

CALL TO ORDER

The regular June 5, 2014 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustee.

Others Present: SMCAS Executive Director Tim Gray; three (3) township residents; no staff; and no members of the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Deputy Ryan Sullivan from the Berrien County Sheriff's Department presented the Sheriff's Report for April, 2014. During that time, 32 complaints were handled, four (4) tickets were issued, and one (1) arrest was made within Buchanan Township. As of May 31, 2014, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 37 arrests within Berrien County.

CORRESPONDENCE

MTA Annual Dues Invoice

Michigan Townships Association dues have decreased by \$17.34 from the previous year.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to approve the payment of 2014-2015 dues to the Michigan Townships Association in the amount of \$2,409.04. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9138 to and including check # 9170 totaling \$21,593.12 as well as Fire Fund check # 5553 to and including check # 5570 totaling \$7,149.21. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein – on file

Due to his conflicting work schedule, Jesswein was unable to attend the meeting.

REPORTS (continued)

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein – on file (continued)

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of replacement life vests for the fire boats not to exceed \$600 and three (3) pair of structural firefighting boots not to exceed \$145 each. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the payment of \$479.04 to SMCAS for an ambulance bill for the transport of Ivan Sierra-Vargas to the hospital from the fire on April 20, 2014. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

SMCAS Report – Cathy Ganus – on file

Ganus provided an update on the Fire/EMS feasibility study. Ric Huff from Niles City has requested an extension on providing copies of minutes/resolutions regarding their acceptance of the grant as it is unclear whether all municipal owners have to provide copies of minutes/resolutions or just Niles City, Buchanan City, Bertrand Township, and SMCAS as they are the one municipalities who took action on the request.

SMCAS Director Tim Gray advised that Ric Huff is in the process of putting out RFP's to four (4) companies who conduct feasibility studies of this nature to ascertain a more realistic cost. It is unclear at this time who (SMCAS or owner municipalities) would be responsible for the amount over the \$25,000 grant.

Ganus advised that the SMCAS Board has requested all member municipalities to provide their thoughts on the Milton Township buy-in. The original buy-in was based on population and the total amount provided by all member municipalities totaled \$50,000. Milton Township would like to trade the building that SMCAS recently renovated (at a cost of approximately \$50,000-\$60,000) as their buy-in amount with no monies changing hands. Ferris suggested that there should be language included that states that Milton Township cannot leave at a later date and receive money. Gray pointed out that SMCAS leases the building from Milton Township for \$1 per year. General consensus of the Board is that this is acceptable. Milton Township currently has a seven (7) year contract.

Gray then provided the Board with the statistics from 2013 and 2012 regarding calls for service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Agreement for Water Service

Agreement for Sewer Service

Mitchell advised that she and VanAntwerp attended the Joint Water and Sewer Board meeting on June 2, 2014. A review of the document ensued. Dehring questioned whether a report could be provided by the City regarding the flushing of hydrants. This item was placed on the table for further dialogue.

RFP for Capital Asset Management Plan

In VanAntwerp's absence, this item was placed on the table.

SEBCL Township Representative Appointment

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to appoint Jane Mitchell to the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority Board (SEBCLA) for a one (1) year term expiring 05.31.2015. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

Amended Articles of Incorporation - SMCAS

SMCAS Executive Director Tim Gray provided an overview of the proposed changes to the SMCAS Article of Incorporation. The Articles were amended by all owner municipalities in 2006; however, the new Articles were never filed with the State of Michigan so they became void. The new Articles are to correct the oversight. The City of Buchanan and Niles Charter Township have already approved the Articles.

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the Southwest Michigan Community Ambulance Service (SMCAS) Amended Articles of Incorporation as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Gray advised that his last day as Executive Director of SMCAS is June 30, 2014; however, the new Executive Director (James 'Brian' Scribner) will begin orientation on June 16, 2014.

Proposed Sewer Connection – Wheatberry Tavern

Mitchell advised that Kevin Barker (owner of Wheatberry Tavern) has presented his plans to the Joint Water and Sewer Board. Mitchell has also informed Barker of the escrow policy and to date no funds have been deposited.

NEW BUSINESS

Red Bud Track & Trail Fireworks Application – July 4-5, 2014

Ganus advised that Mad Bomber Fireworks has once again been retained by Red Bud to put on the fireworks display for the Motocross Nationals. Ganus advised that she has received the proper indemnification agreements from Mad Bomber and Red Bud and has also received the certificate of insurance from Mad Bomber listing Buchanan Township as an additional insured. Ganus also advised that Jesswein has reviewed the application and has given the approval to move forward.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to approve the fireworks application for Red Bud Track and Trail for the fireworks display to be held on July 4, 2014 and July 5, 2014 as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Police Protection Agreement

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to approve the Police Protection Agreement with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department (BCSD) in the amount of \$18,680 for police protection during the Red Bud Motocross Nationals event as presented. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

Items for Disposal / Sale

Ganus provided the Board with a listing of items that have been sitting in the old fire bay that need disposal or sold. A check with the Michigan Townships Association has been completed and this is allowable

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to appoint Cathy Ganus to facilitate the disposal of items as well as items for sale at fair market value. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dehring questioned where the Building Department was in the dangerous buildings process.

Township resident Mario Palmisano addressed the Board regarding traffic issues on Red Bud Trail regarding the entrance to Red Bud Track and Trail. Palmisano stated that people were parking on the side of the road in the no parking zone and causing traffic hazards and he has videotaped them. He stated the people were told by the police and Red Bud staff to move along and they then went down Indian Springs Road with their trucks and trailers. He went on to state that he used his vehicle to block Indian Springs Road because Indian Springs Road is a private easement and people were now blocking areas along Indian Springs Road and upsetting property owners along Indian Springs Road. Mitchell will make contact with Red Bud Track and Trail.

Township resident Scott Albright requested Mitchell to ask Red Bud officials not to hold sound checks of their P.A. system at 6:45 a.m. as they had previously agreed to wait until 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk