

**BERRIEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 10, 2017**

Berrien Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall for a brief meeting as the power was off because of high winds. 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, reporter Mary Simko, Berrien County Sheriff Deputy and one resident.

**AGENDA:**

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Paul Sprung to approve the agenda with the addition of Whitman's cost estimates for the designs of Range Line Park improvements. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MINUTES:**

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to approve the December 2016 minutes as presented. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS:**

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the township bills in the amount of \$21,859.27 for payment. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**JOINT FIRE BILLS:**

Mary Jane Dean made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to approve the joint fire bills in the amount of \$16,854.97 minus \$1,107.80 received from State of Mich. Matching fund for the 3000 gal. fol-da-tank making the township share \$10,172.67. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**SACRED HEART:**

Previously it had been brought to the Boards attention about individuals leaving the Sacred Heart facility and approaching residents about needing a ride. Supervisor Bixby and Zoning Administrator visited the facility and discussed the Boards concerns with Jeannette Holton, MPA, CADC, and LBSW Division Leader. Fire Chief Norm Carl, Jr. also toured the building and did fire safety inspections. Supervisor received a letter from Ms. Holton inviting the Board and neighbors to a Hot Cocoa Social on Wednesday, February 8 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

The sheriff report for November 2016 showed 68 complaints, 2 tickets were issued and 7 arrests were made in the Township. The county had 1128 complaints, 212 tickets were issued and 153 arrests were made.

**RESOLUTION 01-2017:**

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Harold Bishop to adopt the Resolution 01-2017 Poverty Level Income Standards for Property Tax Poverty exemption guidelines. Roll call vote: Ayes: Paul Sprung, Harold Bishop, Julie Burke, Jeff Marks, Howard Henderson, Mary Jane Dean and Bryan Bixby. Seven yes votes, zero no votes, none absent, none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION 02-2017:**

Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to adopt the Resolution 02-2017 for accepting letters of protest from township residents for March Board of Review. Roll call

vote: Ayes, Julie Burke, Howard Henderson, Jeff Marks, Harold Bishop, Paul Sprung, Mary Jane Dean and Bryan Bixby. Seven yes votes, zero no votes, none absent, none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION 03-2017:**

Paul Sprung made a motion seconded by Julie Burke to adopt the Resolution 03-2017 to provide alternate starting dates for March Board of Review. Ayes: Paul Sprung, Julie Burke, Howard Henderson, Jeff Marks, Harold Bishop, Mary Jane Dean and Bryan Bixby. Seven yes votes, zero no votes, none absent none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Supervisor reported that he has had CPM look at the ceiling in lobby as there appears to be no insulation and look at the soffit and fascia in the back of the building that is falling down.

**RANGE LINE PARK:**

Supervisor reported that he had met last week with Whitman and Associates about designs for Range Line Park to be submitted along with the grant application with the deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Julie Burke made a motion seconded by Howard Henderson to approve the estimated costs up to \$3,700.00 for designs improvements walking trails, new playground equipment and upgrading the park pavilions. All ayes, none opposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Treasurer Sprung reported that revenue for December was \$30,926.73 and expenses were \$69,247.53. Finance & Office Administration and township hall & grounds cost centers need to be amended and he will transfer funds from other cost centers that have an excess.

**ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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MARY JANE DEAN BERRIEN TOWNSHIP CLERK

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BRYAN BIXBY BERRIEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR