

CALL TO ORDER

The regular January 22, 2013 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Clerk Cathy Ganus at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Cathy Ganus, Clerk; Janet Dehring, Treasurer; and Thomas VanAntwerp, Trustee.

Members Absent: Jane Mitchell, Supervisor; and Lynn Ferris, Trustee.

Others Present: One (1) resident, no staff, and no members of the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR MEETING

In the absence of Supervisor Jane Mitchell, Ganus appointed Treasurer Janet Dehring to chair the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2013 regular meeting were approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Change item 2 under New Business to Custodian Resignation.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dehring presented the November, 2012 Sheriff's Report. During this time, 38 complaints were handled, 15 tickets were issued, and no arrests were made within Buchanan Township. As of December 31, 2012, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 194 arrests within Berrien County.

CORRESPONDENCE

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) – NATS Invoice

An invoice was received from the SWMPC regarding the Niles Area Transportation Study (NATS) FHWA Local funding match for FY 2013 and the FTA local funding match for FY 2013 in the amount of \$1,557. Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of continuing to participate in this program. VanAntwerp to send an email to SWMPC to inquire the purpose/benefits of continued membership in NATS.

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission invoice in the amount of \$1,557 for the Niles Area Transportation Study (NATS) FHWA local funding match and FTA local funding match for FY 2013. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

Devereaux Sawmill Request

Devereaux Sawmill has expressed an interest in some mature trees in the Township's wooded acreage. Discussion ensued with the general consensus of the Board that the Township is not interested in the harvesting of trees on township-owned property.

Berrien County Drain Commission Meeting

Berrien County Drain Commissioner Roger Zilke is holding an informational session to give a brief overview of the duties and responsibilities of the drain commissioner's office as it applies to the county, cities, townships, villages, and private properties for the care and maintenance of county drains and the application of MDEQ-required Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Permits. The informational workshop is set for February 5, 2013 from 8:45 am to 1 pm at the Lake Charter Township Hall. It should be noted that the Berrien County Road Commission Township Annual Meeting has been set for the same day at 9 am.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 8508 to and including check # 8519 totaling \$4,309.21 as well as Fire Fund check # 5172 to and including check # 5179 totaling \$2,692.95. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report - Tim Jesswein

Ganus reported that Jesswein has requested approval for up to three (3) firefighters to attend the SMCAS-taught EMT class at a reduced rate of \$300 per person (normal rate \$800 per person). Board discussion ensued and a motion was made; however, the motion was withdrawn to allow for full board deliberation.

SMCAS Report - Lynn Ferris - on file

SEBCL Report - Cathy Ganus

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board of Review Training Update

Due to a delay in submitting payment to the MTA for the February, 2013 Board of Review Training, the Township incurred an additional fee of \$40 (\$20 per person) as they deadline for the early bird rate had passed.

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to approve the additional expense of \$40 for the Michigan Townships Association February, 2013 Board of Review Training. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Tax Collection - LMC, RESA, Buchanan Schools

Each year Lake Michigan College (LMC), Berrien Regional Service Agency (RESA), and Buchanan Schools pass a resolution to allow the Township to collect taxes on their behalf.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Summer Tax Collection – LMC, RESA, Buchanan Schools (continued)

Motion by Ganus, second by VanAntwerp, to allow Treasurer Janet Dehring to negotiate a per parcel fee for the collection of summer school taxes for Lake Michigan College (LMC), Berrien Regional Service Agency (RESA), and Buchanan Schools. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

Custodian Resignation

Ganus advised that custodian David Ganus has submitted his resignation effective January 25, 2013.

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to accept the resignation of custodian David Ganus effective January 25, 2013. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

Deputy Treasurer

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to allow Deputy Treasurer Tina Darnell to assume the duties of township secretary in addition to the statutory duties of the office of deputy treasurer retroactive to January 1, 2013 pending contact with the Michigan Townships Association for affirmation. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (3-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Resident Mario Palmisano advised that he is creating his own independent Facebook page so that he can post information about Buchanan Township. He also advised the Board that he will be videotaping the Township Board meetings and posting them to his Facebook page.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk