

CALL TO ORDER

The regular May 7, 2015 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Clerk Cathy Ganus at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Cathy Ganus, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Lynn Ferris and Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustees.

Members Absent: Malinda Cole-Crocker, Supervisor.

Others Present: No township residents, one (1) staff, one (1) SMCAS staff, and no members of the press.

In the absence of Supervisor Malinda Cole-Crocker, Ganus appointed Trustee Lynn Ferris as chair of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23, 2015 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Added Sheriff's Report to agenda.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – March, 2015

Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Crosby provided the Sheriff's Report for March, 2015. During that time, 31 complaints were handled, no tickets were issued, and no arrests were made. As of April 30, 2015, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 51 arrests for narcotics-related offenses within Berrien County.

CORRESPONDENCE

Berrien County Drain Commission Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Apportionments

The Berrien County Drain Commission has set May 19, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as the Day of Review of drainage district boundaries and apportionments for various drains throughout the Township. The Day of Review is for the purpose of reviewing and revising the boundaries of the various drainage districts and to review the apportionment of benefit for the drain for each parcel and municipality within the drainage district.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to approve General Fund check # 9598 to and including check # 9633 totaling \$16,653.08 as well as Fire Fund check # 5852 to and including check # 5874 totaling \$4,947.01. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Water Sewer Board – Tom VanAntwerp – on file

VanAntwerp advised that the force main serving the SEBC Landfill was installed and paid for by the Landfill and Buchanan Township has no responsibility for this part of the sewer system. Once the force main dumps into the “public outlet” it must have been pretreated appropriately in a way that does not degrade that asset any more than any other Township residents draining to the sewer. VanAntwerp stated that the City regularly monitors and tests this water to insure that it is compliant. Reports show that Landfill levels are well within (and most of the time below) the requirements.

VanAntwerp also stated that the Sewer Use Agreement between the SEBCL, Bertrand Township, and Buchanan Township was reviewed regarding the assessment of surcharges for testing and tracking. The Landfill currently is charged a higher rate than Township residents, which is allowed per the agreement.

Lloyd / Bartus Sewer Hook Up – Buchanan City Residents

VanAntwerp advised that Buchanan City residents Lloyd and Bartus are ready to proceed with the tie-in to the Buchanan Township sewer system at the Rynearson Road Special Assessment District # 3 manhole at the corner of Rynearson Road and Merson Court. VanAntwerp stated that the City of Buchanan will be fronting the money for those residents to tie into the system. Ferris stated he felt that the Lloyd’s and Bartus’ should be customers of the Township for revenue purposes. VanAntwerp advised that the City has requested that they be allowed to pay the Township over a ten-year period. Ganus advised that there were upfront costs (township engineering fees, township attorney fees, etc.) that should be paid at the time of tie-in. Ganus advised that the City previously requested an accounting of the engineering and attorney fees; however, she stated that she was unable to provide that information as it is unknown how much work will need to be done. After much discussion, the general consensus is that the City must pay for any capital outlay (engineering, attorney, etc.); however, the assessment benefit fee in the amount of \$7,983.85 per parcel may be repaid by the City over a period of ten (10) years.

16454 Rynearson Road Water Connection (Shetterly)

Discussion ensued regarding the property owner’s unwillingness to comply with the connection to water services. Township ordinance requires that if a property owner is hooked into public sewer services they must also hook into public water services. Both the former township supervisor as well as Ganus has attempted to contact the homeowner to advise that they must hook in; however, the homeowner has declined to comply with the ordinance. The City is currently charging the homeowner the maximum charge for usage as they have no way of metering water usage to calculate how much is being sent down the public sewer. The City has requested that the Township work with them to enforce both City and Township ordinances regarding this issue. Discussion ensued with the general consensus of the Board being that a letter will be sent to the homeowner allowing thirty (30) days to comply.

Buchanan Township Fire Department Meter Installation

VanAntwerp advised that the City would like the Township to install meters on the lines in the Fire Department bay (which are used for filling fire trucks) for accountability purposes. There was discussion at the JWSB on whether there would be an additional assessment regarding ready-to-serve as the Township Fire Department currently pays one RTS fee. Jesswein expressed displeasure regarding the installation of meters. He advised that the Fire Department conducts training and sometimes water is used for this training. VanAntwerp pointed out that the Agreement for Water Service states that as long as the fire department is a

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Buchanan Township Fire Department Meter Installation (continued)

current user of the system the Township should not be charged for the water used. The general consensus of the Board is that the Fire Department should install meters for water accountability; however, the Fire Department should not have to pay an additional RTS fee.

VanAntwerp suggested that the Township contract with the City to take a look at Township infrastructure as the City is already reviewing their water and sewer infrastructure and costs for this service would be lower as opposed to having a contractor perform this assessment.

Mowing of Grassy Area Behind Fire Station

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to allow Norma Ruggless to mow the grassy area behind the Fire Department as in years past. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Appliance Replacement

The refrigerator in the break room and the stove in the kitchen are in need of replacement. Ganus quoted a nearly brand new stove and refrigerator (less than one year old) from a private party in the amount of \$550.

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of a used stove and refrigerator at a cost not to exceed \$550 from a private party. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Buchanan Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 25, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk