

CALL TO ORDER

The regular January 5, 2012 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Jane Mitchell, Supervisor; Cathy Ganus, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Lynn Ferris, Trustee.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Six (6) residents, one (1) staff, and one (1) member of the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 15, 2011 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Ganus requested to move the Sheriff's Report up on the agenda to allow Deputy Sullivan to return to his patrol duties. Also added was Trustee Appointment under item three (3) in New Business.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to approve the agenda as amended. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – November, 2011

Deputy Ryan Sullivan with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department presented the November, 2011 Sheriff's Report. During that time, 42 complaints were handled, 10 citations were issued, and no arrests were made within Buchanan Township. There have also been 235 arrests made as of December 31, 2011 by the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit. Deputy Sullivan mentioned that there has been a rise in breaking and entering complaints within the area and cautioned everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

TRUSTEE VACANCY – APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

The following candidates for the Township Trustee vacancy were interviewed by the Board of Trustees:

Eugene F. Casto, II
Mario C. Palmisano
Stephanie Wagner-Hemming

Timothy L. Gray** (via telephone as he was out of town)
Thomas C. VanAntwerp

Each offered introductory remarks and were then asked the following four (4) questions:

1. What in your background qualifies you for the Trustee's position?

TRUSTEE VACANCY – APPLICANT INTERVIEWS (continued)

2. Why do you want the position of Trustee?
3. The position of Trustee will require a commitment of your time. Do you have the time to fulfill the duties of Trustee?
4. What is your perspective on the role and duties of Trustee?

Additional questions were also posed: What is your primary strength; what is one area you feel is important regarding township government; what is your interest in running for the trustee position in the August Primary election; are you available to serve on subordinate boards / committees; and do you have any budgetary experience.

Ganus reviewed the process required for those interested in running for Township Trustee in the August, 2012 primary and November, 2012 general election. Ganus urged those interested to contact her for further information.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor Campus, 01.16.2012 – no charge

TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Mitchell, to approve General Fund check # 7954 to and including check # 7984 totaling \$13,947.12 as well as Fire Fund check # 4831 to and including check # 4862 totaling \$71,866.26. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to accept the resignation of firefighter James Kubisiak with regret effective immediately. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

[Jesswein had to step out of the meeting; the fire report will be addressed upon his return to the meeting.]

Landfill Report – Jane Mitchell

New gate rates were approved at the December, 2011 Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority meeting.

NATS Report – Jane Mitchell – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation of Norman Klug – Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission

Due to increased demands on his time, Klug advised that he is no longer able to commit the time necessary to service on these board.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Resignation of Norman Klug – Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission (continued)

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to accept the resignation of Norman Klug from the Planning Commission as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Township Trustee Appointment

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to appoint Thomas VanAntwerp to the vacant Township Trustee position. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Appointment to Planning Commission

A motion was made by Jane Mitchell to appoint Maryellen Schutze to fulfill Norman Klug's term on the Planning Commission; however, that motion was withdrawn by Mitchell.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to appoint Janet Dehring to the Planning Commission as Township Board ex officio member to fulfill the remainder of Brian Dinneen's unexpired term as well as an additional three year term with term expiring 01.05.2015. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

It should be noted that Dinneen's term expires 02.19.2012.

REPORTS – Fire Report – Tim Jesswein

Jesswein announced the Fire Department responded to 77 calls for service in 2011. Firefighters conducted their annual food drive and were able to provide 15 families with food baskets for Christmas (which included a family from Sister Lakes who lost their home in a fire).

Jesswein also reported that FEMA has begun approval of grant requests. This process usually takes a couple of months before notification is sent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitchell advised that a representative from Buchanan Community Schools will be present at the January 19, 2012 regular Township Board meeting to provide a short presentation on the upcoming school bond proposal.

Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Hearing for Kevin & Tracy Dundon is set for January 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Presidential Primary Election is set for Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Buchanan Community Schools will have a bond proposal on the February 28, 2012 ballot.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stephanie Wagner-Hemminger suggested the Township purchase additional chairs for use when the township hall is rented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk