

Board of Trustees-12/12/17

BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES DECEMBER 12, 2017 MINUTES

The Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 12, 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 Supervisor Julius Grau, Building Inspector Ross Rogien, Berrien County Sheriff Lt. Robert Mazurek, reporter Mary Simko and Berrien County Commissioner Jon Hinkelman.

SHERIFF REPORT:

The Township had 58 complaints, 3 tickets were issued and 2 arrests were made for the month of October. Berrien County had 1210 complaints, 187 tickets were issued and 178 arrests were made.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT;

Jon Hinkelman reported that they are looking at the applications cutting down to 5 for the new position for the road department. If anyone has a complaint they can go to the Berrien County website it will help you file a complaint. The old jail will be remodeled rather build a new one that will last another 20 yrs.

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES;

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the November 14, 2017 minutes as presented. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TOWNSHIP BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the township bills with one correction Check #22272 was for Angela Story for assessor salary \$1,309.36 (not an reimbursement for wireless adaptor). The amount approved was \$42,387.68. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FIRE BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$ 5479.66 with the Township share of \$3,539.86 for payment. The Amazon bill was for labor law poster in the amount of \$49.98. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DEANS HILL SPEED LIMIT:

Previously the speed limit for the portion of Deans Hill Rd. that goes through the Village of Berrien Center was discussed. In the past it had been posted 25mph (supposedly it was supposed to be 35mph) which has been changed to 45mph residents has been concerned about the increased speed for the children in the area. It was decided to prepare a resolution to petition the Berrien County Road Dept.

MYERS PROPERTY:

Ross Rogien reported that a contractor who wants to remodel the house may buy it from the bank. If he can't buy it we may have to condemn the house. Mrs. Myers passed away about 2 yrs. ago and no one has lived in it since. Anyone that wants to attempt to do repairs would need to be a contractor.

BROWN HOUSE:

Ross Rogien reported that the new owner has contacted him and plans on doing repairs this next spring.

SPECIAL USE: 11-04-0010-0020-01-1

A special use request was received from Teresa Palmer for an antique, gift shop located at 7493 Deans Hill Rd. (old post office). The hours would be Wednesday - Saturday 10-5 and Sundays 12-4. Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Mary Jane Dean to approve the special use as recommended by the Planning Commission. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

SPECIAL USE: 11-04-0029-0002-01-3

The Planning Commission received a special use request from Hidden Vineyards 6337 Snyder Rd. owners Greg and Kaye Fenner. The request was to remodel or build a new building for their business's Fenner Plumbing, Fenner Homes, GK real Estate and Hidden Vineyard Wedding Barn so there would be an office to meet brides in the winter at the site. The Planning Commission decided during the public hearing that an additional special use wouldn't be necessary. Therefore the Township Board took no action for the request as the Planning Commission recommendation was a second special use request wasn't necessary.

KOTANKO:

Supervisor stated under the advice of township attorney he should bring the Board up to date on the Kotanko issue. On Dec. 2, 2015 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Kotanko asked the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance of 300.404 as they would like to continue to live in their camping trailer on their property at 10181 Painter School Rd. as they have for the last 2 years. He had contacted the electric and was told he could run his electric from his neighbor's house. They were trying to save money to build a home. The request was denied. See ZBA Dec. 2, 2015 minutes for more details. Citations have been issued by Zoning Administrator Ross Rogien since then the Judge has ordered that everything on the property to be removed by Dec. 20, 2017. If Kotanko's don't have everything removed the Township has been told to remove the items.

DECEMBER APPOINTMENTS:

Supervisor Bixby presented the following appointments:

Planning Commission	Karen O'Dell
	Ron Harner
	Chris Sills
Zoning Board of Appeals	Ron Harner
Library	Carol Halgren

Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to approve the appointments as presented by the Supervisor. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FIRE REPORT:

Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr. presented the fire report for a labor cost of \$1,333.00 for the month of November.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building Inspector Ross Rogien reported he had issued (9) building permits for an estimated amount of \$278,315.00 for the month of November. Electrical Inspector Ken Simpson issued (4) electrical permits for a fee of \$513.00.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

No meeting next meeting will be in January.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Revenue for the month of November was \$81,265.12 with April through Nov. at \$343,060.61 making it 54.21% of the budget. The expenses for Nov. were \$17,611.94 with April through Nov. at \$411,201.19 making it 64.98% of the budget.

The road committee will meet on Monday, Dec. 18 at 4:00 p.m.

The finance committee will meet on January 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR