

**Bertrand Charter Township Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024**

Bertrand Charter Township Hall
3835 Buffalo Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107

Supervisor Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Hicks, Kring (arrived 7:23 p.m.), Kuhn, Loveing, Payton, White, Zelmer

Member Absent: None

Special Guests: District Court Judge Candidate Albert Mais, Berrien County prosecutor Amy Byrd

Consent Agenda *(see attachments)*

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Loveing to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- Added Item #7 Blight-US 12 & Redbud Trail
- Accounts Payable for the period 08/09/24-09/12/24 as presented:

Total General Fund Expenses	\$136,546.44
Total Fire Dept. Fund Expenses	\$10,685.30
Total WRT Fund Expenses	\$155.73
Total Expenses	<u>\$147,387.47</u>

- Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2024

General Fund	\$1,763,429.20
Total Fire Dept. Fund	\$839,327.01
Total WRT Fund	\$1,946.67
Total Building Fund	\$99,375.43
Total Fund Assets	<u>\$2,704,078.31</u>

- Budget Amendment *(see attachment)*

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

Reports:

Sheriff's Department *(none provided and no one from Sheriff's Department present.)*

Fire Department *(on file)*

Chief Knisely submitted the August 2024, monthly Fire Department report. Shared details concerning the upcoming 75th Anniversary Event on September 14th, as well as the implementation of the ICS System.

SMCAS *(on file)* In addition, Jerry White gave a verbal report and answered questions from the Board.

SE Berrien County Landfill *(on file)* Trustee Zelmer reported the tons per day were down and the new cell is operational.

Planning Commission: No meeting this month.

NATS *(on file)* In addition, Trustee Payton explained the Carbon Reduction Program Plan.

Public Comments: Supervisor Hicks called for public comments at this time due to the Board's desire to grant attendees time to speak without waiting until the conclusion of New Business. Albert Mais, District Court Judge Candidate shared his experiences and desire to be elected. John Yerington, supported by Bob Thomas of Michiana Aggregate expressed his frustration concerning mining permits. A proposal had been submitted several months earlier. They would like to meet with the Planning Commission either in October or November. Amy Byrd, Berrien County prosecutor, shared her desire to be reelected this November.

Unfinished Business- None.

New Business

1. BTFD Revised Pumper Contract

Motion made by Kring, seconded by Payton, to accept new amount of \$919,365.00 for Pumper Contract.

Discussion: Fire Chief Knisely explained the first contract overlooked several safety issues which needed to be addressed. Questions were asked by the Board.

Roll call vote: **Ayes:** Hicks, Kring, Kuhn, Loveing, Payton, White **Nayes:** Zelmer **Carried 6-1**

2. SMCAS Millage Rate_L_4029

Discussion: Treasure Kuhn suggested the millage rate be the full 0.25 amount, so the account has some cushion to prepare for increases or unexpected capital expenses.

Motion made by Kring, seconded by White to collect .25 mills (\$52,034.60) for the 2024/25 taxable year.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

Roll call vote: **Ayes:** Hicks, Kring, Kuhn, Loveing, Payton, White **Nayes:** Zelmer **Carried 6-1**

3. Berrien county Eagle View Connect Program

Discussion: Angie Story, the Township Assessor, recommended the Township buy-in and gain access to an aerial imagery platform. Questions concerning who would benefit from the platform and how often the imagery is updated were asked.

Motion made by Payton, seconded by Kuhn to approve \$1600 for the Berrien County Eagle View Connect Program as part of a six-year contract. After Discussion, motions were withdrawn, and item was tabled until next month so more information could be obtained.

4. 2024 MRPP Grant Resolution

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Kring to adopt Resolution 240912A to approve Fall 2024 Risk Reduction Grant application.

Discussion: Supervisor Hicks wrote a grant for a generator for the Township Hall to provide a reduction in risk and liability. Wolverine provided a quote for \$12,454.91. The grant would provide \$5,000 towards the cost of the generator, concrete pad, permits, and installation.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Bertrand Industrial Park Lighting SAD

Discussion: Explanation given to Treasurer Kuhn concerning Resolution 240411E. Cost estimates were clarified.

6. Election Emergency Response Plan

Discussion: Supervisor Hicks provided a draft of the Bertrand Charter Township Election Emergency Response Plan. Clerk White received input from the Board concerning persons to contact if an emergency does occur shortly before or during an election. Options for transport vehicles and secondary locations were discussed.

Motion made by Zelmer, seconded by Payton to approve draft of Election Emergency Response Plan.

Voice vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Blight-US12 & Redbud Trail

Discussion: Concern is growing over the blight issue for parcel 11-05-0003-0003-09-06 located on US 12. The township has spent taxpayer money to reduce the blight.

Motion made by Hicks, seconded by Zelmer to approve Treasurer Kuhn to access and place the amount previously spent to reduce blight on parcel 11-05-0003-0003-09-06 on the tax bill.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion: Blight on parcel 11-05-0003-0003-09-06 has not been completely addressed. Three bids for completing the removal of the soil over the pool and finishing the hole were presented.

Motion made by Kring, seconded by Payton to accept the bid from Deerpath Excavating Inc. for \$4200.00 which would demo parcel 11-05-0003-0003-09-06's pool that was filled with dirt; remove dirt and haul away metal sidewalls, liner and concrete walls and place dirt back into hole.

Roll call vote: **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comments- Gail Borland of 1045 Joliet, Niles, MI shared a couple of situations concerning her neighbors. She expressed a continued desire to be of service to this community.

Board Member Comments: Clerk White shared the Public Accuracy Test would take place Thursday, September 26, 2024, at Noon barring any delay in receipt of ballots.

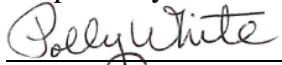
Communications: None

Miscellaneous / Announcements / Schedule

The next township board meeting will be Thursday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Polly White

Bertrand Township Clerk

September 12, 2024

Date



Stephen Hicks

Supervisor

September 12, 2024

Date