

**BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

The Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 14, 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, Trustees Julie Burke, Jeff Marks, Harold Bishop and Clerk Mary Jane Dean. Treasurer Paul Sprung and Trustee Howard Henderson were absent.

Also present: Deputy Supervisor Julius Grau, Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr., Berrien County Commissioner Jon Hinkelman, reporter Mary Simko, Berrien County Lt. Bob Mazurek and two township residents.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

Lt. Bob Mazurek reported that there were 46 complaints, 3 tickets were issued and 2 arrests were made in the township for the month of December. The County had 1133 complaints, 201 tickets were issued and 192 arrests were made for December.

**COUNTY REPORT:**

Berrien County Commissioner Jon Hinkelman reported that the Board of Commissioners is still working on the Animal Control Ordinance. The legal defense that was established for those that can't afford an attorney seems to be working. Updated Security procedures are in place after the shooting that took place at the courthouse. Medical treatment at the jail for inmates provides safety.

**AGENDA:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mr. Gerald Clark had concerns in regards to the Agricultural Building affidavit he was interested in who would qualify. He had been reading the State Tax Commission guidelines. He recently retired and wants to do a small scale farming operation with a total of 10 acres.

**MINUTES:**

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the January 10, 2017 minutes as presented. 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 \$12,689.09 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**FIRE BILLS:**

Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$8,052.75 with the township share of \$5,202.07 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:**

Julius Grau reported that he had a couple of meetings with our attorney and is waiting for approval. Previously it had been mentioned about helping residents with repairs there are options that could be checked into.

**AGRICULTURAL BUILDING AFFIDAVIT:**

Jeff Marks made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to approve the Agricultural Building Affidavit

with one addition that the Supervisor be added along with the Zoning Administrator in granting approval. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**HALL MAINTENANCE:**

Supervisor explained that there had been water damage in the foyer as there was no insulation between the outside overhang and the entrance therefore insulation was installed and has helped with the cold. A second door may be checked into to help on the drafts. The soffit and fascia in the back of the hall was repaired.

**FREE TREE:**

The free tree give-away for the year was discussed. Julie felt that possibly skipping this year. Final decision will be made during the next regular meeting.

**FIRE REPORT:**

Fire Chief Norm Carl reported that the Dept. had (5) calls in Berrien Township and (4) in Pipestone Township for a total of labor cost of \$843.00 for the month of January.

**ANNUAL BUILDING REPORT:**

There were (8) new homes; (5) pole barns; (5) accessory structures; (18) re-roofs; (1) deck, (3) fence & misc; (13) misc. remodeling/repairs; (4) additions/alterations; (2) permit renewals and (1) demolition renewal for year 2016.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

Julius Grau reported that there will be a Weather spotter training on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. at Andrews University Chan Shun Hall, 185 E. Campus Circle Dr. Berrien Springs. Lakeland will have a table top exercise on March 22 working with communities.

**PARK COMMITTEE:**

The committee met last night and reviewed Whitman recommendations for Range Line Park. They will meet again this coming Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. The grant will be \$300,000.00 and the township match will be \$100,000.00. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Bryan met with a state forester to look at the trees at the park. He is putting a plan together about clearing the underbrush; removing scrubs and planting good trees. Inmates from the jail could help clear the brush.

**ADJOURN:**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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**MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK**

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**BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**