

CALL TO ORDER

The February 18, 2016 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Malinda Cole-Crocker at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Malinda Cole-Crocker, Supervisor; Cathy Ganus, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Lynn Ferris and Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustees.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Brian Dougherty and Matt Gies, Flatwater Farms; Buchanan City Manager William Marx; five (5) residents; one (1) staff; and Debra Haight with the *Berrien County Record*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 4, 2016 meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITION/ CHANGES TO AGENDA

Add Michigan Townships Association – Put Your Township in Focus under correspondence.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT - December, 2015

During December, 2015, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department handled 43 complaints, issued seven tickets, and made one arrest within Buchanan Township. As of January 31, 2016, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made nine arrests within Berrien County for narcotics-related offenses.

CORRESPONDENCE

Michigan Townships Association – Put Your Township in Focus – MTA Township Focus Magazine

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9880 to and including check # 9892 totaling \$5,856.02 as well as Fire Fund check # 6039 to and including check # 6052 totaling \$1,820.33. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein –on file

Jesswein reported that he has an individual interested in becoming a firefighter, however, that individual is not certified Firefighter I & II. Jesswein also spoke to the Board regarding an app for firefighters' cell phones called Active911. This app will page out a call and will allow the firefighters to input a response as to whether

REPORTS (continued)

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein (continued)

they are enroute to the station or unavailable so that command staff can call additional resources if the need arises. Jesswein went on to state that with the Active911 program he would like to purchase a micro-computer with monitor for use with the Active911 system.

Jesswein also requested the purchase of a laser printer for the Fire Station.

Motion by Ferris, second by Cole-Crocker, to appoint William Shipperley, Jr. as a probationary firefighter until such time as he has completed the Firefighter I & II certification programs. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the purchase of a micro-computer with monitor for use with the Active911 application at a cost not to exceed \$500. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Motion by Dehring, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of a Lexmark laser printer for the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$2,550. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Jesswein went on to state that truck 620 (pumper truck) is 27 years old and needs to be replaced. The Department has been looking at demo models as well as additional equipment for use with auto extrication.

SEBCL Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker

Cole-Crocker reported that the Landfill has approved the purchase of a new Toyota fork lift at a cost of \$33,542. There is also a need for a software update, which amounts to \$188,500. The gas wells on site are not pumping properly and as a result they are incurring high water levels.

JWSB Report – Tom VanAntwerp

VanAntwerp reported that the City has sent letters to property owners once again regarding disposal of inappropriate items down the sewer lines as these items are clogging the system. He also reported that the subject property on Rynearson Road that had previously refused to tie into the public sewer system per Township Ordinance has now complied and the connection has been completed.

VanAntwerp also reported that within the next 5-8 years the City is looking at a major expansion project and/or new facility construction for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The City previously applied for and was awarded funding in the form of a SAW grant, which should help to assess the needs of the facility so decisions can be made. This is a multi-million dollar project and the City has begun investigating ways to raise the capital for the funding of the project without taxing the citizens a large amount.

SMCAS Report Lynn Ferris

Ferris reported that spending is down, the Critical Care Program is now up and running, union negotiations are progressing, and SMCAS is in need of wheelchair van drivers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution # 2016-06 – Resolution to Conditionally Approve Site Plan and Special Land Use Request for Flatwater Farms, LLC

Flatwater Farms representative Brian Dougherty provided a brief presentation of the Flatwater Farms vision for the special land use request. Dehring provided an overview of the public hearing for same held by the Buchanan Township Planning Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission as well as the recommendations from Township Planner Williams & Works.

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Resolution # 2016-06 to conditionally approve the site plan and special land use request for Flatwater Farms, LLC as amended. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

School Summer Tax Collection Agreements

As in years past, Buchanan Community Schools, Berrien RESA, and Lake Michigan College have requested that Buchanan Township collect their summer school property taxes that have been levied upon properties within the boundaries of Buchanan Township.

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to allow the Buchanan Township Treasurer to enter into an agreement for the collection of summer school property taxes that have been levied upon properties within Buchanan Township for Buchanan Community Schools, Berrien RESA, and Lake Michigan College. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

NATS Membership

Cole-Crocker reported that two road projects within Buchanan Township have been selected for federal grant funding. There is \$518,000 available for the years 2016-2020. A meeting has been set for the following week to vote on and award the proposed projects.

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to approve the payment of the NATS membership matching funds invoice in the amount of \$1,572. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board of Review - March 14 and 18.
- Buchanan Township Annual Meeting – March 17
- Buchanan Township Firefighters Fish Fry – April 23

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Berrien County Commission Mac Elliott provided an update on the happenings within Berrien County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk