

CALL TO ORDER

The regular February 5, 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: Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Sullivan; four (4) township residents; one 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 January 22, 2015 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – December, 2014

Deputy Ryan Sullivan of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department presented the Sheriff's Report for December, 2014. During that time, 27 complaints were handled, eight tickets were issued, and no arrests were made. As of January 31, 2015, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 11 arrests for narcotics-related offenses within Berrien County. Deputy Sullivan then answered various questions and returned to patrol.

CORRESPONDENCE

Water Main Leak – Walnut Street east of Chippewa Street

Ganus had been advised by the City of Buchanan of a water main leak on Walnut Street east of Chippewa Street. Buchanan City Manager Bill Marx reported that the likely cause was freeze/thaw as they had a similar water main issue within the City the same date. A photo of the break was provided to the Board. The City repaired the break in a timely manner.

City of Buchanan Determination of Rate Change Notice

The Township is in receipt of a letter from the City of Buchanan regarding a determination of rate change notice. Per the Water and Sewer Agreements between Buchanan City and Buchanan Township, the City must notify the Township of any rate increases. The rate determination will be submitted to Buchanan Township prior to ninety (90) days of the effective date of the new City fiscal year, which is July 1, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission NATS Local Match FY 2015

Niles/Buchanan Area Transportation Study (NATS) is a partnership of 12 political jurisdictions that jointly plan their transportation expenditures. Though they vary each year, the projects and investments that the 12 NATS communities divided in 2014 amounted to \$12,593,000. There is a federal grant that is provided each year so that the NATS process can be conducted by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC). Ganus provided a spreadsheet of the matching funds amounts from 2007 to 2014. The matching funds amount has increased by \$43 this year.

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the Niles/Buchanan Area Transportation Study (NATS) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) local funding match for FY 2015 in the amount of \$1,548. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Building Department Referenced Standards

The Bureau of Construction Codes has mandated that all jurisdictions administering the codes under the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, 1972 PA 230, must have access to the standards referenced in the Code. Those referenced standards were pared down by the Bureau to what was termed "Essential Referenced Standards", which is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 per set. A core group of inspectors within Berrien County have met on a monthly basis to bring together a proposal to meet the requirements of access to the essential referenced standards. They are suggesting that each jurisdiction within Berrien County providing inspection services participate in funding a library of the essential referenced standards, which will reduce the estimated \$30,000 initial cost to a more manageable amount of \$1,000 +/- . They would also like to create a centralized area to house the standards. A meeting has been set for Friday, February 20, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Benton Charter Township Municipal Building.

Berrien Conservation District Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Berrien Conservation District will be holding its annual meeting and dinner on February 19, 2015. Cost to attend is \$13 per person and reservations are required.

Michigan Townships Association Township Governance Academy Seminars

Three sessions are being offered for TGA candidates on March 30-31, 2015 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge Conference Center in Frankenmuth, MI.

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the attendance of any Township Board member to the Michigan Townships Association's Township Governance Academy seminars to be held March 30-31, 2015 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge Conference Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan at a cost of \$267 per person to include lodging, mileage, and meal reimbursement. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

The Berrien County Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with the Berrien County Firefighters Training Council, is hosting CERT training. There are eight sessions and the cost is free to the public.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9473 to and including check # 9499 totaling \$19,202.96 as well as Fire Fund check # 5757 to and including check # 5783 totaling \$8,392.80. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein – on file

Motion by Dehring, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of three (3) sets of replacement turnout gear with costs not to exceed \$1,975 per set as well as approve up to six members of the Fire Department to attend ice rescue training to be held at Bertrand Township at a cost not to exceed \$125 per person. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rynearson Road Hook-In – Buchanan City Residents

No additional information has been received from the City of Buchanan regarding this issue. It should be noted that this issue has been placed on the agenda for the February 19, 2015 Joint Water Sewer Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution # 2015-01 – Rename Moorland Road

The residents of Moorland Road have submitted a petition to the Township Board to change the name of their road from Moorland Road to Moorland Park. Ganus has contacted the Berrien County Road Commission, Berrien County 911, and Berrien County GIS and all have endorsed the renaming.

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve Resolution # 2015-01 – Resolution to Rename Moorland Road as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-02 – Supervisor Salary

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve Resolution # 2015-02 – Supervisor Salary as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-03 – Clerk Salary

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Resolution # 2015-03 – Clerk Salary as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-04 – Treasurer Salary

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Resolution # 2015-04 – Treasurer Salary as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-05 – Trustee Salary

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by Dehring, to approve Resolution # 2015-05 – Trustee Salary as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Resolution # 2015-06 – Accepting Letters of Protest for March, 2015 Board of Review

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve Resolution # 2015-06 – Accepting Letters of Protest from Township Residents for March, 2015 Board of Review as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-07 – Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve Resolution # 2015-07 – Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Resolution # 2015-08 – Alternate Meeting Date for 2015 March Board of Review

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve Resolution # 2015-08 – Alternate Meeting Date for 2015 March Board of Review as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Berrien County Medical Control Authority will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, MI. The purpose of this hearing is to seek input on the revised system protocols for the Berrien County Medical Control Authority.

The Berrien County Road Commission Township Annual Meeting has been set for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Berrien County Road Commission headquarters on Yore Avenue in Benton Harbor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jesswein commented that the Township should budget funds for the repair and maintenance of the Township Hall as the building is in need of repairs. Dehring questioned whether the Board would consider raising the hall rental fee as the current fee is insufficient.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk