

CALL TO ORDER

The March 3, 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: Two (2) township 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 February 18, 2016 meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITION/ CHANGES TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT - January, 2016

Deputy Abby Pifer of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department presented the Sheriff's Report for January, 2016. During that time, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department handled 50 complaints, issued two tickets, and made one arrest within Buchanan Township. As of February 29, 2016, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 14 arrests within Berrien County for narcotics-related offenses.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund DD # 192 to and including DD # 208 plus check # 9893 to and including check # 9908 totaling \$17,880.48 as well as Fire Fund DD # 209 to and including DD # 215 plus check # 6053 to and including check # 6061 totaling \$4,380.62. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein –on file

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve the purchase of a training computer for the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS (continued)

NATS Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker

Cole-Crocker reported that there is \$518,000 in federal funding available to the Niles Area Transportation Study (NATS) program for 2016-2020. Buchanan Township was approved to receive \$260,210 in road projects. The projects are as follows:

2016 – Preventative maintenance (hot patching and seal – single chip) on Red Bud Trail from the City of Buchanan limits to US-12 as well as Niles-Buchanan Road from the City of Buchanan limits to Niles Charter Township. A total of four miles is being done with the benefit being \$69,210.

2019 – Overlay of 2” of hot mix asphalt, guardrail upgrade, and gravel shoulders on N. Main Street from the City of Buchanan limits to 400 feet south of Reed Road. A total benefit for this project is \$191,000

Berrien County Road Commission Township Annual Meeting – Mindy Cole-Crocker

Cole-Crocker reported that she and Ganus attended the BCRC Township Annual Meeting on behalf of the Township. A listing of projected 2016 road improvements was presented. Projects include sealcoating, graveling, and prime and double seal. Also included was a stand-alone sealcoat project for E. Clear Lake Road from E. Elm Valley Road to the end (1.19 miles). The Road Commission also presented the Township with a draft copy of the proposed Township Match policy. This policy has not been formally approved by neither the Berrien County Board of Road Commissioners nor the Berrien County Board of Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft General Fund Budget – FY 2016-2017

Draft Fire Fund Budget – FY 2016-2017

Cole-Crocker presented preliminary draft budgets for the General Fund and Fire Fund.

Resolution # 2016-07 – Resolution Supporting Berrien County Road Commission Application for State and Federal Critical Bridge Funds

The BCRC has submitted an application for federal and state Critical Bridge funds on behalf of Buchanan Township for the rehabilitation of the Walton Road Bridge over the St. Joseph River. Critical Bridge funds will pay for 95% of the construction cost and the remaining five percent (5%) and the design and inspection costs will be borne by the BCRC. If the grant is approved, construction will commence in 2019. Buchanan Township can improve the possibility of receiving funding by adopting a resolution of support.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ganus, to approve Resolution # 2016-07 – Resolution Supporting Berrien County Road Commission Application for State and Federal Critical Bridge Funds as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board of Review - March 14 and 18, 2016
- Buchanan Township Annual Meeting
- Buchanan Township Firefighters Fish Fry – April 23

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Arnold Lemke brought up an unsafe property, which is located at 4893 Niles-Buchanan Road. Cole-Crocker advised Mr. Lemke that Buchanan Township Building Official Chris Fuchs is dealing with the bank in regard to the status of the property.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk