

CALL TO ORDER

The March 24, 2016 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Malinda Cole-Crocker at 7:17 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: Four (4) township residents; two (2) staff; and no members of the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 3, 2016 meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITION/ CHANGES TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

BUDGET

Resolution # 2016-08 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – General Fund

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve Resolution # 2016-08 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – General Fund as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2016-09 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – Fire Fund

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Resolution # 2016-09 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – Fire Fund as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

CORRESPONDENCE

Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council – Resolution of Support for the Pure Michigan Television Commercial

Cole-Crocker reported that the highly successful Pure Michigan campaign is going to feature Southwest Michigan in its fall 2016 regional television advertising. This Midwest exposure, slated for nationwide coverage in 2017, will spike the number of people (and dollars) coming to our area all year round. The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council is requesting that Buchanan Township pass a resolution of support for the Pure Michigan television commercial. There is no cost to the Township to pass the resolution. General consensus of the Board is to allow Cole-Crocker to sign the resolution of support.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9909 to and including check # 9934 totaling \$3,173.02 as well as Fire Fund check # 6062 to and including check # 6078 totaling \$11,547.28. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

NATS Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker

Cole-Crocker reported that MDOT representatives stated that in 2021 Federal requirements for the percentage of funds spent will change. The Federal government is going to stipulate that federal funds be spent on interstates first. This will consume about 65% of federal road funding. All interstates (I-94, I-196, and I-69) will have to be maintained at 95% good (currently at about 85% good). This will reduce the amount of funding available for the “M” routes.

SEBC Landfill Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker

Cole-Crocker reported that the Landfill Board approved the purchase of a SCADA system. The SCADA system is hardware and software that monitor leachate and methane at the Landfill. The current system is a stand-alone unit that runs on Windows 95 and is obsolete. The SCADA system will not rely on a stand-alone system and will be linked to a cloud and designated personnel will have access to the system. Purchase price for the SCADA system is approximately \$188,500 and is slated to last at least 20 years.

Cole-Crocker also reported that Environmental Manager Tyler Ganus had reported that some of the methane wells were not producing what they should so they checked them for water. It is more difficult to pull methane through water. The water was pumped off over a two-day period. The methane amounts increased greatly. NANR (North American Natural Resources – purchaser of the Landfill’s methane supply) was excited about the potential increase in the Landfill’s methane production.

Planning Commission Report – Janet Dehring – no meeting in March

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Vacancy – 3 Year Term

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to appoint Daniel Lakin to the Planning Commission for a three year term expiring April 1, 2019. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Landfill Vouchers – April & October

Motion by Dehring, second by Cole-Crocker, to approve landfill vouchers for April and October as in years past. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Township Board Meeting Dates / Holidays

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Township Board meeting dates and holidays as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Approval of Appointed Hourly Staff Rates / Mileage Reimbursement

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by Ganus, to approve the hourly staff rates and mileage reimbursement with the amendment that the representatives for SMCAS, NATS, and Watershed receive a per diem of \$50.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Approval of Appointed Hourly Staff Rates / Mileage Reimbursement (continued)

Discussion ensued regarding raising the per diem rates for Township Board representatives to \$50. Dehring commented that per diem rates for all should be a minimum of \$50.

Cole-Crocker then rescinded the motion.

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by Dehring, to approve the hourly staff rates and mileage reimbursement as amended to reflect \$50 per diem for NATS, SMCAS, Watershed, Planning Commission member, and Zoning Board of Appeals member. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Clerk

Ganus provided the Board with a letter of resignation effective April 8, 2016. Ganus thanked the Board for the privilege to serve with them throughout the years and wished them well.

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by Ferris, to accept Township Clerk Cathy Ganus' letter of resignation effective April 8, 2016 with sincere regret. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bertrand Township Pancake Breakfast – April 9 8 a.m.-11 a.m.
- Buchanan Township Firefighters Fish Fry – April 23

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NON AGENDA ITEMS

VanAntwerp inquired as to whether there was a status update on the Niles-Buchanan Road issue brought before the Board by Township resident Arnold Lemke. Nothing to report other than the building inspector has made contact with the bank (owner) and provided a letter of condemnation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk