

**BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MINUTES**

The Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 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 and Clerk Mary Jane Dean. Trustee Harold Bishop was absent.

Also present: Deputy Supervisor Julius Grau, Building Inspector Ross Rogien, Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr., reporter Mary Simko, Michael Juengling Traffic Safety and Technology supervisor with the County, twp. park caretaker Bill Fisher and one resident.

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes as presented. 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 \$17,541.35 for payment. 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 \$6,367.55 with the township share of \$4,113.43 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

BERRIEN CENTER/DEANS HILL SPEED LIMIT:

Michael Juengling, traffic safety and technology supervisor with the Berrien County Road Commission stated that the state laws were changed in 2006. Residential areas are now defined as roads located within a platted subdivision and no longer include local county roads or roads that bordered a subdivision. Board members have received complaints from residents not even living on the road concerned about the speed limit being changed to 45 mph. Some concerns were over the school children boarding the bus and the entire area resembles a residential area. Mr. Juengling stated that one benchmark for setting realistic limits is the speed of 85 percent of the drivers he will install a traffic counter which will register information on every vehicle. There was discussion of the possibility of installing some type of slow speed sign designed by the township.

MYERS HOUSE:

Zoning Administrator reported that he hasn't heard from the owners still don't know about the two parcels being combined.

BROWN HOUSE:

A Berrien County Sheriff Deputy, Ross and Bryan met and inspected the Brown house located at 6281 Pokagon Rd. Windows have been broken out, there is a big hole in the roof and the foundation needs to be repaired. Ross stated that the owner has contacted him and he was told he could put a tarp on the roof and board up the windows.

TIMBER SALES:

Supervisor reported that the 78 trees marked at Range Line Park are valued at \$7,125.00 which will help raise some funds for the park. Bontrager Sawmill of Centreville, Mi. will harvest the trees which must be completed by May 31, 2018.

FIRE REPORT:

Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr. reported that the Dept. had a total of 13 calls in October of which 9.5 were in Berrien Township with 3.5 in Pipestone Township for a labor cost of \$2,205.00. The

Dept. newest equipment is a battery operated cutter that can open a windshield with a small incision it can cut through laminated safety glass and is quicker, quieter and cleaner leaving less debris.

PERMITS:

Building Inspector Ross Rogien reported that he had issued (8) building permits for an estimated building amount of \$70,726.00 for the month of October. Electrical Inspector Ken Simpson had (7) permits for a fee of \$1,484.00 for the month of October.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Palisades will finish their contract in 2022 they were originally closing in 2018. Training courses will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the County Conference Center located at the Health Department on Napier. The eight hour course will be to help government officials and emergency responders from rural communities in the development of plans that will ensure the continuity of essential government functions across a spectrum of emergencies.

TWP. PARK:

Bill Fisher reported that the park is closed for the season. Supervisor reported that it appears that we only received 330 points on our application for the grant not a normal year for grant applications it was high.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Sprung reported that the township is in 7 months of the fiscal yr. Revenue was \$8,808.45 with expenses at \$98,463.00. The winter taxes will be sent in December.

Supervisor stated that we need a contract for Branding for the Berrien Springs area. The committee will meet on November 30, 2017. We weren't able to get any help with the play ground equipment until December therefore we won't be hiring anyone.

PLANNING COMMISSION MTG

Julie Burke reported that the Planning Commission had (2) special use requests at their November meeting. The Commission set a public hearing for both on December 11, 2017. The one was for an antique and gift shop and Fenner's would like to move their staff to the Wedding Barn on Snyder Rd.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR