

**BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 8, 2017**

The Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall. Supervisor Bryan Bixby called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge to the flag.

Members present: Supervisor Bryan Bixby, Treasurer Paul Sprung, Trustees Julie Burke, Howard Henderson, Jeff Marks, Harold Bishop and Clerk Mary Jane Dean.

Also present: Deputy Julius Grau, Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr., Building Inspector Ross Rogien, Deputy from the Sheriff Dept. Oronoko Supervisor Mike Hildebrand, Caretakers Kim and Bill Fisher, Reporter Mary Simko and two residents.

SHERIFF REPORT:

The Sheriff report for the month of June 2017 showed that the Township had 47 complaints, 7 tickets were issued and no arrests were made. The County had 1471 complaints, 304 tickets were issued and 183 arrests were made.

AUDITORS REPORT:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Mary Jane Dean to accept the auditor's report prepared by Gerbel & Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AGENDA:

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the agenda. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to approve the July 11, 2017 minutes. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the township bills with the additional bill for the tree removal at the park for an amount of \$500.00 making the total bills in the amount of \$48,661.09 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FIRE BILLS:

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$40,170.38 with the Township share of \$24,033.90 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

JONES RD.:

Supervisor reported that he is checking about getting speed limit signs for Jones Rd. the recommended speed limit is 25 mph but not mandated. The company that was to apply gravel to Jones Rd. is busy with State projects so we don't know when they will get to Jones Rd.

UNION CHURCH:

The steeple still needs to be painted and the shutters finished.

BERRIEN CENTER/DEANS HILL:

The County is to do a study about the speed limit on Deans Hill Rd. that runs through Berrien Center.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

Supervisor stated that holes have been dug and the first post is in.

BRANDING FOR BERRIEN SPRINGS:

Oronoko Township Supervisor Mike Hildebrand presented a proposal asking the Township to help fund a marketing campaign that he thought would help the entire 49103 community area... We need more people, new businesses and lodging. This idea arrived from community

roundtable committee which included Berrien Springs School Superintendent Dave Eichberg, Berrien RESA Superintendent Kevin Ivers, Honor Credit Union CEO Scott McFarland, Andrews University President Andrea Luxton and Mike Hildebrand. The campaign would be developed with the help from Midwest Family Broadcasting which would cost \$20,000.00. Oronoko Township has approved \$5,000.00 for their share, Berrien Springs Village will be asked for \$5,000.00, Berrien Township \$5,000.00 and the remainder would come from private donors. The Board will discuss the proposal at next month's meeting.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Carl reported that the Dept. had 13 calls of which 11 were in the Township for a labor cost of \$1,185.00. The Dept. participated in the Tribels Fun Mud Run. The Dept. will be working traffic control at the Niles Burn Run. They will be training with Sister Lakes Fire Dept. for helicopter rescue.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building Inspector Rogien reported that estimated building amount for the month of July was \$69,657.00. Ross reported that a hearing was held on July 24 here at the hall for the house located at 10447 Jones Rd. in regards of the poor condition. Jim Furkis gave the seven siblings 60 days to come up with a plan. They have the option to appeal to the Board. There is a lien on the house.

ROADS:

Snyder Rd. and Jones Rd. corner is completed it was widened and the knob was removed. Waiting to grind up Daniel Boone Trail several roads are waiting for chip and seal. The State is putting in a new tube at Lake and M-140. The County is still deciding about taking over the Road Commission.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Julius reported that he had gone to a Berrien Road Commission meeting being opposed to reducing red arrow from Bridgeman to New Buffalo from 4 lanes to 2 when they resurface.

CEMETERY:

Clerk Dean reported that there had been one burial since last meeting. She has been working with St. Joe Monument and they have scheduled working on the markers at Franklin Cemetery the week after Labor Day.

PARK REPORT:

Caretakers Bill and Kim Fisher reported that graffiti had been spray painted on several trees on July 18 which they took paint to cover over it. July 30 it was discovered that a few trees, 2 picnic tables, the whole ledge and side walls of pavilion 2 and on the sidewalk had been sprayed again. The gate is being locked again.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Revenue for July was \$61,127.92 with expenses at \$36,669.67. Townships current assets are \$799,503.39 (\$679,645.92 for 2016).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tricia Wasy presented to the Board some updates to some questions that have been asked about Medical Marihuana. She has been contacting people to see if they want to come to a meeting. This act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR