

CALL TO ORDER

The regular August 7, 2014 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Clerk Cathy Ganus at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Jane Mitchell, Supervisor.

Others Present: Kevin Barker, Wheatberry Tavern owner; Jason Williams, Buchanan City Wastewater employee; 17 township residents; no staff; and no members of the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by those in attendance.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Supervisor Jane Mitchell, Ganus appointed Trustee Lynn Ferris to chair the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 24, 2014 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Addition of Sheriff's Report.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Deputy Angie Baggett and Deputy Ryan Sullivan from the Berrien County Sheriff's Department presented the Sheriff's Report for June, 2014. During that time, 48 complaints were worked, three (3) tickets were issued, and no arrests were made. As of July 31, 2014, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 55 arrests for narcotic offenses within Berrien County.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joint Water/Sewer Board Correspondence – Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences– Oxidation Ditch

VanAntwerp reported that the City of Buchanan is engaging the services of an engineering company to complete a preliminary study for the upgrade to the existing activated sludge process on a piece of property adjacent to the current waste water treatment plant in order to become more operationally efficient and better serve the current needs of its customers. Buchanan City Waste Water employee Jason Williams stated the current system is 40+ years old. The new oxidation ditch would be located up the hill from the existing ditch.

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

Michigan Townships Association "Perfectly Legal: Disclosure & Lawful Expenditures"

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve the attendance of any Township Board member to the Michigan Townships Associations seminar "Perfectly Legal: Disclosure & Lawful Expenditures" held on September 18, 2014 in Battle Creek at a cost of \$79 per person including mileage reimbursement. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to approve General Fund check # 9225 to and including check # 9265 totaling \$21,684.07 as well as Fire Fund check # 5622 to and including check # 5635 totaling \$3,737.43. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report - Tim Jesswein - on file

In the absence of Tim Jesswein, Ganus presented a purchase request on behalf of the Fire Department. Bertrand Township Fire Department has a new SCBA / hose storage rack they won at the convention that they have no use for. Bertrand Township has offered to sell it to BTFD at a cost of \$350 (new price is \$600-\$700).

Motion by Ferris, second by VanAntwerp, to approve the purchase of a new SCBA/hose storage rack from Bertrand Township Fire Department in the amount of \$350. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Draft Agreement - Private Sanitary Sewer Easement - Wheatberry Tavern

In the absence of Township Supervisor Jane Mitchell, this item was placed on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Review Alternate Appointment

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ferris, to appoint Ann Knapick as an alternate to the Board of Review to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of Brian Dinneen which expires January 1, 2015. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

Planning Commission Appointment

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to re-appoint Dennis Wentworth to the Buchanan Township Planning Commission for a three (3) year term expiring August 7, 2017. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

Joint Water/Sewer Board Appointment

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to appoint Thomas VanAntwerp to the Joint Water/Sewer Board as the Buchanan Township Board representative to fulfill the remainder of Jane Mitchell's term expiring June 30, 2015. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Supervisor Candidates

The following candidates for the Township Supervisor vacancy were interviewed by the Board of Trustees:

Eugene Casto
Malinda Cole-Crocker
Paul Grandholm

Each candidate was asked the following eight questions:

1. Please tell us about yourself.
2. How long have you been a Township resident?
3. What attracted you to the position of Township Supervisor?
4. The position of Township Supervisor will require a commitment of time. Do you have the time for fulfill the duties of Township Supervisor?
5. What is your perspective on the role and duties of Township Supervisor?
6. What qualities do you possess that would make you a good leader?
7. Have you received the listing of the core competencies for Township Supervisor? Have you read them, understood them, and do you have any questions?
8. As Township Supervisor, how would you manage the property assessment function of the Township?

[*Dehring arrives at 7:32 p.m.]

Rubrics were provided to each Board member prior to the interview process where each candidate was rated based on several criteria.

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to appoint Malinda Cole-Crocker as Township Supervisor to fulfill the remainder of Jane Mitchell's term, which expires November, 2016. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Buchanan Township Zoning Board of Appeals meeting – Monday, August 18, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.
Timothy Mosier variance for relief of front yard setback requirements
Padnos variance for relief of side yard setback requirements

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Mario Palmisano commented that he has received complaints on his Facebook page regarding trash being left at the Madron Lake Boat Launch area and suggested that the Township install refuse cans to keep the area clean. Palmisano also stated that there have been people observed to be using the restroom in that area as well. It should be noted that there are no portable toilets in the area. This information will be forwarded to the supervisor for her information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk