

CALL TO ORDER

The special March 31, 2014 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:15 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustee.

Others Present: Two (2) township residents; no staff; and no members of the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Add item nine under New Business "Approve Hourly and Per Diem Wages".

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

SWMPCC "Bringing the Region Together: GreenTown Michiana 2.0"

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9050 to and including check # 9059 totaling \$1,283.29 as well as Fire Fund check # 5495 to and including check # 5499 totaling \$1,629.10. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

SMCAS Report – Lynn Ferris – not given

SEBCLA Report – Jane Mitchell – not given

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution # 2014-08 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – General Fund

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to approve Resolution # 2014-08 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – General Fund as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Ganus advised that the General Fund realized a 4.97% reduction in revenues; however, the Township cut expenditures by 12.56%. The Fire Fund realized a reduction in special-voted fire millage in the amount of 3.34 percent.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Resolution # 2014-09 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – Fire Fund

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve Resolution # 2014-09 – General Appropriations Act (Budget) – Fire Fund as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Resolution # 2014-10 – Township Investment and Depository Designation

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve Resolution # 2014-10 – Township Investment and Depository Designation as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Fire Budget Amendment

Motion by Ganus, second by Mitchell, to amend the Fire Fund Budget for 2013-2014 to reflect the increase in revenues regarding account # 206-000-501.000 – Federal Grants in the amount of \$123,157 as well as account # 206-000-627.000 – Fire Protection Agreement in the amount of \$2,347.15 for a total increase in revenues of \$125,504.15. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Roads

Mitchell discussed the 1.5 miles road sealcoating provided by the Berrien County Road Commission. At this time the Road Commission is not sure if they will be sealcoating Elm Valley from Boyle Lake Road to W. Clear Lake Road as there are other roads that could warrant a closer look.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to approve approximately 1.5 miles to be sealcoated by the Berrien County Road Commission at an estimated cost of \$25,000 with the actual roads to be determined at a later date. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Mitchell received a request from Niles Charter Township regarding the portion of the roadway from the Recycling Facility entrance at the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority on Chamberlain Road to Rynearson Road (Bertrand Township and Niles Charter Township jurisdiction). Niles Charter Township is requesting that Buchanan Township assist in the cost of this repaving as they feel that the majority of the traffic on this portion of the road is from Buchanan Township residents. Mitchell has sent two emails advising that this would be an illegal expenditure as this roadway is not within the Buchanan Township limits.

Plumbing Bill

The hot water heater in the Township Hall needed to be replaced and the piping reformatted. Hickok Plumbing completed the repair.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to authorize the payment of the invoice submitted by Hickok Plumbing for the hot water heater replacement and replacement piping at a cost of \$1,526.24. Roll call voted showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

SMCAS Amended Articles of Incorporation

Discussion ensued regarding the amendment. Also questioned was whether the Bylaws needed to be amended along with the Articles of Incorporation. Ferris was asked to contact SMCAS Director Tim Gray and request his attendance to a Buchanan Township Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Rivershores Lift Station

Mitchell advised that the City of Buchanan has requisitioned the purchase of a shredder pump for the Rivershores Lift Station at a cost of \$4,500. The City had advised that they have been responding to alarm calls regarding this lift station (due to Swiffer pads being flushed into the system) and in an attempt to slow down the time they are spending there, they (the City Public Works Department) decided to purchase a second shredder pump (the lift station current had one shredder pump and one sump pump). It should be noted that neither the Joint Water / Sewer Board nor the Buchanan Township Board has approved this purchase.

Ganus expressed displeasure at the Township not being consulted regarding this issue prior to the purchase as an expenditure of this amount has to have preapproval. The General Fund cannot subsidize the Sewer Replacement Fund and discussion ensued regarding the potential of a surcharge being added to customers for the repair and replacement of the water and sewer lines as the Sewer Replacement Fund is swiftly dwindling. Mitchell will bring this issue up at the next Joint Water / Sewer Board meeting.

Mitchell advised that township counsel will complete his review of the draft water service agreement and sewer service agreement between Buchanan City and Buchanan Township by mid-April.

Approval of Wages for Hourly / Per Diem

Motion by Ganus, second by Mitchell, to approve the wages for hourly employees, vacation days, as well as per diem amounts for subordinate boards as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lawn mowing RFPs are being accepted through April 1, 2014 for one- and three-year contracts.
- Buchanan Township Firefighters Fish Fry – April 26, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Scott Albright suggest that the Berrien County Road Commission assess which roads could be repaired for the common good of the Township rather than patch a road that needs it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk