

CALL TO ORDER

The regular May 16, 2013 meeting of the Buchanan Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Jane Mitchell at 7:05 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, no staff, and no members of the press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 2, 2013 regular meeting was approved as presented.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Berrien County Treasurer – Foreclosure Properties within Buchanan Township (first right of rescission)

Five properties within Buchanan Township have been foreclosed upon by Berrien County under Act 123. The Township has the right to purchase them before the public does for public use for minimum bid. There was no interest at the Township Board level to purchase these properties.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dehring, second by Ganus, to approve General Fund check # 8669 to and including check # 8678 totaling \$5,049.10 as well as Fire Fund check # 5260 to and including check # 5264 totaling \$1,220.77. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

REPORTS

Fire Report

Jesswein previously reported that the Fire Department has been awarded a grant from FEMA for the purchase of 21 new self-contained breathing apparatus. The Township's match for this grant is five percent (5%), which equates to \$6,481.

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to approve the 5% matching payment for the FEMA grant to purchase 21 new self-contained breathing apparatus. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

SEBCL Report – on file

SMCAS Report – on file

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Computer Purchase

Motion by VanAntwerp, second by Ferris, to approve the purchase of a Dell OptiPlex 3010 computer from 2nd Look Laptops for the Treasurer's Office at a cost of \$1,197.90. Roll call vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Mowing of Field Behind Fire Department

Motion by Mitchell, second by Dehring, to allow Township resident Norma Ruggless to mow the field behind the Fire Station as in years past. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Reappointment of SMCAS Representative & Alternate - 1 Year Term

Motion by Ganus, second by Dehring, to re-appoint Lynn Ferris as SMCAS representative and Jane Mitchell as alternate for a one (1) year term. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Reappointment of SEBCLA Representative - 1 Year Term

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to re-appoint Jane Mitchell and Cathy Ganus to the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Authority Board for a one (1) year term. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Reappointment of Joint Water/Sewer Board Representative - Thomas Gordon - 3 Year Term

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ganus, to re-appoint Township resident Thomas Gordon to the Joint Water/Sewer Board for a three (3) year term expiring 06.30.2016. Voice vote showed unanimous approval, motion carried (5-0).

Ernest Hildebrand Mining Extension Request

Ernest Hildebrand's special use permit for his property located on N. Red Bud Trail expired on June 4, 2012. Mr. Hildebrand did not seek an extension for the special use permit prior to expiration as prescribed in the original special use permit application that was approved in 1996. In September, 2012, Mr. Hildebrand sought the extension. Ganus and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Joseph Kring contacted Planner Jay Kilpatrick from Williams & Works to inquire as to whether the extension could be granted since the permit had expired. Hildebrand has met with Township staff on numerous occasions and he was advised of the process and ordinance requirements to renew his application. Hildebrand requested relief from the zoning ordinance requirements and was again advised of the process to renew his special use permit.

On October 4, 2012, the Board of Trustees resolved to allow Ernest Hildebrand an exemption for a one-year period for the removal of stockpiled material from the date of the special use permit approval (June 4th) with the exemption expiring June 4, 2013. Hildebrand submitted a request for a two-month extension on 05.16.2013.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Ernest Hildebrand Mining Extension Request (continued)

Motion by Mitchell, second by Ferris, to grant a two-month extension to Ernest Hildebrand for the removal of stockpiled material from the special use permit area on N. Red Bud Trail to expire August 4, 2013. Roll call vote showed the following: Mitchell, yes; Ferris, yes; Dehring, no; VanAntwerp, no; and Ganus, no. Motion defeated (2-3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Berrien County Drain Commission – Board of Determination – Clear Lake Drain - May 29, 2013 – 10 am

CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Township resident Mario Palmisano commended the Board on making the correct decision on the gravel removal issue. He also inquired as to the status of his request for review of the sign ordinance by the Planning Commission. Ganus advised she had passed his contact information on to the chair of the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Cathy A. Ganus
Buchanan Township Clerk