

**Bertrand Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 14, 2022**

Bertrand Township Hall
3835 Buffalo Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107

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

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

Member Absent: None

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

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

- Add Item #5 – Contractor for Blight Removal to New Business
- Add Item #6 – Berrien County Road Department cost upgrade for '22 Road Repairs
- Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2022
- Accounts Payable for the period 03/11/22-04/14/22 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$77,304.76
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$18,520.45
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$80.24
Total Expenses	<u>\$95,905.45</u>

- Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2022

General Fund	\$1,791,379.95
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$572,035.89
Total WRT Fund	N/A
Total Fund Current Assets	<u>\$2,363,415.84</u>

- Budget Amendment

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously**

Reports

Sheriff's Department *(on file)*

Fire Department *(on file)*

Chief Knisely submitted the April 2022, monthly Fire Department report and gave a verbal report.

SMCAS *(on file)*

Assistant Chief Remmo gave a verbal report.

SE Berrien County Landfill *(on file)*

Treasurer Kuhn and Trustee Zelmer gave a verbal report.

Planning Commission

Treasurer Kuhn gave a verbal report.

NATS

No meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Resolution to Establish an IDD for Saratore Company, LLC – 220310A

Motion made by Payton, seconded by Vite to adopt Resolution 220310A – Resolution to Establish an IDD for Saratore Company, LLC

Discussion: Concerns were expressed by Treasurer Kuhn and Trustee Zelmer that without seeing signatures from Niles City and Saratore Company, LLC, **in writing** re: a satisfactory resolution of the easement lawsuit brought on by Saratore, those lingering issues may continue to put the township in legal peril.

Roll call vote:

Aye: Hicks, Payton, Vite

Nay: Kuhn, Zelmer

Passed 3-2

New Business

1. Resolution to Incorporate – 2204114A

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Payton to adopt Resolution 220414A – Resolution to Incorporate Bertrand Township as a Charter Township.

Roll call Vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

2. Land Bids

Motion made by Payton, seconded by Kuhn to accept Dan Libertowski's bid of \$80/acre for three years upon his providing proof of fertilization of said property and proof of liability insurance at the beginning of every year.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

3. MDOT Offer & Consent to Grade

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Kuhn to accept the Good Faith offer of \$600 and Consent to Grade as presented by MDOT.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

4. BTFD Items

- a) **Motion** made by Vite, seconded by Kuhn to accept Wolverine Electric's bid not to exceed \$2,424 to install LED Lights at station #2.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

- b) **Motion** made by Vite, seconded by Kuhn to accept bid to install an oversized ceiling fan in Station #2: installation not to exceed \$1,493 and the fan not to exceed \$500.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

c) **Motion** made by Vite, seconded by Zelmer to accept Motorola's proposal not to exceed \$39,928.21 to purchase seven 800MHz portable radios.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

5. Contractors for Blight

Motion made by Vite, seconded by Payton to direct and authorize Supervisor Hicks to get contractor bids for cleaning up five blighted properties.

Discussion: The costs of cleanup will be assessed on the next property tax statement.

Voice vote: **Ayes:** Hicks, Kuhn, Payton, Vite **Abstain:** Zelmer **Passed 4-0-1**

6. Berrien County Road Department Cost Upgrade for '22 Road Repairs

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Payton to approve the \$9,547.00 increase over budgeted amount for '22 road construction projects due to inflationary cost increases.

Roll call vote: **Motion passed unanimously**

Public Comments

Tom Wrasse gave an American Chestnut update
Resident Scott Wooster commented on non-official signage posted throughout the township.

Board Member Comments

Treasurer Kuhn will be away from the office April 20 – May 1.

Communications

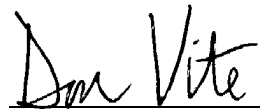
None.

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite

Bertrand Township Clerk

April 20, 2022

Date