Bertrand Road and the size being increased.

Board Member Comments

Clerk Vite acknowledged the transition of Deputy Clerk from Ronni Redman to Polly White on October 1 and thanked Deputy Clerk Redman for her five years of service to himself and the township.

Clerk Vite and Treasurer Kuhn updated the board on the status of the BS&A conversion from QuickBooks.

Supervisor Hicks updated the board on the status of signage for the township hall and the Community Event Center. He is working with Pam's Signs.

Communications

None.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite

Bertrand Township Clerk

September 10, 2021

Date