

CALL TO ORDER

The regular May 21, 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 Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustee.

Members Absent: Lynn Ferris, Trustee.

Others Present: No township residents, no 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 special May 7, 2015 SMCAS Public Hearing and the May 7, 2015 regular meeting were approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Michigan Townships Association Due Invoice 07.01.2015 through 06.30.2016

The Michigan Townships Association dues notice was received. There is an overall increase in the amount of \$28.48 from last year.

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the payment of the Michigan Townships Association 2015-2016 annual dues in the amount of \$2,437.52. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

*Michigan Townships Association "Money Matters" & "Budgeting" Workshops
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission "Wetlands Working for your Community" Workshop*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9634 to and including check # 9642 totaling \$5,430.29 as well as Fire Fund check # 5875 to and including check # 5876 totaling \$126.45. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

Unsafe Structures Report – Chris Fuchs

Fuchs went over the unsafe structures listing. His next priority is 1592 E. Elm Valley Road. He advised that he has stopped by the 3512 Little Glendora Road property three (3) times. The homeowner advised that he is having equipment issues with the backhoe and he is aware that the foundation needs to be removed.

Regarding the 1290 Pleasant Street address, the homeowner advised that he is selling the property to the neighbor across the street (Tom Dorn). They have an agreement in principal and have also agreed on a sum. There appeared to be a problem with the death certificate of the homeowner's father and the property was never transferred to Dale Mori. The homeowner was advised that in order to rehab the house there needs to be a working well and septic. There are also issues with the roof.

SEBCLA Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker

The Landfill had conducted the general manager performance/evaluation. He was given a satisfactory review and awarded a 2.2% salary increase effective July 1, 2015. Personnel management was another topic of discussion. The Chair felt that previous boards have shown to be involved in personnel management; however, some board members felt increased involvement from the Board would be micromanagement.

Some years ago the Landfill purchased property along Chamberlain Road. Under that purchase agreement, as the Landfill uses the dirt (for cover) from those properties, the former owners would receive monetary compensation. One of the former owners attended a SEBCL meeting and requested that the Landfill immediately pay the remainder of the debt. The Board agreed to review the contract and investigate further.

SMCAS Report – Cathy Ganus – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lloyd / Bartus Sewer Hook Up – Buchanan City Residents

Ganus advised that while she was meeting with Township counsel regarding another matter, the subject of the Lloyd / Bartus hook up came up. Township counsel disagreed with allowing the City to pay the benefit fee for the Lloyd's and Bartus' over a 10-year period. Discussion ensued and the decision to allow the City to pay over a 10-year period remained.

16454 Rynearson Road Water Connection (Shetterly)

Previously the Township Supervisor was tasked with sending a letter to the homeowner regarding a violation of Buchanan Township ordinance regarding hooking into the public water system. Township counsel will draft a letter to the homeowner giving 30 days to comply with Township ordinance.

Mud Lake Bog Update

Dehring advised that she spoke with Wendy Jones (a naturalist at Fernwood and caretaker of Mud Lake Bog) regarding the request by an individual to hold a wedding this June at the Bog. Jones advised that there is a tree down on the boardwalk area at the Bog; however, there did not appear to be any broken boards. Dehring suggested perhaps the Fire Department could remove the tree and use their chainsaw to cut the tree away from the walking path.

NEW BUSINESS

Antivirus Protection

Ganus has contacted 2nd Look Laptops and has secured a quotation for antivirus protection for five (5) users for a 1 year and 3 year term. One year is \$189 and two years is \$287.

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve the purchase of NOD32 Antivirus – Business Edition from 2nd Look Laptops for a two-year term at a cost of \$287. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Resignation of Joseph Kring

Ordinance Enforcement Officer Joseph Kring has advised that he wishes to retire as of July 31, 2015. Discussion ensued as to whether the Michigan Townships Association possibly has a job board for the posting of openings. Ganus and Cole-Crocker will investigate.

Berrien County Sheriff's Department Police Protection Agreement

Motion by Ganus, second by Cole-Crocker, to approve the Police Protection Agreement with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department (BCSD) in the amount of \$18,482 for police protection during the Red Bud Motocross Nationals event as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Conference

Cole-Crocker advised that Ganus has been nominated as Clerk of the Year through the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC). Ganus advised that it was an honor to have been nominated. Costs for attendance to the MAMC June conference are significant. Ganus advised that she has sought a scholarship from the MAMC in the amount of \$300 to cover the cost of attendance to the conference. She has also sought a scholarship from the Berrien County Clerk's Association to cover conference and travel costs in the amount of \$250. Ganus advised that she has been awarded both scholarships, which amounts to \$550, which will offset conference and travel costs.

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by VanAntwerp, to allow Cathy Ganus to attend the 2015 Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Summer Conference to be held on Mackinac Island, MI June 23-26, 2015 to include hotel, travel, and meal reimbursement. Roll call vote showed the following: Cole-Crocker, yes; VanAntwerp, yes; Janet Dehring, yes; Cathy Ganus, Abstain. Motion carried (3-0-1).

Re-appointments

Motion by Cole-Crocker, second by Dehring, to re-appoint Cathy Ganus to the SMCAS Board for a one-year term; re-appoint Lynn Ferris to the SMCAS Board as alternate for a one-year term; re-appoint Mindy Cole-Crocker to the SEBCL Board for a one-year term; re-appoint Brad Reitz as citizen representative to the SEBCL Board for a one-year term; and re-appoint Thomas VanAntwerp to the Joint Water/Sewer Board for a three-year term. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buchanan City will be hosting a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Mario Palmisano inquired about the status of the failing property on Broceus School Road (Clark property) as well as the status of the exotic animals ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk