

**BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017**

Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 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, 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., Building Inspector Ross Rogien, Reporter Mary Simko and two residents.

The regular meeting was recessed at 7:05 for the public hearing for the Range Line Park Development Project grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Supervisor Bixby explained that the township is applying for a \$300,000.00 grant with the local match of \$100,000.00 a 25% match for a total of \$400,000.00 during the 2018-2020 fiscal years. Phase I includes improvements to one pavilion with a kitchenette and restrooms, upgraded playground equipment, volleyball, trails, accessible parking all ADA complaint and move the present baseball diamond to make room for Phase II. The present playground equipment was installed in 1987.

Questions asked by the Board were:

1. Will the existing well be used? Yes, the present 4' well will continue to be used.
2. What is the maximum amount for the grant application? The maximum is \$300,000.00.
3. Are all the preparations ready? We received a copy of the title today, working on the site plan, the authorization resolution needs to be adopted tonight and a copy of the minutes from this hearing for the filing deadline on April 1, 2017.

With no further questions the hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.

The regular meeting was reconvened.

Howard Henderson made a motion seconded by Jeff Marks to support and adopt the Resolution of Authorization to submit the grant application titled "Range Line Park Development Project" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Roll call vote: Ayes: Howard Henderson, Jeff Marks, Harold Bishop, Julie Burke, Paul Sprung, Mary Jane Dean and Bryan Bixby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was recessed for the Budget Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Treasurer Sprung reported that the Board had a budget workshop two weeks ago and went over the figures that the finance committee had prepared. We have done a good job with the present budget keeping expenditures down. The only changes that the Board approved were the 3% salary increases for Becky, Holley and Angie. The extra increases will be taken from other cost centers to keep the revenue and expenditures at \$632,807.00. Estimated amount the Township will receive from taxes is \$106,000.00 for roads.

Budget Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

AGENDA:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to approve the agenda with the addition of land survey. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

Howard Henderson made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to accept the February 14, 2017 minutes as written. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

Howard Henderson made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to accept the February 28, 2017 minutes as written. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TOWNSHIP BILLS:

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the township bills in the amount of \$23,994.96 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FIRE BILLS:

Howard Henderson made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$9,171.34 with township share of \$5,924.69 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

FERGUSON SPECIAL USE -11-04-0004-0019-01-8

The Planning Commission received a special use request from property owner David Ferguson (Michiana Turf Products) for a business that would be operated by Chuck Schmidt which is called The Parlor Tattooing. The hours for operation would be Monday through Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They are under the same criteria as doctor offices and hospitals and have regular inspections from the Health Dept. The Commission felt that this service would fall under Article Six 300.602 ;Personal Servicesf. They made a recommendation to the Board to grant approval with one stipulation that the Township be informed on any changes with the tenancy. Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Mary Jane Dean to approve the special use request for the operation of The Parlor Tattooing located at 6892 E. Main St. Eau Claire as recommended by the Planning Commission. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREE REMOVAL:

The Supervisor received two bids for tree removal and tree trimming for the township hall park and Lot 31 which were Luther Trees for \$2,500.00 and A & A Tree Service for \$2,000.00. Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to accept the bid from A & A Tree Service for the (2) tree removal, (2) small trees removed and trimming which included removal of all brush and stump grinding. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LOT 31 & RANGE LINE PARK SURVEY:

The Supervisor had received one survey bid for the south and west lines for Lot 31 and for lines for Range Line Park. It was decided that more bids should be obtained.

FIRE REPORT:

Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr. reported that the Dept. had a total of (9) calls which were (4) for Berrien and (5) for Pipestone for the labor cost of \$742.00 for the month of February. Chief Carl reported that the software for the Dept. had become obsolete and that the new software is working very well.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Julius Grau reported that an emergency guide is being prepared mapping all license Day Care and Senior Centers. Legislation from the state requires municipalities to have plans for tornados and snowstorms.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Julie Burke reported that Planning Commission held the public hearing for the special use request, approved the 2017-18 meeting dates with one change Aug. 14 was changed to Aug. 7 because of the fair. Election of officers was held with the same members that were already in office.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Sprung reported that \$22,196.26 in revenue for February making total revenue from April 2016 to February 17 \$510,755.99. The expenses were \$17,650.64 which made the expenses \$4,545.62 less than income for Feb. Total expenses were \$6,624.45 less than the income from April 2016 to Feb. 2017.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR