

CALL TO ORDER

The regular October 16, 2014 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, Trustee.

Members Absent: Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustee.

Others Present: Two (2) 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 October 2, 2014 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

SMCAS Report was added under Reports.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – August, 2014

The Berrien County Sheriff's Department Sheriff's Report was presented for the month of August, 2014. During that time, 53 complaints were handled, three (3) tickets were issued, and one (1) arrest was made. The Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 61 arrests for narcotics offenses within Berrien County as of September 30, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Planning Commission Resignation – Timothy L. Gray (term expiring 03.12.2015)

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to accept with regret the resignation of Timothy L. Gray from the Buchanan Township Planning Commission effective immediately. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 9341 to and including check # 9351 totaling \$25,341.90 as well as Fire Fund check # 5690 to and including check # 5697 totaling \$1,633.50. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – Tim Jesswein

Motion by Ganus, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of ten (10) Streamlight flashlights for Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$382.89. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (4-0).

SEBCLA Report – Mindy Cole-Crocker – on file

Cole-Crocker provided an update on the SEBCLA meeting on October 16, 2014. She reported that the Chamberlain Road resurfacing project has been completed under budget. She also updated the Board on approved operation equipment purchases as well as a new health insurance program for Landfill employees, which replaces the previous Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance policy. The Landfill has also approved paying off the consolidation loan (which financed the newest cell) which will result in the savings of over \$12,000 in interest with the Landfill possibly receiving a reduced finance charge for the renewal of the line of credit.

SMCAS REPORT – Cathy Ganus – on file

Ganus reported on the October 16, 2014 SMCAS meeting. There were questions as to who owned the MERS (Michigan Employment Retirement Systems) pension debt, which SMCAS had enrolled in approximately one year previously. This debt is in the amount of approximately \$450,000. There were questions from other municipalities on how one member from the municipality could approve the debt without the matter being brought before all owner municipalities. Per MERS, SMCAS specifically owns the debt. MERS advised that should SMCAS fold, the assets would be monetized and the remainder of the debt would be assumed by the owner municipalities. If SMCAS were to step away from MERS, SMCAS would have to “super fund” the debt, which would double the amount that is currently owed. SMCAS has been remitting twice the payment to fund this debt and it appears as though the debt will be paid off in approximately seven (7) years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Padnos Special Land Use Permit Request

Cole-Crocker advised that in speaking with Township counsel, he suggested that the Padnos property combination be completed prior to final approval of the SLUP request. Cole-Crocker has spoken with Keith Noblett, who advised he would see that this is completed and proof of combination sent to the Township for confirmation. She also reported that Township counsel felt that the conditions to be imposed were too broad and township counsel will be present at the November 6, 2014 meeting to assist with the SLUP approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Buchanan City Resident Request to Hook In to Rynearson SAD

The City of Buchanan has requested that the Township revisit the idea of two (2) City of Buchanan residents’ hooking in to the Township sewer line at the Merson Court main. This is the Special Assessment District # 3 project in which the residents of Buchanan Township within the Rynearson Road and surrounding areas have paid special assessments. In light of Township counsel being present at the November 6, 2014 regular meeting and in the absence of Trustee Thomas VanAntwerp (Joint Water/Sewer Board representative), this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Buchanan Township Firefighters Fish Fry – Saturday, October 25, 2015
- Trick or Treat – Friday, October 31, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk