

CALL TO ORDER

The regular December 3, 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: One (1) township residents; one (1) visitor; 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 regular November 19, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEM

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

There was no one from the Berrien County Sheriff's Department present to present the Sheriff's Report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Berrien County Emergency Management – Regional Townhall Meeting – Pipeline Safety

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund DD # 123 to and including DD # 139 plus check # 9830 to and including check # 9841 totaling \$20,124.06 as well as Fire Fund DD # 140 to and including DD # 148 plus check # 5995 to and including check # 6002 totaling \$6,430.22. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Township Hall Building Assessment – Financing Options

VanAntwerp reported that he had spoken with Township counsel regarding the financing options for the Township Hall renovation/reconstruction. There are several options: bonding, installment purchase

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

Township Hall Building Assessment – Financing Options (continued)

agreement, millage, and special assessment. Township counsel's recommendation is installment purchase agreement. While the Township has current undesignated funds to construct a new facility, Board members felt that utilizing this capital was not an appropriate use of the funds and feel that Township residents should be advised that the Board is discussing renovation or the possibility of constructing a new Township Hall which will give them an opportunity to voice their opinion. Ways for dissemination of information would be direct mailer, postcard, email, and social media. VanAntwerp will also contact surrounding communities to see how they draw public input on special projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Visioning

Cole-Crocker shared a visioning document with the Board and discussion ensued. Perhaps the Board will schedule a visioning session. This matter was placed on the table.

January, 2016 Township Board Meetings

Cole-Crocker advised that there is a conflict with the January meeting dates as Ganus, Ferris, and Cole-Crocker will be at the Annual Educational Conference in Detroit, MI during the regularly scheduled board meeting and therefore a quorum of the Board would not be present. Discussion ensued with the following motion being offered.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Cole-Crocker, to change the regular January 7, 2016 Township Board meeting date to January 14, 2016 and cancel the January 21, 2016 meeting. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bertrand Township Firefighters Chili Supper Fundraiser – December 12, 2015
- December Board of Review – December 15, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.
- Buchanan Township Firefighters Food Drive – December 19, 2015 – Harding's & Martin's in Niles

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk