

CALL TO ORDER

The regular May 2, 2013 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:00 pm.

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

Members Absent: None.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 16, 2013 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – MARCH, 2013

Deputy Chad Frantz and Deputy Matt Page presented the Sheriff's Report for March, 2013. During that time, 29 complaints were handled, four tickets were issued, and one arrest was made within Buchanan Township. As of April 30, 2013, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit has made 54 arrests for narcotic offenses within Berrien County.

[Dehring arrives at 7:04 pm.]

CORRESPONDENCE

Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission – Part II – Community Conversation on Climate – May 8, 2013
Michigan Townships Association – Professional Development Retreats
Michigan Townships Association – On The Road – Spring 2013 Regional Meetings

Michigan Townships Association – Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to approve the attendance of any Planning Commission member, Zoning Board of Appeals member, Township Board member, ordinance enforcement officer, or building inspector to the Michigan Townships Associations *Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning* to be held on Friday, June 28, 2013 from noon to 4 pm at a cost of \$79 per person plus mileage. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 8625 to and including check # 8668 totaling \$17,112.25 as well as Fire Fund check # 5251 to and including check # 5259 totaling \$2,349.98. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report – on file

Jesswein reported the Fire Department has been awarded a grant from FEMA for the purchase of new air packs. The Township's match for this grant is five percent (5%).

Motion by Dehring, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of a chest freezer from Lowe's at a cost not to exceed \$850. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

SEBCL Report – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution # 2013-11 – Resolution of Adoption – Berrien County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion by Van Antwerp, second by Ganus, to adopt Resolution # 2013-11 – Resolution of Adoption – Berrien County Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Abandoned / Unoccupied Structures

Dehring provided a copy of the ordinance used by Niles Charter Township in regards to abandoned or unoccupied structures. There is a growing presence of such structures within the Township and Dehring felt the Township should begin looking at ways to address this issue.

Motion by Dehring, second by VanAntwerp, to seek assistance from Township counsel regarding abandoned / unoccupied structures within the Township. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Chamberlain Road Cross Road Culvert Replacement

Mitchell was advised by the Berrien County Road Commission that a cross road culvert on Chamberlain Road ¼ mile east of Bakertown Road (near 3045 Chamberlain Road) needs to be replaced. Since this road is in both Buchanan and Bertrand Townships, the Road Commission is suggesting using matching funds or by Buchanan Township paying 25% and Bertrand Township paying 25% with the Road Commission paying 50%.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to approve option two of the Chamberlain Road cross road culvert replacement proposal on a 25% cost sharing with Bertrand Township on an accounts payable basis contingent upon Bertrand Township's acceptance of the proposal. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Quotation for Waxing Township Hall & Fire Department Floors

A quotation has been obtained from Niles Janitor Supply, Inc. for the stripping, sealing, and waxing of the floors in the Township Hall meeting room as well as the Fire Department.

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve the quotation from Niles Janitor Supply, Inc. for the stripping, sealing, and waxing of the floors in the Township Hall meeting room at a cost of \$350 and the Fire Department at a cost of \$495. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Special Election – May 7, 2013 – Buchanan Community Schools – Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm
- SMCAS Public Hearing – May 16, 2013 – 6:50 pm
- Berrien County Drain Commission – Board of Determination – Clear Lake Drain - May 29, 2013 – 10 am

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ferris inquired as to what action the Planning Commission took regarding the signage issue Township resident Mario Palmisano raised at the last Township Board meeting. Ganus advised that Palmisano had brought the issue up during the citizen comments portion of the Planning Commission meeting; however, the issue was not on the agenda so it could not be addressed at that time.

Palmisano also advised of an erosion problem occurring at his driveway and inquired if Red Bud Trail has been scheduled for any road maintenance. No maintenance has been scheduled to date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk