

Buchanan Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
April 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The regular April 23, 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 resident, 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 April 9, 2015 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Mario Palmisano commented that exotic animals are addressed in the definitions section of the Buchanan Township Zoning Ordinance.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – February, 2015

The Berrien County Sheriff's Department Sheriff's Report for February, 2015 was reviewed. During that time, 29 complaints were handled, two (2) tickets were issued, and three (3) arrests were made. As of March 31, 2015, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 39 arrests within Berrien County for narcotics-related offenses.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9585 to and including check # 9597 totaling \$1,430.43 as well as Fire Fund check # 5849 to and including check # 5851 totaling \$349.97. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Ganus also presented Board members with the final revenue and expenditure reports for fiscal year ending 03.31.2015. Preliminary (unaudited) figures show the General Fund fund balance increased by \$156,634 and the Fire Fund fund balance increased by \$51,420.

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein

Jesswein reported that both grass rigs were having pump issues; however, they have been repaired and both rigs were placed back into service.

Jesswein also requested the purchase of forestry hose and forestry nozzles for use in forest fires.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of two hundred feet (200') of one-inch (1") forestry hose and two (2) forestry nozzles with costs not to exceed \$800. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Jesswein reported that the Fish Fry went well and was very well attended (over 300 people in attendance).

SEBCL Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker – on file

Cole-Crocker reported that the leachate pumps are still not pumping at the desired level. The lines have been jetted. She also reported that one of the Landfill checking accounts was the victim of fraud via an electronic transaction. The bookkeeper caught the error and the financial institution involved has reimbursed the Landfill for the fraudulent item and they are conducting an investigation.

SMCAS Report – Cathy Ganus – on file

Ganus advised that the SMCAS budget public hearing has been set for 6:50 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2015. The board will also approve the SMCAS Special Assessment (\$20 per parcel) at that time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Exotic Animals Ordinance

Dehring advised that the Planning Commission has discussed the proposed exotic animals ordinance and they have made the recommendation that the Township Board address this issue as a police power ordinance to cover nonconforming dangerous or exotic animals or perhaps allow the County or State to regulate. This item was placed on the table to allow Board members to review the documentation provided by planner Williams & Works regarding the proposed ordinance.

Note Taker – Buchanan Township Planning Commission

Dehring also advised that the Planning Commission has requested that the Township Board allow a note taker to record Planning Commission meetings as it is difficult to take minutes and participate in the meetings.

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to appoint Cathy Ganus as the note taker for the Buchanan Township Planning Commission. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Buchanan Township Building / Facility Assessment rescheduled to Wednesday, April 29, 2015 in the afternoon
- Berrien County Residential Tire Recycling Collection
Berrien County Road Commission – 2860 E. Napier Avenue
April 30, 2015 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. May 1, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

- SMCAS Budget Public Hearing – May 7, 2015 6:50 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Mario Palmisano commented on the 1290 Pleasant Street complaint.

Ganus advised that a request has been received to allow a wedding to be held at Mud Lake Bog in July, 2015. Discussion ensued with the Board determining that this would be an allowable event; however, it should be stressed that there is limited parking, there are no trash receptacles, and the gate would have to be re-locked and the key to the gate returned as soon as the wedding has concluded.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk