

CALL TO ORDER

The regular August 13, 2015 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: Chris Brayak, Wightman & Associates; seven (7) 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 July 23, 2015 regular meeting and August 5, 2015 special meeting were approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Draft job descriptions were removed from the agenda.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEM

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund direct deposit 28 to and including 44 as well as check # 9714 to and including check # 9734 totaling \$22,936.50 as well as Fire Fund direct deposit 45 to and including 54 as well as check # 5930 to and including check # 5944 totaling \$5,621.15. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Assessor Report – Nancy Williams

Williams provided the Board with a report which includes tribunal actions for Buchanan Township, July Board of Review actions, sales within the Township, number of properties physically assessed to date (20%), and how all of these items combined effect the overall township values (increase/decrease).

Williams then answered questions from the Board.

REPORTS (continued)

Fire Report – on file

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of two (2) steer tires for unit 620 with costs not to exceed \$975. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Joint Water/Sewer Board Report – Cathy Ganus

Ganus provided an overview of the Joint Water/Sewer Board meeting. The Agreement for Extraterritorial Sewer Services (Lloyd/Bartus matter) was presented to the JWSB. The Board unanimously voted to recommend the approval of same contingent upon pending changes received from the City of Buchanan legal counsel.

SMCAS Report – Cathy Ganus

Ganus provided an overview of the SMCAS Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shetterly Rynearson Road Correspondence Update

Township counsel previously sent the homeowner at 16454 Rynearson Road (Marilyn Shetterly) a compliance letter regarding their hook in to the public water supply system. The letter demanded that the property owner bring the property into compliance with the Township's sewer and water ordinances within thirty days of the date of the correspondence (deadline July 17, 2015). Township counsel has advised that the Shetterly's have expressed a willingness to hook in to the public water supply system; however, they do not have the funding to do so. Township counsel inquired as to whether the Township would be willing to work with the property owner to allow them to pay over time. Discussion ensued and Ganus will contact Township counsel to outline some alternatives.

Tree Removal on Reed Road Update & Coveney Road Tree

Ganus advised that she had previously spoken with Indiana Michigan Power Forestry Department representatives who advised that the trees in question on Reed Road would be removed. This date Ganus went by the location and only two of the three trees had been removed (the most critical tree had not been removed). Ganus advised that she had contacted I & M and they advised they felt that the tree was greater than ten feet from the power line and they would not remove the tree.

The Berrien County Road Commission also advised that there is a tree on Coveney Road that is in need of removal.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ferris, to approve the removal of the tree near 3089 Reed Road at a cost not to exceed \$675 and the removal of the tree near 13859 Coveney Road at a cost not to exceed \$800. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Wightman & Associates, Inc. Invoice – Township Hall Assessment

Chris Brayak with Wightman & Associates was present to review his findings in regard to the township hall building/facility assessment. Brayak advised that in his opinion there were four options: continue to maintain the building as it currently sits, renovate the township hall (estimated cost \$425,000), relocate the township hall to the fire station, or construct a new building (estimated cost \$1.2 million). Brayak went on to state that Paul Bristol with Rural Development may be able to provide the township information regarding a low-interest loan. Ferris advised that he would like to see the Township construct a new building as this building

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

Wightman & Associates, Inc. Invoice – Township Hall Assessment (continued)

has been previously renovated in ~~2003~~ 2001 and expending a little more money for a new building would be in the best interests of the Township as there will continue to be issues with a building that has undergone multiple renovations.

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to accept the Buchanan Township Building Assessment report prepared by Wightman & Associates as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Rynearson Road Booster Station Update

Ganus advised she has received a quotation from Peerless-Midwest, Inc. regarding the replacement pump at the Rynearson Road Booster Station pump # 2.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ganus, to approve the quotation provided by Peerless-Midwest, Inc. to rebuild pump # 2 at the Rynearson Road Booster Station at a cost not to exceed \$6,956. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Berrien County Road Commission Chloride Application Invoice

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve the payment of the Berrien County Road Commission invoice # 1603 in the amount of \$8,384.19 for chloride application. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The revised Berrien County Road Commission Sign Policy has been included in the Board packets. This policy went into effect on July 1, 2015.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Clear Lake Woods Property Owners Association President Sandra Lake presented the Board with a letter as well as photographs of alleged violations occurring at the CLWPOA boat launch area. Ganus advised that the Township does not have jurisdiction to enforce trespassing or public nuisance issues and suggested that the CLWPOA contact the Berrien County Sheriff's Department to file a complaint. Lake advised that they had done so without resolution. Ganus then suggested that if they were unhappy with the way the Sheriff's Department handled the complaint they could also contact the Michigan State Police to file a complaint.

VanAntwerp advised that he and Cole-Crocker had met with Berrien County Road Commissioner Jess Minks regarding road issues.

Township resident Mario Palmisano commented on the shoulder area of the roadway in the vicinity of the fatal accident that had occurred recently on N. Red Bud Trail. He advised that there was a drop-off area on the side of the roadway that has since been filled in by the Berrien County Road Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk