

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 2021**

Supervisor Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Zelmer

Member Absent: Vite

Special Guests: Don and Barbara Harris, township resident painter of township hall picture; Derek Hall – Michigan State Auditor for Bertrand Township; Brian Scribner – SMCAS Director; Dan Yirks – Wightman & Associates

Consent Agenda (*see attachments*)

Motion made by Hicks supported by Zelmer to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- Moved New Business item #4 – Don Harris painter recognition to Consent Agenda Item #5
- Township Board Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2021
- Accounts Payable for the period 09/10/21-10/14/21 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$27,207.01
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$18,935.40
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$75.54
Total Expenses	<u>\$46,217.95</u>

- Treasurer’s Report as of September 30, 2021 – see attached comments. Still working through bank reconciliations in the BS&A conversion; no reports produced this month

Discussion: Mr. Harris spoke on his painting of the township hall. It took him approximately two weeks to paint.

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*)

Mr. Remmo presented the September SMCAS report.

Brian Scribner updated the board on SMCAS. Josh Kay was awarded the highest award. No COVID exposure for anyone at this point. He addressed nationwide paramedic shortage and a possible trial paramedic program to encourage new recruits. State of MI is now allocating more money – Medicare rates for Medicaid incidents. SMCAS is fully staffed at this point through he expects 25% retiring in upcoming years. He’s excited about a new drive-thru service for monoclonal antibody initiative using Regeneron. It reduces hospitalization, and ours has become a model for the U of M. He encouraged people to call SMCAS first after testing positive.

SE Berrien County Landfill (*on file*)

No additional comments

Planning Commission

No meeting.

NATS (on file)

Public Comments

Mr. Kuntz shared his concern re: four homes on Bakertown Rd. north of his house which were in bad shape – trash issues, vehicles sitting for a year, tall grass, etc. Some have no occupant. He also shared about 2-4 signs which were faded and need to be fixed or taken down. Supervisor Hicks will follow up with the Road Commission.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. Michigan State Audit Presentation (*hard copies and digital available upon request from Clerk's office*)

Discussion: Derek Hall presented the 2021 audit results. No surprises and audit went smoothly.

2. 2021/2022 Snow Plowing Bud

Motion made by Hicks seconded by Payton to approve Terry Burns bid to plow all four township properties including: the Township Hall @ \$70, Community Event Hall @ \$55, Fire Station #1 and #2 @ \$65/ea as necessary for the upcoming winter season.

Discussion: Hicks will confirm details of shoveling walks and having his insurance information on file. Hicks reached out to others but no else one returned a bid for consideration. Mr. Burns is also a township resident.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Water Sewer Engineering Consultation

Discussion: Supervisor Hicks explained the Niles City wants to give Bertrand Township Water/Sewer rights. Dan Yirks responded that he believes Niles has good records. He discussed pumps, water tower, flush lines, and other maintenance items. Would like township to have reports to have for now and future. His fees are a mystery because he doesn't know the extent of need. Discussed EGLE – the state agency's role. Township Attorney Senica will work on the contracts.

Treasurer Kuhn shared his concerns: the system was installed with grant money; need to see records; ongoing low-pressure issue with the tower; capacity issue in the industrial park.

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Payton to continue pursuing this option.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Public Comments

Mr. Wurster commented on the Kritzer Farm signs bolted to road signs and a barn needing demolished that has been caved-in since June.

Board Member Comments

Treasurer Kuhn said the township building inspector, Todd Herter, is looking into an International Building Maintenance Manual that will help guide us with blight issues. It has been adopted by other townships and he will present to the board next month.

Payton said the Community Building's kitchen faucet is bad and needs replacing, and also needs a dust pan and proper broom for folks to properly clean up.

Hicks mentioned the Buchanan District Library returned the tax refund. Also, there are 165 Chestnuts recovered from the chestnut trees to the north of the township hall and are in cold storage until March. Eight trees have survived.

Also, there's a new judge who wants new tickets and a fresh court date to deal with the Anderson Pool issue. Concrete remains after the pool was filled in. Hicks said Eileen needs to issue new tickets; the old ones are outdated and won't get addressed by the judge.

Communications

None.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

- The next township board meeting will be Thursday, November 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



October 24, 2021

Don Vite

Date

Bertrand Township Clerk

As transcribed from the notes taken by Deputy Clerk White at the meeting.