

Buchanan Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
March 4, 2010

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular March 4, 2010 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Jane Mitchell at 7:06 pm.

Members Present: Jane Mitchell, Supervisor; Norma Ruggless, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Brian Dinneen, Trustee.

Members Absent: Lynn Ferris, Trustee.

Others Present: Two residents and the Township Fire Chief.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular February 18, 2010 meeting were approved as amended.

### **BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was discussion regarding removing the brick from the back entrance to the Township Hall. A better solution for keeping the back door open was discussed.

Dehring arrives 7:10

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. MTA – Protecting Your Township’s Boundaries
2. Capitol Conference
3. MTA – How Boards Make Decisions and Making Meetings Work More Effectively
4. Spring Education Conference – MATS (Michigan Association of Township Supervisors)

**Motion by Mitchell, second by Dinneen, to approve the Supervisor be allowed to attend the Spring Education Conference – MATS (Michigan Association of Township Supervisors) at the registration rate of \$225.00, \$60.00 MATS dues and hotel expense of \$65.00 plus tax and mileage. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Motion by Dehring, second by Ruggless, to approve check #6994 to and including check #7015 totaling \$ 13,465.85 from the General Fund as well as check #4283 to and including check #4291 totaling \$3,264.73 from the Fire Fund. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

There was some discussion regarding the Land Description charges. Dehring would hold the check until further clarification could be obtained.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Sheriff**

The Sheriff Report was presented by Bob Mazurek and Duane Miller.

#### **Fire**

Chief Jesswein presented the Fire Department Activity Report for February 2010.

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**Motion by Dehring, second by Mitchell, to approve Ryan Bombarger's attendance at the Wildfire Training to be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the cost of \$105.00. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

**Motion by Dehring, second by Mitchell, to approve the replacement of 15 windows in the overhead door at the cost of \$26.00 per window, total cost not to exceed \$390.00. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### *Annual Audit*

Ruggless presented the Audit Proposal from the Department of Treasury.

**Motion by Dehring, second by Mitchell, to approve Siegfried Crandall PC contract at a fee not to exceed \$4,600.00. Roll Call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

##### *Buchanan District Library*

Dehring is continuing to develop an agreement with the District Library to attain additional funds from the State.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### *Landfill Vouchers*

**Motion by Mitchell, second by Ruggless, to approve landfill vouchers for Buchanan Township residents for the Southeast Berrien County Landfill for the months of April and October 2010 as in years past. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

##### *Boat Dock Re-Insertion*

Mitchell indicated there was a tree leaning over the dock area which will delay the dock insertion. The Fire Chief will look at the situation and either recommend removal or remove the tree.

**Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to reinsert the boat dock at the public boat launch on Madron Lake at a cost of \$150. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

##### *Fire Alarm Siren*

The board discussed whether the siren should continue to be used or restrict the time frame when the siren goes off. Because of new technologies with radios and pagers the argument could be made for not continuing the use of the siren or restricting the use to fire calls only. A timer had been installed on the power supply to the siren so that it did not go off during specific hours in the evening and early morning. This timer had been removed. The timer could be put back on to power the unit off during a certain time frame. Further discussion considered turning the issue over to the county and they could use the siren as they deem appropriate.

##### *Ad for Township Clerk*

Mitchell discussed the matter of Ruggless not running for election in the fall. Budget money has been set for transition costs. The board should consider posting a notice that the office of Township Clerk will be open in the fall.

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**Motion by Dehring, second by Mitchell, to place a notice in the Berrien County Record and the South Bend Tribune regarding the opening of the Township Clerks office to run two times in the Berrien County Record and two weekends in the South Bend Tribune. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

Petitions and other documentation for filing will be available at the Township hall.

*2010-2011 Budget*

**Motion by Mitchell, second by Dinneen to transfer monies: From 370 budget center to 101 budget center - \$4,000.00; From 370 budget center to 171 budget center - \$300.00; From 370 budget center to 253 budget center - \$200.00. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).**

*Truth in Taxation Notice*

Dehring will check on more information regarding conducting the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

*Mud Lake Bog*

Mitchell received information from the Chikaming Open Land conservatory regarding the removal of the buckthorn from the Bog. There will be a future presentation made to the board.

*Coloma Township Gun Club*

Mitchell shared with the board Coloma Townships attempt to control the gun club. Future consideration for our township may have to be considered.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Annual meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Norma M. Ruggless  
Buchanan Township Clerk