

CALL TO ORDER

The regular December 15, 2011 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Jane Mitchell, Supervisor; Cathy Ganus, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Lynn Ferris, Trustee.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Two (2) residents, one (1) staff, and no members of the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 1, 2011 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Township Hall Floor Update was added under Unfinished Business.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF’S REPORT – October, 2011

The Berrien County Sheriff’s Department Sheriff’s Report was presented for October, 2011. During that time, 59 complaints were handled, 25 citations were issued, and seven (7) arrests were made within Buchanan Township. There have also been 219 arrests made as of November 30, 2011 by the Berrien County Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Unit.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Salvation Army – Marine Toys for Tots Foundation – “A Day of Giving”
Michigan Department of Transportation – Public Comment – 2012-2016 Five-Year Transportation Program
Berrien County Road Commission – Management Reorganization

Michigan Townships Association “2012 Board of Review Training”

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to approve the attendance of any Township Board member and Board of Review member to the Michigan Townships Association’s 2012 Board of Review training to be held on February 14, 2012 at the Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, at a cost of \$79 per person plus mileage. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Ganus, second by Mitchell, to approve General Fund check # 7938 to and including check # 7953 totaling \$3,964.80 as well as Fire Fund check # 4824 to and including check # 4830 totaling \$1,275.62. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein
SMCAS Report – Lynn Ferris

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brian Dinneen Resignation

Ganus clarified that the resignation last meeting of Brian Dinneen was for the position of Buchanan Township Trustee as well as Buchanan Township Planning Commission member. Dinneen's resignation was previously accepted as presented effective December 1, 2011.

Letter of Interest for Township Trustee

Ganus provided a memo to the Township Board outlining those township residents who have expressed interest in the vacant township trustee position. Ganus drafted a letter to potential candidates advising that they needed to submit a letter of interest and resume prior to 5 pm on Wednesday, December 28, 2011. The Township Board will then review the letters of interest and interviews will be conducted at the regular Thursday, January 5, 2012 meeting. At that time the Board can either appoint a new trustee or table the matter and set a special meeting prior to the deadline of January 15, 2012. Ganus suggested that three or four questions be drafted for the interviews. Mitchell disagreed, stating that any Township board member could ask the interviewees any question. Ganus suggested the same questions be used from the previous appointment of supervisor.

Update on Linoleum Flooring – Township Hall Meeting Room

Mitchell advised she had contacted The Floor Store and it appears the quotation for replacing the hall floor is in the area of \$7,000 for commercial tiling (\$300-\$400 less for residential tiling); however, merely replacing the tile would not solve the problem as there is moisture in the cement that is causing the stones in the cement to move to the surface. Ferris suggested utilizing a concrete poured floor. Ganus suggested Eric Hanson be contacted for his input as he does decorative cement work.

NEW BUSINESS

Ag Tourism Ordinance

Mitchell questioned the viability of an Ag Tourism Ordinance. She noted a township resident is investigating a wine tasting room / restaurant within the Agricultural area, which is not allowable in the current zoning ordinance.

[Dehring arrives at 7:25 pm]

Discussion ensued regarding regulation of agricultural operations vs. roadside markets, corn mazes, hay rides, etc. The general consensus of the Board is that the wine tasting / restaurant should be located in the commercial district; therefore, an Ag Tourism Ordinance is not needed.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Municipal Civil Infraction Fines

Mitchell advised that the current zoning ordinance cites that the Township Board should adopt a civil infraction fee for ordinance violations. Upon the advice of township counsel, the following motion was made.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to approve the municipal civil infraction fee of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per day for municipal civil infractions. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitchell advised that a representative from Buchanan Community Schools will be present at the January 19, 2012 regular Township Board meeting to provide a short presentation on the upcoming school bond proposal.

Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Hearing for Kevin & Tracy Dundon is set for January 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Presidential Primary Election is set for Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Buchanan Community Schools will have a bond proposal on the February 28, 2012 ballot.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk