

OCTOBER 10, 2017 MINUTES

The Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, October 10, 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, Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr. reporter Mary Simko, Heidi Miller, 11 residents, candidate for 78th District State Representative David Mann and manager.

AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug O'Dell introduced himself as a representative for residents of Windy Acres. He stated that they had a meeting and would like to have their private road paved. This will be discussed more later in the meeting.

MINUTES:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to approve the September 12, 2017 minutes. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the township bills in the amount of \$101,168.77 (Medic I \$7,308.25, roads \$61,560.81, GBSRD \$12,500.00 & final payment for Church painting \$3,250.00 extra costs for the month). All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FIRE BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$9,863.07 which includes the township share of \$6,371.54 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

UNION CHURCH:

Supervisor reported that Union Church painting has been completed. Since the church looks so nice now the steps look rather bad. Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Mary Jane Dean to authorize Victor Painting to paint both set of steps for the amount of \$480.00 which includes the paint and labor. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BRANDING FOR BERRIEN SPRINGS AREA:

Supervisor stated that he thought it would be a good idea if the township joined in on this campaign. Resident Jeff Levy has a business in Berrien Springs and felt the money could be put to a better use in the township like for road improvements or parks. The general opinion was it would be nice to see a plan. Scott McFarland stated that the \$5,000.00 is needed to get established. Berrien Springs is part of Cornerstone Alliance hopefully they will help. The idea of working with radio station was to get things started to get people to stop in Berrien Springs. Jeff Levy felt business members should get involved. What is the investment for Berrien Township in the end to help get people to come to Berrien Township and build. We want to keep the land values up. So far no money has been spent or contracts made. Is the \$5,000.00 one time or will the township be asked for more later since there has only been two meetings the answer to that question isn't clear. Other communities have ways to get people to go to their communities. Howard Henderson made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to accept being part of the campaign contingent on establishing a plan, formalization of the Economic Promotion Council (must be a legal entity), check with MTA if legal for township to participate, review of the plan prior to any execution of funds, the addition of local business men and women to the council and need a township board representative on the council. Five ayes, two nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

The first smaller playground equipment is completed. The second set is larger and more complicated. Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to pay for a Community Build Supervisor to organize the construction of the equipment for \$2,400.00 that covers the expense for travel, lodging and meals for 3 days. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK:

Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the employment of Heidi Miller with wages at \$12.50 per hr. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VETERANS DAY:

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to support the Southwestern Michigan Veterans Support Group with their 16th yr. annual Salute to Veterans to be held on Veterans Day at Eau Claire High School at 7:00 p.m. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

WINDY ACRES:

Doug O'Dell explained that Windy Acres is a private road with 22 taxable parcels. They had a meeting with 14 attending. They are not an association. They do not want the road turned over to the County. Sixteen have signed a petition in favor of having the road chipped and sealed (the section off of Deans Hill Rd. that is already paved would have one application and the gravel portion would have a double coat) four owners haven't been contacted and two are against the project. They would like a special assessment district that the township pays up front (Public Act 188) which the township doesn't lose any money and the amount is spread over their tax bills for a time period they decide. It was decided that the Board needs the petition completed it should state from residents of Windy Acres and filed with the township clerk before next meeting and a hearing could be set.

MYERS HOUSE

Building Inspector reported that the owners of 10447 Jones Rd. have not filed an appeal and the deadline was October 2 no decision until next month. Supervisor will check to see if the two lots can be combined and the Treasurer will check to see if taxes are paid.

FIRE REPORT:

Fire chief reported that the Dept. had only seven calls with labor cost of \$999.00 for the month of September. A new idea that was tried with Eau Claire school based on information from the principal and teacher two children from grades 1-4 were picked up at their homes and taken to school by a fire truck.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building Inspector issued 10 building permits for estimated building amount of \$96,289.71 for the month of September. Ken Simpson electrical inspector issued 3 electrical permits for a fee of \$802.00 for the month.

TWP. ROADS:

Supervisor reported that all the road projects for the year have been completed. An interim director for the road commission which is the previous director Louis Csokasy has been hired for three months.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Julius Grau reported that more B.C. Emergency Preparedness guide booklets have been printed and residents can obtain one at the hall office. Smart911 is owned by RAVE Technologies which is a free service for Berrien County 911 for residents. Information on how to register your household can be found on www.berriencounty.org. You can add as much as you want your photos, vehicle information, what your house looks like, special directions to get there, medical and medications. Once you enter phone number you will need to enter a confirmation code which registers this phone number with 911. In order for 911 to benefit from your Smart911 profile you need to call 911 from this registered number.

CEMETERY:

Clerk Dean reported that there had 4 burials and several foundations put in since last meeting.

Also the markers that had been vandalized during Halloween in 2015 have been repaired as much as they could be. The two young men from St. Joe Monument even set some up that had been laying down for quite a while. They did a very nice job.

PARK REPORT:

Caretaker Bill Fisher reported that everything has been quiet getting ready to close for the season.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The revenue for the month of September was \$74,093.00 with expenses at \$55,669.04. Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to amend the cost center for cemeteries in the amount of \$11,400.00 from funds transferred from Township Park account. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to amend the township street lights in the amount of \$5,500.00 from funds transferred from the Township Park account. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Mann introduced himself as a candidate for 78th District for State Representative and his manager. Mr. Mann has been on the Niles City Council for 5 yrs.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK