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# *Macomb County Election Department*

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## **MACOMB COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING September 13, 2018**

**Probate Court Building  
21850 Dunham Rd.  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
11:00 a.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Public Participation (*limited to five minutes*)
- IV. Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2018 Election Commission Meeting
- V. Judge Clarity and Factuality of Wording on Recall Petition  
(*proponent of recall/legal representative and named official/legal representative may present argument on each item before vote is taken*)
  - One Recall Petition Filed on August 24, 2018 for Richard Cory, Bruce Township Supervisor
  - Two Recall Petitions Filed on August 24, 2018 for Susan Brockman, Bruce Township Clerk
- VI. Approve ballots for the November 6, 2018 Election
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Public Participation
- X. Adjournment

### **Macomb County Election Department**

32 Market Street  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043-5640  
586-469-5209; Fax: 586-469-6927  
[macombgov.org/elections](http://macombgov.org/elections)  
[elections@macombgov.org](mailto:elections@macombgov.org)

**MACOMB COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
June 13, 2018  
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**

The Macomb County Election Commission met on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, in Court Room #1 of the Macomb County Probate Court Building, 21850 Dunham, Mount Clemens with the following members present:

Judge Kathryn George – Senior Probate Judge, Chairperson  
Joe Biondo – Treasurer’s Office  
Kathy Smith – County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Also Present: Roger Cardamone – Election Department  
Frank Krycia – Corporation Counsel’s office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Judge George called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Motion by Kathy Smith to appoint Deputy Treasurer Joe Biondo to serve in the absence of Treasurer Larry Rocca. Motion was seconded by Kathryn George. Motion carried.

**MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Joe Biondo. Kathy Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 10, 2018 MEETING**

Joe Biondo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kathy Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BALLOTS FOR AUGUST 7, 2018 ELECTION**

Joe Biondo made a motion to approve the ballots for the August 7, 2018 Primary Election. Kathryn George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:38 a.m, Kathy Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joe Biondo. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

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Kathy Smith  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

DRAFT



# Macomb County Election Department

## RECEIPT FOR RECALL LANGUAGE SEEKING CLARITY REVIEW

Person(s) Being Recalled

Office Held

Richard Cory  
Susan Brockmann (2)

Supervisor, Bruce Township  
Clerk, Bruce Township

FILED  
18 AUG 24 PM 3:19  
MACOMB COUNTY CLERK  
MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN

SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Martone  
ADDRESS: 414 N. Bailey  
CITY & ZIP: Romeo, MI 48065  
PHONE: 586-337-1128  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: debimartone@gmail.com  
SIGNATURE: Deborah Martone

Richard Seibel  
ELECTION CLERK

Macomb County Election Department  
32 Market Street  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043-5640  
586-469-5209; Fax: 586-469-6927  
macombgov.org/elections  
elections@macombgov.org

**INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE**

**RECALL PETITION**

1

We, the undersigned registered and qualified voters of the  City  Township  Village of BRUCE }  
 calling of an election to recall Richard Corly (Name of Officer) from the office of Supervisor (Title of Office) in the County of Macomb and State of Michigan, petition for the following reason(s):  
Hiring of the law firm, Plunkett Conroy, with a no-bid contract prior to the Bruce Township Board of Trustees knowledge or approval.

**WARNING - A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS A RECALL PETITION MORE THAN ONCE OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.**

NO.	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MONTH   DAY   YEAR
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3.					
4.					
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**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence and was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

**WARNING - A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.**

**CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.**

Deborah Martone (Printed Name of Circulator) 8/24/18 (Date)  
414 N. Bailey St (Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)) - [Do not enter a post office box]  
Romex MI 48065 (City or Township, State, Zip Code)  
Macomb (County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

**INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE**

**RECALL PETITION**

2

We, the undersigned registered and qualified voters of the  City  Township  Village of Bruce } in the County of Macomb and State of Michigan, petition for the calling of an election to recall Susan Broakmann (Name of Officer) from the office of Clerk (Title of Office) (District, if Any) for the following reason(s):  
Hiring of the law firm, Plunkett Conroy, with a no-bid contract prior to the Bruce Township Board of Trustees knowledge or approval.

**WARNING - A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS A RECALL PETITION MORE THAN ONCE OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.**

✓	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING		
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12.							

FILED  
18 AUG 24 PM 3:19  
MACOMB COUNTY CLERK  
HTL CLEMENS, MICHIGAN

**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence and was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [V] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

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**CIRCULATOR — DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.**

Deborah Martone (Signature of Circulator) 8-24-18 (Date)  
 (Printed Name of Circulator)  
H14 N. Isabella  
 (Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route]) - [Do not enter a post office box]  
ROMEO MI 48065  
 (City or Township, State, Zip Code)

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)  
 RE-10/15  
 FORM APPROVED BY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS, STATE OF MICHIGAN

**INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE**

**RECALL PETITION**

3

We, the undersigned registered and qualified voters of the  City  Township  Village of Bruce } from the office of Clark (District, if Any) and State of Michigan, petition for the calling of an election to recall Susan Brockmann (Name of Officer) Failure to disclose a conflict of interest and abstain from voting on the township's union employee contract due to her employment with the Farm Technical, Professional, Officeworkers Association of Michigan. **WARNING - A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS A RECALL PETITION MORE THAN ONCE OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.**

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY	SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF SIGNING MONTH DAY YEAR
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**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence and was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [✓] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

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**CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.**

Signature of Circulator: Deborah Martone (Date) 8/24/18  
 Printed Name of Circulator: Deborah Martone  
 Complete Residence Address (Street and Number or Rural Route) - [Do not enter a post office box] 414 N. Bailey  
 City or Township, State, Zip Code Kemp, MI 48065

County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan: Wayne  
 FORM APPROVED BY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS, STATE OF MICHIGAN REV. 10/75

# Additional Filings for Petition 1



**PLUNKETT COONEY**

June 30, 2017

**Richard Cory, Township Supervisor**  
~~Susan Brockmann, Township Clerk~~  
Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

MAQUON COUNTY CLERK  
M. OLEHENS, MICHIGAN  
FILED  
18 AUG 24 PM 3:20

RE: Bruce Township- WBRW and Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Dear Mr. Cory and Ms. Brockmann:

**Thank you very much for selecting Plunkett Cooney to represent your interests in a proceeding as counsel in connection with the above-referenced matter. We will do our best to achieve your objectives and justify the confidence you have placed in us.**

We have found that our clients appreciate seeing the terms of our engagement set forth in writing and that is the purpose of this letter. If you have any questions about these matters, please call us. We wish to clarify your expectations and avoid any misunderstanding from the outset of our representation.

You have hired us for our legal expertise although you retain the right to make all final decisions regarding the disposition of this matter. Additionally, you should expect to be informed at reasonable intervals as to how this matter is progressing and to have your questions answered to the best of our ability.

SCOPE OF WORK

You have requested that we represent Bruce Township with respect to negotiating a resolution to the outstanding issues that remain from an expired interim agreement for the operation of the community media center in Michigan. The issues are as follows: (1) the use of the William D. Ford Foundation's property in Michigan Community Media, Inc. without license or agreement; and (2) the ability of Bruce Township to place its government-owned property, including the community channel being operated by Michigan Community Media, Inc. without attempting to negotiate a resolution to these issues and/or begin negotiations with the proper parties to the dispute so that Bruce Township has the right to use the FCC licensed property of Michigan Community Media, Inc. The agreement does not cover any litigation.

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

2000 Woodward Ave., Suite 1300 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 861-4000 • F: (248) 861-4001 • plunkettcooney.com

To increase the likelihood that your objectives will be fully realized, complete cooperation between us is essential. Our role is to counsel you and to advise you of the legal consequences of possible courses of action. Your role is to consider our advice and decide upon the course of action to follow. Obviously, we both can better perform our roles if we clearly and currently communicate with each other. We will use our best efforts to do so.

Your agreement is with Plunkett Cooney which will provide you the many benefits of its diverse staff and resources.

At this point, we believe it is in your best interest that I will be working on this matter. We may also obtain the assistance of other lawyers in our firm which our professional judgment indicates that it is necessary or advisable to do so. You will feel free to contact me or any of our attorneys on your team if you have any questions. In short, our objective is to make it as easy as possible for you to understand, as fully as the current status of this matter and to answer any questions that you may have. In addition to helping you achieve the best legal result possible, we want you to feel comfortable and confident in your relationship with us.

#### FEES

In this matter, our fees will be based solely on an hourly basis billed at \$200.00 per hour. We will bill for this matter on a monthly basis and payments of your account will be delivered to you via email from the email address [billing@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:billing@plunkettcooney.com). Payment is expected within 30 days of receipt of invoice. For those months in which no billable transaction are incurred on your behalf, these invoices will be sent anyway to prompt payment.

If you would like, we will attempt to estimate fees and expenses for this matter. We are engaged to handle for you. However, actual fees and expenses incurred are a result of many conditions, a number of which you beyond our control, including the number of parties are involved. Accordingly, an estimate should be viewed as only that. If any other factors occur that may cause a significant change in our estimate, we will notify you as soon as possible.

If you ever have a question about our billing procedures or statements, please ask us. We prefer to address these issues so that you fully understand the process and the cost.

statements and are satisfied with them. We want you to be frank with us should you have any concerns.

**TERMINATION**

Either one of us may terminate this engagement by notifying the other in writing. We will comply with all applicable ethical considerations at the termination of this engagement. We will be entitled to be paid for services rendered and expenses incurred up to the effective date of termination.

If you agree with the foregoing, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter. Our receipt of the signed copy of this letter will constitute confirmation of your oral authorization for us to proceed on the matters described in this letter.

Again, we appreciate your employing Plunkett Cooney to represent you in this particular matter, and we look forward to working with you and providing you with the best in quality legal services.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

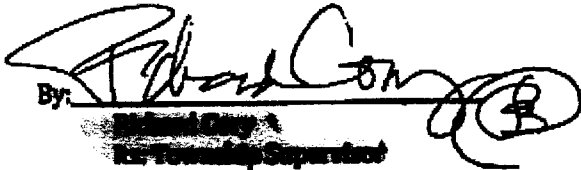
JMS/aw

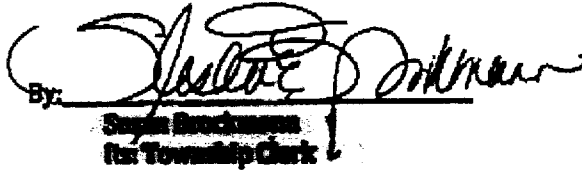
Page 4  
June 30, 2017

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The matters set forth in this letter are understood and agreed to by the undersigned as of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

Bruce Township

By:   
Richard Gray  
Twp. Township Supervisor

By:   
Susan Bruchmann  
Twp. Township Clerk

PLUNKETT  COONEY

July 6, 2017

Michigan Community Media, Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Grayson, Executive Director  
8100 Wicker  
Washington Township, MI 48094

VIA Certified Mail and Email [contact@micommunitymedia.org](mailto:contact@micommunitymedia.org)

Re: Public Access Channel- WBRW

Dear Mr. Grayson:

**We represent Bruce Township** with respect to the use of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels and the use of the call letters WBRW. Pursuant to a service agreement that expired on March 31, 2016, Washington Township was responsible for establishing a Community Media Center (CMC) and retaining a management company for the purpose of managing the CMC operation (see attached). The expired agreement stated that the "CMC shall utilize the current PEG signal(s) and will operate under the WBRW call letters." In addition, the expired agreement stated as follows: "The positions of Romeo, Bruce, and Washington regarding the ownership of the PEG signal(s) and call letters WBRW shall be reserved for further discussion between the communities and are not affected by this agreement." Therefore, as the contracted vendor presently operating the CMC for Washington Township, please be advised that you have no authority to prohibit access to the PEG signals and no authority to operate under the WBRW call letters.

The representations to the public that your company is "WBRW" or that you are the public access channel and speak on behalf of this channel for commercial or political purposes is strictly prohibited. The Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (Act 480 of 2006) specifically prohibits the use of a PEG channel for commercial purposes. MCL 484.3304. Michigan Community Media, Inc. operating without authorization as "WBRW" has repeatedly used the PEG channel to advocate the awarding of a contract to itself (a corporation) in violation of this provision. Please be advised that the Michigan Public Service Commission may impose penalties for the violation of this Act at MCL 484.3314.

In addition, Bruce Township is being denied access to the PEG channel for the purpose of cablecasting its government meetings. Pursuant to the franchise agreements and the prior intergovernmental agreements for the operation of the PEG channel, Bruce Township

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

30505 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T (248) 901-4000 • F (248) 901-4040 • [plunkettcooney.com](http://plunkettcooney.com)

retains an interest in both the PEG channel and the call letters WBRW. You cannot deny equal access to a "public access" channel and this is outlined in your contract with Washington Township in paragraph 4.10 ("Provide Equal Access"). This contract provision states what federal law requires: you have no authority to control the content of programming on a public access channel unless you reasonably believe the content contains obscenity.

For these reasons, Bruce Township must demand that you agree, in writing, to immediately cease and desist from operating under the WBRW call letters and denying access to the PEG channel for purpose of cablecasting non-commercial programs including government meetings and community events. To that end, you must remove the letters "WBRW" from any and all vehicles, advertisements, materials, websites, and graphic images and cease all other use of WBRW with your programming, agreeing not to adopt that term—or any colorable imitation of it—at any time in the future.

If your company wishes to obtain an interim license or agreement for the use of the call letters WBRW while the issues surrounding the use of the PEG channel are discussed and negotiated between the member communities, please contact me by the close of business on July 14, 2017. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw  
cc: Board of Directors, Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Open.P1271.P1271.18715804-1

<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</b>  <b>ORDINANCE HEALTH CHECK:</b> Trustee Okoniewski spoke regarding the health check and indicated it is a complete overhaul of Ordinance 161 making it more user friendly with hyperlinks, mapping and GIS. <b>Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to approve a NTE total of \$12,000 with a \$6,000 budget amendment this year and \$6,000.00 next fiscal year.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: FALKER, CORY, OKONIEWSKI, OBRECHT, BROCKMANN</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b>  <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p>	<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>  <b>ORDINANCE HEALTH CHECK</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>  <b>SEIBERT DLOSKI FEES:</b> Treasurer Obrecht discussed the legal fees incurred by her.</p> <p><b>HI-TECH SERVICE CONTRACT:</b> <b>Motion by Obrecht to authorize board members to request service through Hi-Tech System Service without going through the appointed point of contact. Motion dies for lack of support.</b></p> <p><b>PLUNKETT COONEY:</b> <b>Motion by Obrecht to ratify the engagement letter of June 30, 2017 between Plunkett Cooney and Township of Bruce. Motion dies for lack of support.</b></p>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b>  <b>SEIBERT DLOSKI FEES</b></p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS:</b>  Trustee Okoniewski reported the 34 Mile Road light is up and operational and they are looking into the possibility of removing the light at old Van Dyke to help with the congestion at the lights. He also reported the township has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant for engineering help on the sidewalk off Van Dyke between 33 Mile Road and Kaeding.</p> <p>Clerk Brockmann reported recycling will continue and there will be a SAW grant and Great Lakes Water Authority update next month. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the tree lighting and parade. And she addressed the MITT TV issue of airing high school games live. She assured the board this was a nasty rumor and the MITT TV is doing nothing wrong nor are they breaking any rules.</p> <p>Supervisor Cory reported the township had received a warning from the MDEQ but no fines have been assessed. He also read a letter from homeowners in the Orchard Hills subdivision thanking him for his help and assistance in removing a business operating out of a home in their subdivision.</p> <p>Treasurer Obrecht reported she has ordered a replacement veterans plaque for the hallway and will also be placing a plaque in the hallway for Michigan State Police Trooper Timothy O'Neill killed in the line of duty. She feels the township's policies and procedures are lacking. Treasurer Obrecht also reported the Veteran's Day celebration will be Saturday, November 11 at 11:00am at the Romeo Cemetery, Summit Plastics will have their groundbreaking on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, the Goodfellows collection will be December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and tax bills will be sent prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>.</p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT:</b> <b>Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: ALL</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b>  <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Township of Bruce Regular Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, October 18, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Township Hall 223 East Gates, Romeo, MI 48065 MINUTES</p>	
<p>Supervisor Cory called the meeting to order at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Members present:</b> Supervisor Richard Cory , Clerk Brockmann, Treasurer Deborah Obrecht, Trustee Mark Falker and Trustee Paul Okoniewski</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>
<p><b>Others Present:</b> Robert Stankiewicz, Steve Farr, Chuck Pedrotte, Trese Servitto-Smith, Camille Silda, Nick Posavetz, Dorothy Sochowicz, Stacy Sobotha and Dana Jenuwine as recording secretary.</p>	<p><b>OTHERS PRESENT</b></p>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance recited</p>	<p><b>PLEDGE</b></p>
<p><b>AGENDA:</b> Discussion was held regarding the agenda.</p> <p>Motion by Obrecht, support by Falker to approve a \$108,000.00 loan from general to sewer and \$16,000.00 from general to water.</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> CORY, FALKER, OBRECHT <b>NAYS:</b> OKONIEWSKI, BROCKMANN <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p>Motion by Obrecht, support by Falker to approve a \$19,000.00 loan from general to water.</p> <p><b>OKONIEWSKI, CORY, OBRECHT, FALKER, BROCKMANN</b> <b>NAYS:</b> NONE <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding check number 50299 made payable to Plunkett Cooney for legal services pertaining to WBRW contract. Treasurer Obrecht questioned the authorization or lack of for the hiring of Plunkett Cooney and discussion included but was not limited to Michigan law, the agreement for services, hiring separate counsel, the roll of the media committee and the asset of the cable channel. Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to pay Ck. #50299 to Plunkett Cooney in the amount of \$2,830.85 for services rendered.</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> CORY, FALKER, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI <b>NAYS:</b> OBRECHT <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p><b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b> Motion by Brockmann, support by Falker to approve the consent agenda as amended.</p> <p><b>ADD:</b> 3e. Treasurer's Report</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> OKONIEWSKI, CORY, OBRECHT, BROCKMANN, FALKER <b>NAYS:</b> NONE <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PLUNKETT COONEY INVOICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS:</b> NONE</p>	<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS</b></p>





**Professional Services Invoice**

Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

09/15/17  
Invoice #: 10673906  
Thru Date: 08/31/17

Attention: Susan Brockmann

Billing Attorney: 1271 - Schroder, Jeffrey  
RE: Dispute with Michigan Community Media

Opposing Party: Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Open Date: 07/07/17  
Our File: 26422-72135  
Your File:

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Current Fees Due	\$240.00
Current Disbursements	30.85
	<hr/>
Total This Invoice	\$270.85
Total Unpaid Invoices as of 09/15/17	2,560.00
Total Amount Due	<hr/> <b>\$2,830.85</b>

Please remit to:  
Plunkett Cooney  
38505 Woodward, Ste. 100  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

**ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW**

---

38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 T: (248) 901-4000 F: (248) 901-4040 plunkettcooney.com  
Tax ID No. 38-1896842

**BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED**

<u>Date</u>	<u>TKPR</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>HRS</u>	
08/09/17	JS	REVIEW/ANALYZE DISCUSSION WITH SUSAN BROCKMANN RE: COMCAST NEGOTIATIONS AND POSITION ON CALL LETTERS AND BLACKOUT OF MEETING BROADCAST BY WBRW.	0.40	
08/09/17	JS	COMMUNICATE (OTHER EXTERNAL) PHONE CALL WITH 1ST AMENDMENT EXPERT BILL BURDETTE RE: WBRW BLACKOUT AND POTENTIAL LAWSUIT.	0.30	
08/10/17	JS	DRAFTING OF UPDATE TO SUSAN BROCKMANN RE: DISCUSSION WITH SHANNON DULIN OF COMCAST AND NEXT- STEPS TO GET NEW CHANNEL AND DECISIONS TO BE MADE WITH ROMEO; DISCUSSION REGARDING BLACKOUT SITUATION AT THE PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL IN WASHINGTON TWP	0.30	
08/10/17	JS	COMMUNICATE (OTHER EXTERNAL) PHONE CALL WITH SHANNON DULIN OF COMCAST; DISCUSSION OF NEXT- STEPS TO ASSIGN NEW CHANNEL	0.20	
		TOTAL ATTORNEY HOURS AND FEES	1.20	\$240.00
TOTAL HOURS AND FEES			1.20	\$240.00
NET FEES DUE				<u>\$240.00</u>

**HOURS RECAP**

	<u>HOURS</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	1.20	@	200.00	240.00
TOTALS	1.20			

**ATTORNEY RECAP**

<u>TIMEKEEPER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1271 - Schroder, Jeffrey	1.20	@	200.00	\$240.00
TOTAL HOURS AND FEES	1.20			\$240.00

NET FEES \$240.00

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TKPR</u>	<u>EXPENSES ADVANCED DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
06/23/17	JS	LOCAL TRAVEL - MILEAGE (58.2 MILES TO/FROM BRUCE TOWNSHIP OFFICES) VENDOR: JEFFREY SCHRODER; INVOICE#: JUN17; DATE: 8/3/2017	58.20	30.85
TOTAL EXPENSES ADVANCED				\$30.85
NET EXPENSES				\$30.85

**SUMMARIZED EXPENSES**

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
LOCAL TRAVEL - MILEAGE	58.20	30.85
TOTAL EXPENSES ADVANCED		\$30.85
NET EXPENSES		\$30.85
<b>TOTAL BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED</b>		<b>\$270.85</b>



ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

300 East Long Lake Road Suite 200  
Bloomfield Hills Michigan 48304-2376

t 248 540 2300  
f 248 645 2690  
www.stroblpc.com

HENRY J. ANDRIES, JR.  
DIRECT (248) 265-2710  
HANDRIES@STROBLPC.COM

July 19, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC & FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Plunkett Cooney  
38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 2000  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
[jschroder@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:jschroder@plunkettcooney.com)

JUL 24 2017

**Re: Michigan Community Media, Inc. / Bruce Township**

Dear Mr. Schroder:

Please be advised that this law office represents Michigan Community Media, Inc. ("MiCM"). In response to your correspondence dated July 6, 2017, MiCM maintains that your allegations are untrue, and that your interpretation of the facts and applicable law is incorrect. MiCM intends to continue to lawfully meet its obligations pursuant to its contractual relationship with Washington Township, in connection with its operation of the Washington Township Community Media Center. Allow me to suggest that your client direct its demands and concerns related to the use of any cable signal or the WBRW call letters to my client's customer, Washington Township. I understand that your client was not willing to pay Washington Township or contribute a reasonable share for the use of the cable channel, and was not willing to pay Comcast for the cost of a separate cable channel.

I also understand that Bruce Township voluntarily ended its participation in the Washington Township Municipal Services Agreement for Provision of Community Media Center beyond its expiration in March 2016, notwithstanding Washington Township's offer to significantly reduce the percentage of franchise fees Bruce Township would be required to contribute for the cost of operating the Community Media Center ("CMC"), including the use of the cable channel. Instead, your client approached a contract to pay significantly more cable franchise fees received from its citizens to a newly formed media company, MiNTV, at the expense of its citizens and for the benefit of MiNTV, which I understand is owned and operated by Ms. Ruth Heidebrecht. I understand that your law firm may also represent Ms. Heidebrecht and/or MiNTV. If this understanding is incorrect, please let me know. Ms. Heidebrecht was a former board member and executive director of MiCM until her abrupt departure in December 2015, shortly before Bruce Township elected not to participate with the Washington Township municipal services agreement beyond its March 2016 expiration.

Your client or client(s) demands to MiCM are unsupported by fact and applicable law, and appear to be motivated by improper purposes. Please direct your client(s) to cease and desist from improperly interfering with MiCM's contractual and/or business relationships.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

STROBL & SHARP, PC

Henry J. Andries, Jr.

HJA/nwh  
c: Board of Directors, MiCM

PLUNKETT  COONEY

**Professional Services Invoice**

Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

09/15/17  
Invoice #: 10673906  
Thru Date: 08/31/17

Attention: Susan Brockmann

Billing Attorney: 1271 - Schroder, Jeffrey  
RE: Dispute with Michigan Community Media

Opposing Party: Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Open Date: 07/07/17  
Our File: 26422-72135  
Your File:

---

Current Fees Due	\$240.00
Current Disbursements	30.85
	<hr/>
Total This Invoice	\$270.85
Total Unpaid Invoices as of 09/15/17	2,560.00
Total Amount Due	<hr/> <u>\$2,830.85</u>

Please remit to:  
Plunkett Cooney  
38505 Woodward, Ste. 100  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

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38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 T: (248) 901-4000 F: (248) 901-4040 plunkettcooney.com  
Tax ID No. 38-1896842



### Arson charges in house fire

Page 3



### Waterwheel repairs proposed

Page 4



## BRUCE TOWNSHIP

# Board considers censure of treasurer

BY STACY SOBOTKA

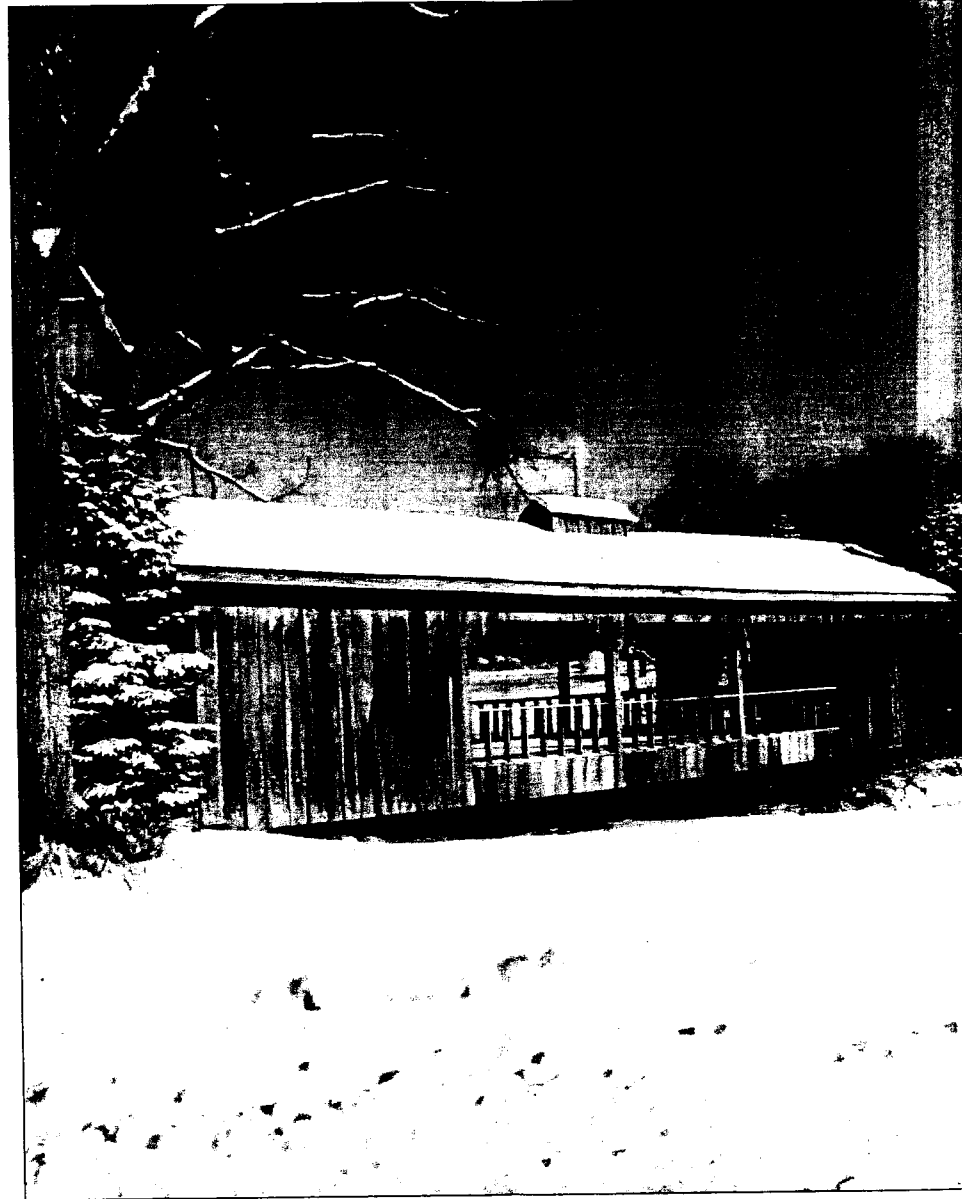
An effort to censure Bruce Township Treasurer Deborah Obrecht fell flat at the Bruce Township Board of Trustees meeting Dec. 13.

According to Obrecht, a motion to censure her appeared on the preliminary agenda a few days prior to the meeting.

Supervisor Richard Cory said he did not put the censure motion on the agenda.

"I do not believe that the treasurer is on notice of the censure issue. There is no authority under Michigan state law to censure an elected official in Michigan. There's no local ordinance that allows for the censure process and there's no policy or procedure that I found in your books and records that allow for the process," said attorney Robert Davis, who has worked as Obrecht's personal attorney in the past but appeared at the meeting pro-bono.

Davis explained that the board should  
(See CENSURE, page 10)



**SEASONS GREETINGS.** Winter weather made its appearance last week just time to give the Zappella Covered Bridge in Bruce Township a nine inch coat of snow and created a scene fit for a Christmas card. This 58 foot-long bridge was built in 1983 over East Pond Creek and it is located on a private driveway visible from Campground Road just north of 33 Mile Road. (Photo by Larry Sobczak)

## HOLIDAY MESSAGE

# God reaches out to us in peace and love





on Thursday because of a winter storm that now on the area. Sledders promptly took to the Center. (Photo by Larry Sobczak)

## School Sports Schedules 20-26, 2017

**Friday, Dec. 22**  
 er, 6 Boys Varsity Wrestling Macomb County Invite 4 p.m. at Chippewa Valley; Boys Varsity Hockey 6:30 p.m. vs Country Day at Southfield Ice Arena.  
**Saturday, Dec. 23**  
 sket- Boys Varsity Wrestling Macomb County Invite 8 p.m. at Chippewa Valley; Boys JV Wrestling B Team Duals 9 a.m. at Romeo; Boys Varsity Hockey Alumni Game 6 p.m. at Suburban Ice - Macomb.  
 Girls Lake Orion 5:30 Varsity vs Romeo; Boys Varsity Hockey 6 p.m. vs Rochester at Ser. Onyx Ice Arena.

## School Sports Schedules 20-26, 2017

School at Armada.  
**Friday, Dec. 22**  
 n. vs Boys Varsity Wrestling Macomb County Invite 4 p.m. at Chippewa Valley; Boys Varsity Basketball (Imlay City Classic) 6 p.m. vs Anchor Bay High School at Imlay City High School.  
**Saturday, Dec. 23**  
 m. vs Boys Varsity Wrestling Macomb County Invite 8 p.m. at Chippewa Valley.

# CENSURE

(Continued from page 1)

have had a meeting regarding the censure first.

“There should have been a meeting where there was a motion made to pursue the censure, an investigator would be appointed, the censure issue would be identified; the censure would be reduced to a censure resolution which would be before the public this evening; that would show the facts that lead to the censure. More importantly, each of you would probably want to opportunity to respond; you’d want to know what the issue is,” he said.

Obrecht believes that the censure was in response to her asking questions about two separate issues and requesting them as an agenda item for the Dec. 13 meeting.

Cory, who is chair of township meetings, did not place Obrecht’s items on the agenda.

Obrecht said one of the agenda items is Obrecht’s recent discovery of Bruce Township Clerk Susan Brockmann’s relationship with the Technical, Professional, and Office Workers Association of Michigan (TPOAM), the union which represents Bruce Township employees.

Obrecht said she found four recent employee union contracts from other communities with Brockmann’s signature on them as a business agent for the union.

Brockmann had also negotiated the employee union contracts on the township’s behalf and voted on its approval in the spring.

“This could be a conflict of interest. She should have disclosed her relationship with the TPOAM,” Obrecht said in an interview after the meeting.

Obrecht’s other proposed agenda item was a discussion about a recent change in policy for charges the township applies on property owners in the sewer district.

Obrecht said that it was presented

tion of contracts with township hall of-fice workers.

“I had no objections, I agreed to the union contracts. It is truly inappropriate,” said Obrecht in response to the comments regarding contract negotiations.

Cory said the board planned to proceed slowly regarding the censure.

Trustee Paul Okoniewski read a statement explaining his troubles, including phone calls Obrecht made to a neighbor of Okoniewski’s.

“I found out from my neighbor’s wife that the treasurer had been calling incessantly starting him up on...political topics against me. She only stopped when the neighbor’s wife confronted her and told her to quit calling him because she was making him sick. I did work with the treasurer because no one else would to create a self-funding fairly balanced sewer ordinance and we worked with businesses, residents and all kinds of people to get this right for everyone,” he said.

Davis offered to serve as mediator regarding the issue.

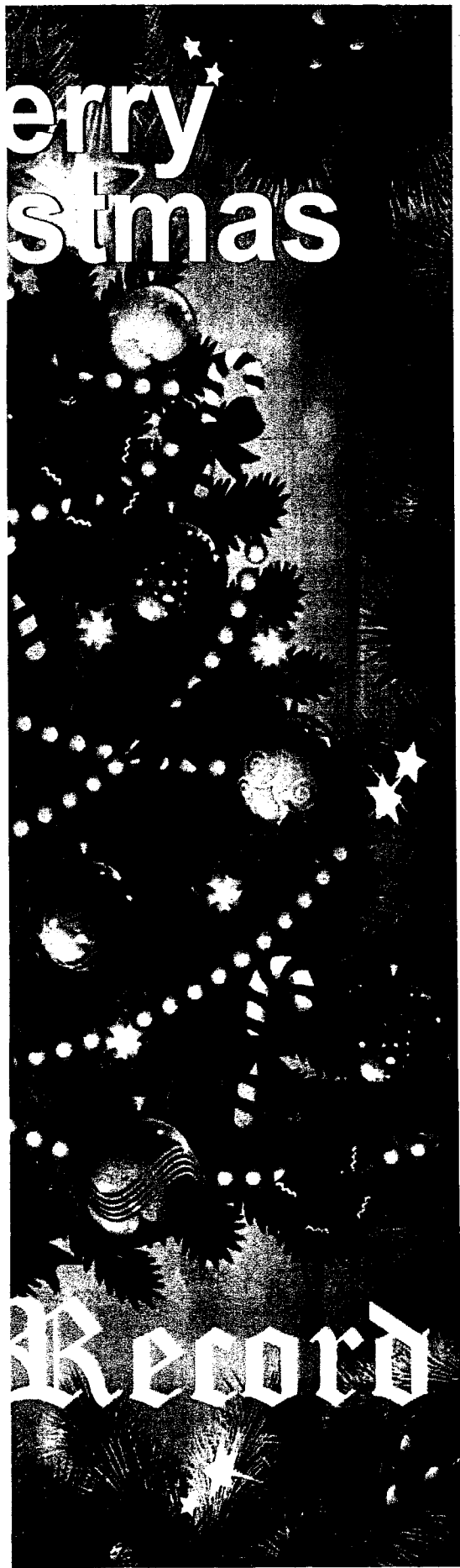
“I’m offering some time. Obrecht has never paid me a dime. I’d be happy to work with you and Bob Seibert (township attorney) and see if we can’t... just get the work place back to the work place. Maybe between the three of us we can iron out some of these issues,” he said.

During the meeting, Obrecht attempted to have a clarification of the sewer charges ordinance done, but nothing happened.

During the discussion, she explained the reason she wanted clarification.

“The sewer debt estimated revenue was based on all sewer users or committed capacities - whether through judicial decree or through execution of a written Agreement with the Township would pay for the sewer debt - the Township bond payments. Our total sewer capacity is 1,700 user’s taps. In the initial to the final revenue projection spreadsheets, all users or com-

Boys Varsity Wrestling Macomb County In-  
vite 8 p.m. at Chippewa Valley.



ship applies on property owners in the sewer district.

Obrecht said that it was presented as clarification of the sewer policy but its actual effect was to waive annual fees from one developer because he did not have an approved site plan with the township yet.

"In my opinion, favoritism is being shown favoring one developer without an approved site plans over all others being billed because they had approved site plans. This less than two minute motion erased \$24,000 annual SDR projected revenues to the benefit of one developer," Obrecht said in a letter to *The Record* last week.

Brockmann has been silent on both issues.

Obrecht had several supporters in the audience on Dec. 13.

"I have found our treasurer Debbie Obrecht to be an upstanding member of this board, fulfilling her obligations to the community with honesty and integrity, not being bullied into going along with the crowd, truly listening to her constituents and making decisions in the best interest in this community. She makes the board members accountable for their actions and for all the bullying and insulting that she has to endure from our elected officials, she still holds her head up high and continues to work on behalf of the residents of this wonderful township," said Bruce Township resident Trese Servitto-Smith.

Other members of the audience were not so kind and were supportive of the censure, citing the recent theft of a veteran's photo from the township hall and negotiations over contracts, including the firefighter's contract which eliminated the coverage of hearing aids from health insurance and a negotia-

township sewer payment. Our town sewer capacity is 1,700 user's taps. In the initial to the final revenue projection spreadsheets, all users or committed capacities were assigned a fee based upon their classification. The remaining unsold capacity owned by the Township were the only user taps not billed. Therefore, the revenues levied were equitable, justifiable and defensible since no one was excluded," she said. "The January 2017 (was) an added agenda item with no supporting documentation was misstated as a sewer ready fee correction not a change to the established sewer debt fee schedule. This new sewer debt fee definition requiring it to be applied to only site planned approved resulted in 252 taps being deducted and not invoiced at \$8 per month. The estimated revenue projection for our Sewer deficit filing with the State of Michigan included all 408 taps. Tonight the developer pulled another 60 taps from an approved site plan classification, resulting in these taps also not being invoiced. This will be approximately \$30,000 less sewer debt revenue."

Okoniewski took offense to Obrecht's request for clarification.

"This will be the first year in how many that we will not be raising the sewer rates because of this new ordinance. We are well on our way to a balanced budget over the next year. I put a lot of hard work and research into this ordinance," he said.

When Okoniewski asked why Obrecht waited until December to bring up the issue, she made it clear why.

"It was presented not as a sewer tap reduction. It was presented as a ready to service fee clarification. It was not presented correctly and accurately."

*Record editor Larry Sobczak contributed to this article.*

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# Additional Filings for Petition 2

Item #1: Hiring of the law firm, Plunkett Cooney, with a no-bid contract and prior to the Township Board of Trustees knowledge or approval.

MACOMB COUNTY CLERK  
M. GLEHENS, MICHIGAN

18 AUG 24 PM 3:20

FILED

**PLUNKETT**  **COONEY**

June 30, 2017

Richard Cory, Township Supervisor  
Susan Brockmann, Township Clerk  
Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

RE: Bruce Township- WBRW and Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Dear Mr. Cory and Ms. Brockmann:

**Thank you very much for selecting Plunkett Cooney to represent your interests in a proceeding as counsel in connection with the above-referenced matter.** We will do our best to achieve your objectives and justify the confidence you have placed in us.

We have found that our clients appreciate seeing the terms of our engagement set forth in writing and that is the purpose of this letter. If you have any questions about these matters, please call us. We wish to clarify your expectations and avoid any misunderstanding from the outset of our representation.

You have hired us for our legal expertise although you retain the right to make all final decisions regarding the disposition of this matter. Additionally, you should expect to be informed at reasonable intervals as to how this matter is progressing and to have your questions answered to the best of our ability.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

You have requested that we represent Bruce Township with respect to negotiating a resolution to the outstanding issues that remain from an expired interim agreement for the operation of the community media center in Washington Township. Specifically, the following issues exist: (a) the use of the call letters "WBRW"; (b) a private corporation, Michigan Community Media, Inc. without a license or agreement; and (c) the liability of Bruce Township in place its government/community meetings to the public access channel being operated by Michigan Community Media, Inc. We will attempt to negotiate resolution to these issues and/or begin negotiations with the proper parties and will signal as that Bruce Township has its own dedicated FCC licensed public access channel Comcast and/or AT&T. This agreement does not cover any litigation.

**ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW**

2400 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 991-4000 • F: (248) 991-4000 • [plunkettcooney.com](http://plunkettcooney.com)

To increase the likelihood that your objectives will be fully realized, complete cooperation between us is essential. Our role is to counsel you and to advise you of the legal consequences of possible courses of action. Your role is to consider our advice and decide upon the course of action to follow. Obviously, we both can better perform our roles if we clearly and currently communicate with each other. We will use our best efforts to do so.

Your agreement is with Plunkett Cooney which will provide you the many benefits of its diverse staff and resources.

At this point, we believe it is in your best interest that I will be working on this matter. We may also obtain the assistance of other lawyers in our firm when our professional judgment indicates that it is necessary or desirable. You are free to feel free to contact me or any of our attorneys on your own if it is convenient to do so. In short, our objective is to make this as easy as possible for you to understand and to correct errors of this matter and to answer any questions that you may have. In addition to helping you achieve the best legal results possible, we want you to feel comfortable and confident in your relationship with us.

#### FEES

In this matter, our fees will be based solely on an hourly basis billed at \$200.00 per hour. We will bill for this matter on a monthly basis and payment of our invoices should be delivered to you via email from the email address [bill@plc.com](mailto:bill@plc.com) and payment of your payment is expected within 15 days of receipt of the bill. Further, should any out-of-pocket transaction are incurred on your behalf, these invoices will be sent directly to you for payment.

If you would like, we will attempt to estimate fees and expenses for this matter we are engaged to handle for you. However, actual fees and expenses for this matter will vary many conditions, a number of which are beyond our control and will depend on the parties and involved. Accordingly, an estimate should be viewed as only that. In any other factors occur that may cause a significant change in our estimate, we will let you know as soon as possible.

If you ever have a question about our billing procedures or statements, please ask us. We prefer to address these issues so that you fully understand the process and our

statements and are satisfied with them. We want you to be frank with us should you have any concerns.

**TERMINATION**

Either one of us may terminate this engagement by notifying the other in writing. We will comply with all applicable ethical considerations at the termination of this engagement. We will be entitled to be paid for services rendered and expenses incurred up to the effective date of termination.

If you agree with the foregoing, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter. Our receipt of the signed copy of this letter will constitute confirmation of your oral authorization for us to proceed on the matters described in this letter.

Again, we appreciate your employing Plunkett Cooney to represent you in this particular matter, and we look forward to working with you and providing you with the best in quality legal services.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw

The matters set forth in this letter are understood and agreed to by the undersigned as of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

Bruce Township

By:   
Richard Cory  
Its: Township Supervisor

By:   
Susan Brockmann  
Its: Township Clerk

<p style="text-align: center;">Township of Bruce Regular Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, October 18, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Township Hall 223 East Gates, Romeo, MI 48065 MINUTES</p>	
<p>Supervisor Cory called the meeting to order at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Members present:</b> Supervisor Richard Cory , Clerk Brockmann, Treasurer Deborah Obrecht, Trustee Mark Falker and Trustee Paul Okoniewski</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None</p>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
<p><b>Others Present:</b> Robert Stankiewicz, Steve Farr, Chuck Pedrotte, Trese Servitto-Smith, Camille Silda, Nick Posavetz, Dorothy Sochowicz, Stacy Sobotha and Dana Jenuwine as recording secretary.</p>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance recited</p>	<b>PLEDGE</b>
<p><b>AGENDA:</b> Discussion was held regarding the agenda.</p> <p>Motion by Obrecht, support by Falker to approve a \$108,000.00 loan from general to sewer and \$16,000.00 from general to water.</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> CORY, FALKER, OBRECHT <b>NAYS:</b> OKONIEWSKI, BROCKMANN <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p>Motion by Obrecht, support by Falker to approve a \$19,000.00 loan from general to water.</p> <p><b>OKONIEWSKI, CORY, OBRECHT, FALKER, BROCKMANN</b> <b>NAYS:</b> NONE <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding check number 50299 made payable to Plunkett Cooney for legal services pertaining to WBRW contract. Treasurer Obrecht questioned the authorization or lack of for the hiring of Plunkett Cooney and discussion included but was not limited to Michigan law, the agreement for services, hiring separate counsel, the roll of the media committee and the asset of the cable channel. Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to pay Ck. #50299 to Plunkett Cooney in the amount of \$2,830.85 for services rendered.</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> CORY, FALKER, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI <b>NAYS:</b> OBRECHT <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p> <p><b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b> Motion by Brockmann, support by Falker to approve the consent agenda as amended.</p> <p><b>ADD:</b> 3e. Treasurer's Report</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> OKONIEWSKI, CORY, OBRECHT, BROCKMANN, FALKER <b>NAYS:</b> NONE <b>ABSENT:</b> NONE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PLUNKETT COONEY INVOICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS:</b> NONE</p>	<b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS</b>

<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</b>  <b>ORDINANCE HEALTH CHECK:</b> Trustee Okoniewski spoke regarding the health check and indicated it is a complete overhaul of Ordinance 161 making it more user friendly with hyperlinks, mapping and GIS. <b>Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to approve a NTE total of \$12,000 with a \$6,000 budget amendment this year and \$6,000.00 next fiscal year.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: FALKER, CORY, OKONIEWSKI, OBRECHT, BROCKMANN</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b>  <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p>	<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>  <b>ORDINANCE HEALTH CHECK</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>  <b>SEIBERT DLOSKI FEES:</b> Treasurer Obrecht discussed the legal fees incurred by her.</p> <p><b>HI-TECH SERVICE CONTRACT:</b> <b>Motion by Obrecht to authorize board members to request service through Hi-Tech System Service without going through the appointed point of contact. Motion dies for lack of support.</b></p> <p><b>PLUNKETT COONEY:</b> <b>Motion by Obrecht to ratify the engagement letter of June 30, 2017 between Plunkett Cooney and Township of Bruce. Motion dies for lack of support</b></p>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b>  <b>SEIBERT DLOSKI FEES</b></p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS:</b>  Trustee Okoniewski reported the 34 Mile Road light is up and operational and they are looking into the possibility of removing the light at old Van Dyke to help with the congestion at the lights. He also reported the township has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant for engineering help on the sidewalk off Van Dyke between 33 Mile Road and Kaeding.</p> <p>Clerk Brockmann reported recycling will continue and there will be a SAW grant and Great Lakes Water Authority update next month. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the tree lighting and parade. And she addressed the MITT TV issue of airing high school games live. She assured the board this was a nasty rumor and the MITT TV is doing nothing wrong nor are they breaking any rules.</p> <p>Supervisor Cory reported the township had received a warning from the MDEQ but no fines have been assessed. He also read a letter from homeowners in the Orchard Hills subdivision thanking him for his help and assistance in removing a business operating out of a home in their subdivision.</p> <p>Treasurer Obrecht reported she has ordered a replacement veterans plaque for the hallway and will also be placing a plaque in the hallway for Michigan State Police Trooper Timothy O'Neill killed in the line of duty. She feels the township's policies and procedures are lacking. Treasurer Obrecht also reported the Veteran's Day celebration will be Saturday, November 11 at 11:00am at the Romeo Cemetery, Summit Plastics will have their groundbreaking on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, the Goodfellows collection will be December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and tax bills will be sent prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>.</p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT:</b> <b>Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: ALL</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b>  <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>





July 6, 2017

Michigan Community Media, Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Grayson, Executive Director  
8100 Wicker  
Washington Township, MI 48094

VIA Certified Mail and Email [contact@micommunitymedia.org](mailto:contact@micommunitymedia.org)

Re: Public Access Channel- WBRW

Dear Mr. Grayson:

We represent **Bruce Township** with respect to the use of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels and the use of the call letters WBRW. Pursuant to a service agreement that expired on March 31, 2016, Washington Township was responsible for establishing a Community Media Center (CMC) and retaining a management company for the purpose of managing the CMC operation (see attached). The expired agreement stated that the "CMC shall utilize the current PEG signal(s) and will operate under the WBRW call letters." In addition, the expired agreement stated as follows: "The positions of Romeo, Bruce, and Washington regarding the ownership of the PEG signal(s) and call letters WBRW shall be reserved for further discussion between the communities and are not affected by this agreement." Therefore, as the contracted vendor presently operating the CMC for Washington Township, please be advised that you have no authority to prohibit access to the PEG signals and no authority to operate under the WBRW call letters.

The representations to the public that your company is "WBRW" or that you are the public access channel and speak on behalf of this channel for commercial or political purposes is strictly prohibited. The Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (Act 480 of 2006) specifically prohibits the use of a PEG channel for commercial purposes. MCL 484.3304. Michigan Community Media, Inc. operating without authorization as "WBRW" has repeatedly used the PEG channel to advocate the awarding of a contract to itself (a corporation) in violation of this provision. Please be advised that the Michigan Public Service Commission may impose penalties for the violation of this Act at MCL 484.3314.

In addition, Bruce Township is being denied access to the PEG channel for the purpose of cablecasting its government meetings. Pursuant to the franchise agreements and the prior intergovernmental agreements for the operation of the PEG channel, Bruce Township

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

10505 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T (248) 901-4000 • F (248) 901-4040 • [plunkettcooney.com](http://plunkettcooney.com)

retains an interest in both the PEG channel and the call letters WBRW. You cannot deny equal access to a "public access" channel and this is outlined in your contract with Washington Township in paragraph 4.10 ("Provide Equal Access"). This contract provision states what federal law requires: you have no authority to control the content of programming on a public access channel unless you reasonably believe the content contains obscenity.

For these reasons, Bruce Township must demand that you agree, in writing, to immediately cease and desist from operating under the WBRW call letters and denying access to the PEG channel for purpose of cablecasting non-commercial programs including government meetings and community events. To that end, you must remove the letters "WBRW" from any and all vehicles, advertisements, materials, websites, and graphic images and cease all other use of WBRW with your programming, agreeing not to adopt that term—or any colorable imitation of it—at any time in the future.

If your company wishes to obtain an interim license or agreement for the use of the call letters WBRW while the issues surrounding the use of the PEG channel are discussed and negotiated between the member communities, please contact me by the close of business on July 14, 2017. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw  
cc: Board of Directors, Michigan Community Media, Inc.

# PLUNKETT COONEY

## Professional Services Invoice

Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

09/15/17  
Invoice #: 10673906  
Thru Date: 08/31/17

Attention: Susan Brockmann

Billing Attorney: 1271 - Schroder, Jeffrey  
RE: Dispute with Michigan Community Media

Opposing Party: Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Open Date: 07/07/17  
Our File: 26422-72135  
Your File:

---

Current Fees Due	\$240.00
Current Disbursements	<u>30.85</u>
Total This Invoice	\$270.85
Total Unpaid Invoices as of 09/15/17	<b>2,560.00</b>
Total Amount Due	<b><u>\$2,830.85</u></b>

Please remit to:  
Plunkett Cooney  
38505 Woodward, Ste. 100  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

---

38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 T: (248) 901-4000 F: (248) 901-4040 [plunkettcooney.com](http://plunkettcooney.com)  
Tax ID No. 38-1896842

**BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED**

<u>Date</u>	<u>TKPR</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>HRS</u>	
08/09/17	JS	REVIEW/ANALYZE DISCUSSION WITH SUSAN BROCKMANN RE: COMCAST NEGOTIATIONS AND POSITION ON CALL LETTERS AND BLACKOUT OF MEETING BROADCAST BY WBRW.	0.40	
08/09/17	JS	COMMUNICATE (OTHER EXTERNAL) PHONE CALL WITH 1ST AMENDMENT EXPERT BILL BURDETTE RE: WBRW BLACKOUT AND POTENTIAL LAWSUIT.	0.30	
08/10/17	JS	DRAFTING OF UPDATE TO SUSAN BROCKMANN RE: DISCUSSION WITH SHANNON DULIN OF COMCAST AND NEXT- STEPS TO GET NEW CHANNEL AND DECISIONS TO BE MADE WITH ROMEO; DISCUSSION REGARDING BLACKOUT SITUATION AT THE PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL IN WASHINGTON TWP	0.30	
08/10/17	JS	COMMUNICATE (OTHER EXTERNAL) PHONE CALL WITH SHANNON DULIN OF COMCAST; DISCUSSION OF NEXT- STEPS TO ASSIGN NEW CHANNEL	0.20	
		TOTAL ATTORNEY HOURS AND FEES	1.20	\$240.00
TOTAL HOURS AND FEES			1.20	\$240.00
NET FEES DUE				<u>\$240.00</u>

**HOURS RECAP**

	<u>HOURS</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	1.20	@	200.00	240.00
TOTALS	1.20			

**ATTORNEY RECAP**

<u>TIMEKEEPER</u>	<u>HOURS</u>		<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1271 - Schroder, Jeffrey	1.20	@	200.00	\$240.00
TOTAL HOURS AND FEES	1.20			\$240.00

NET FEES \$240.00

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TKPR</u>	<u>EXPENSES ADVANCED DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
06/23/17	JS	LOCAL TRAVEL - MILEAGE (58.2 MILES TO/FROM BRUCE TOWNSHIP OFFICES) VENDOR: JEFFREY SCHRODER; INVOICE#: JUN17; DATE: 8/3/2017	58.20	30.85
TOTAL EXPENSES ADVANCED				\$30.85
NET EXPENSES				\$30.85

**SUMMARIZED EXPENSES**

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
LOCAL TRAVEL - MILEAGE	58.20	30.85
TOTAL EXPENSES ADVANCED		\$30.85
NET EXPENSES		\$30.85
<b>TOTAL BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED</b>		<b>\$270.85</b>

# PLUNKETT COONEY

## Professional Services Invoice

Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

09/15/17  
Invoice #: 10673906  
Thru Date: 08/31/17

Attention: Susan Brockmann

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Please remit to:  
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38505 Woodward, Ste. 100  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

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38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 T: (248) 901-4000 F: (248) 901-4040 [plunkettcooney.com](http://plunkettcooney.com)  
Tax ID No. 38-1896842



ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

300 East Loog Lake Road Suite 200  
Bloomfield Hills Michigan 48304-2376

t 248 540 2300  
f 248 645 2690  
www.stroblpc.com

July 19, 2017

HENRY J. ANDRIES, JR.  
DIRECT (248) 205-2710  
HANDRIES@STROBLPC.COM

**VIA ELECTRONIC & FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Plunkett Cooney  
38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 2000  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
[jschroder@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:jschroder@plunkettcooney.com)

**JUL 24 2017**

**Re: Michigan Community Media, Inc. / Bruce Township**

Dear Mr. Schroder:

Please be advised that this law office represents Michigan Community Media, Inc. ("MiCM"). In response to your correspondence dated July 6, 2017, MiCM maintains that your allegations are untrue, and that your interpretation of the facts and applicable law is incorrect. MiCM intends to continue to lawfully meet its obligations pursuant to its contractual relationship with Washington Township, in connection with its operation of the Washington Township Community Media Center. Allow me to suggest that your client direct its demands and concerns related to the use of any cable signal or the WBRW call letters to my client's customer, Washington Township. I understand that your client was not willing to pay Washington Township or contribute a reasonable share for the use of the cable channel, and was not willing to pay Comcast for the cost of a separate cable channel.

I also understand that Bruce Township voluntarily ended its participation in the Washington Township Municipal Services Agreement for Provision of Community Media Center beyond its expiration in March 2016, notwithstanding Washington Township's offer to significantly reduce the percentage of franchise fees Bruce Township would be required to contribute for the cost of operating the Community Media Center ("CMC"), including the use of the cable channel. Instead, you offered a private contract to pay significantly more cable franchise fees received from its citizens to a newly formed media company, MiCM, at the expense of its citizens and for the benefit of MiCM, which is owned and operated by Mr. Ruth Heidebrecht. I understand that you are law firm may also represent Mr. Heidebrecht and/or MiCM. If this understanding is incorrect, please let me know. Mr. Heidebrecht was a former board member and executive director of MiCM until her abrupt departure in December 2015, shortly before Bruce Township elected not to participate with the Washington Township municipal services agreement beyond its March 2016 expiration.

Your client or client(s) demands to MiCM are unsupported by fact and applicable law, and appear to be motivated by improper purposes. Please direct your client(s) to cease and desist from improperly interfering with MiCM's contractual and/or business relationships.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

STROBL & SHARP, PC

Henry J. Andries, Jr.

HJA/nwh  
c: Board of Directors, MiCM

## Additional Filings for Petition 3



Item #2: Failure to disclose a conflict of interest and abstain from voting on the township's union employee contract due to her employment with the TPOAM (Technical, Professional, Officeworkers Association of Michigan.)

FILED  
18 AUG 24 PM 3:20  
JACOB COUNTY CLERK  
M.T. GLEHENS, MICHIGAN

for lack of support. Trustee Okoniewski feels we need more research before moving forward and requested a total assessment of the security system and the submission of 3 quotes.

**FIREWORKS APPLICATION - 72752 Sorrel Drive:** Chief Stankiewicz has no issues with the application. **Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to approve the fireworks application for 72752 Sorrel Drive.**

**AYES: FALKER, OBRECHT, CORY, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: NONE**

**TPOAM UNION CONTRACT:** Clerk Brockmann spoke regarding recent negotiations with the TPOAM union. **Motion by Okoniewski, support by Falker to accept the tentative agreement between the Township of Bruce and the TPOAM Union as presented.**

**AYES: OBRECHT, BROCKMANN, CORY, FALKER, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: NONE**

**LIBRARY APPOINTMENT:** Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to appoint Dan Walker to the Romeo District Library Board of Directors for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021.

**AYES: FALKER, BROCKMANN, CORY, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: OBRECHT**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Supervisor Cory thanked Mary Davis for the flower pots located at the front and back doors.  
Clerk Brockmann reported a shred day has been scheduled for September 9, 2017 at the township hall from 9:00 to 12:00 and the Farmer's Market is returning to the park.  
Trustee Okoniewski reported the light at 34 Mile and Van Dyke has been engineered and is scheduled for install in June or July. It will have radio controlled signals. Also, 34 Mile Road is closed for repairs due to peat moss 30' below the surface.  
Treasurer Obrecht expressed concerns regarding emails, sewer flows, computer issues and contracting with the Sheriff's office for service. She also indicated the Cloverfield development has secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITC easement and she congratulated the Almont, Armada and Romeo seniors.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

ARTICLE 36  
TERM OF AGREEMENT

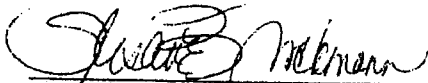
36.1: This Agreement shall be in force from January 1, 2015 through and including December 31, 2017. Be it provided, however, that economic conditions shall be implemented upon execution of the Agreement as established by the signatures below or as provided by the Agreement.

36.2: It shall be the exclusive responsibility, authority and prerogative of the Union to notify the Employer of its desire to amend or modify the Agreement upon its expiration. Such notice shall be made in writing to the Friend of Court with a copy to the County Human Resources Director within the period October 1, 2017 through and including December 31, 2017 or the bargaining unit shall be considered to have decertified and the parties shall be prohibited from collective bargaining.

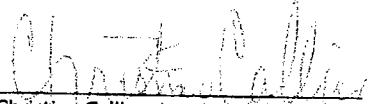
36.3: Should any law now existing or hereafter enacted, or any proclamation, regulation or edict of any state or national agency invalidate any portion of this Agreement, the entire Agreement shall not be invalidated. Should any portion, by such circumstances as provided above, become invalid, either party may request and the parties shall meet to negotiate the invalidated portion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

FOR THE UNION



Susan Brockmann, Business Agent  
TPOAM

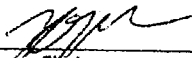


Christine Collins, Local President



Melissa Sommers, Steward

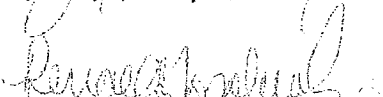
THE COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR



Jeff Bohn, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners



Jay DeBoyer, County Clerk



Renae Topolewski, Friend of Court

ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
FRIEND OF COURT

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
FRIEND OF COURT

AND

FRIEND OF COURT EMPLOYEES - TPOAM

EFFECTIVE

JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND  
OFFICEWORKERS ASSOCIATION OF  
MICHIGAN (TPOAM)

  
Susan Brockmann, TPOAM, Staff Representative

  
Penny Moore, Chairperson

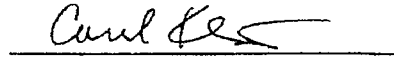
  
Sharon Mullins, Co-Chairperson


  
Kelly Butcher, Bargaining Team Member

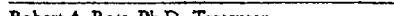
  
Marge Stuchenburg, Bargaining Team Member

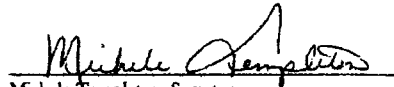
  
Shirley Rader, Bargaining Team Member

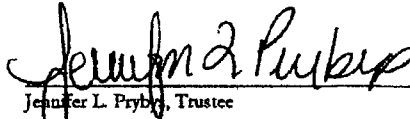
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS,  
MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

  
Carol Klenow, Ed.D., President

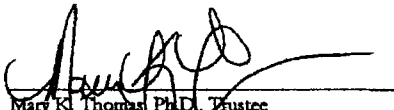
  
Gene L. Klida, Vice President

  
Robert A. Ross, Ph.D., Treasurer

  
Michele Templeton, Secretary

  
Jennifer L. Prybyl, Trustee

  
Kenneth M. Kroiczky, Trustee

  
Mary K. Thomas, Ph.D., Trustee

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
AGREEMENT**

**UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

**and**

**TPOAM - UTICA TRANSPORTATION**


**JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2018**

ARTICLE 30  
DURATION


This Agreement shall be effective July 1, 2017 and shall continue in full force and effect until midnight December 31, 2020 and thereafter for successive periods of one year unless either party, on or before 90 days prior to December 31, 2020, or any anniversary date thereof, notifies the other party in writing of its desire to amend, modify or terminate the Agreement. Such proper and timely notification shall have the effect of terminating the entire Agreement on the expiration date.

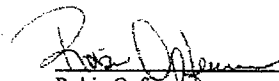
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have, by their authorized representatives, affixed signature to this Agreement at Monroe, Michigan, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2017.

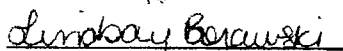
FOR THE EMPLOYER

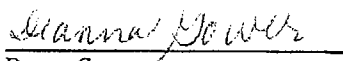
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Henry Lievens, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

FOR THE UNION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Brockmann  
Business Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Opferman  
Chief Steward

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsay Borawski  
Steward

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Gower  
Steward



AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE

COUNTY OF MONROE

AND THE

TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL & OFFICEWORKERS  
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (TPOAM)  
(PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES)

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## TO THE EDITOR:

### Censure or Cover Up?

It has come to my attention that Bruce Township Clerk Susan Brockmann has a business relationship with the Technical, Professional, and Office Workers Association of Michigan (TPOAM). Four statewide TPOAM signed contracts show Brockmann serving as a business agent/staff representative. Yes, elected officials may hold additional job(s) under state law—I have no dispute with that.

However, Bruce Township's general/fire administrative staff are members of the TPOAM and this past year, this contract was renewed.

Brockmann negotiated and presented the contract to the Bruce Township Board of Trustees for ratification. Brockmann never divulged her relationship with the TPOAM. She did not share her conflict when agreeing to negotiate the township contract. Further, Clerk Brockmann did not abstain from voting when the contract was ratified.

An individual cannot equally represent both parties. This is clearly a conflict of interest. The wages and benefits for the full time administrative staff represent a significant portion of township general fund budget.

I asked the board to discuss this matter at the December 2017 board meeting but the clerk removed this agenda item.

Here's the unanswered question: Is this a violation of ethics or statute?

Here's another matter I wish to discuss at the December meeting:

The sewer rate structure was established based upon rates being equitable, justifiable, and defensible.

The baseline established was everyone in the sewer district would pay the sewer debt reduction (SDR) fee to resolve the township sewer deficit. (The township has borrowed money to pay the cost of bringing

sewer infrastructure to the sewer district.)

After being approached by the "sewer billing" staff regarding billing adjustments, the board's "simple clarification" amendment was misrepresented during the January 2017 board meeting.

Per Bruce Township Supervisor Richard Cory, the board amended the service ready fee. In reality, the sewer debt reduction was removed. This action affected an agreement with one particular developer because the developer's committed taps were now not being applied to the SDR reduction fee since "no formal approved site plan was ratified."

In my opinion, favoritism is being shown favoring one developer without an approved site plan over all others being billed because they had approved site plans. This less than two minute motion erased \$24,000 annual SDR projected revenues to the benefit of one developer.

This lost revenue will be shifted to those not on the sewer system (a majority of the taxpayers in Bruce Township) and those on the sewer system will pay twice – on their sewer bill and in the tax dollars being loaned for the sewer deficit.

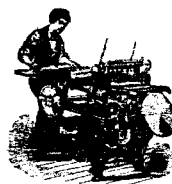
This matter will be discussed at the board meeting on Dec. 13. I encourage the public to attend.

After receiving my agenda item's supporting information, the supervisor and clerk then contacted the township attorney to pursue "censure of the treasurer."

This action is politically motivated resulting in covering up and deceiving the public who trusted us to serve them. Elected officials are held to higher accountability standards. The truth needs to be told. Go along to get along isn't the solution.

Trust, honesty, and integrity must be restored.

*Deb Obrecht  
Bruce Township Treasurer*



# The Record

Serving Northern Macomb County

P.O. 708 Washington, MI 48094 •  
<http://www.myrecordnewspaper.com> • publisher

## Publisher and Editor

Lawrence Sobczak

## Advertising Director and General Manager

Christopher Rose

## Creative Director:

Lyn Baxter

## Contributors:

Nicholas Baxter Andrea Rose  
Jerry Fraeyman Stacy Sobotk



Letter policy: Please submit your letter by 5 p.m. on the day before publication. The letter must contain the author's name, address, and phone number. Letters will be edited for length, grammar and clarity. If necessary, we may edit for clarity and brevity.

Opinions on this page do not necessarily reflect the management of The Record.

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# KEEP IT LOCAL

Placing your classified ad in  
supports local people and  
as well as this new



**Additional Documents  
Filed September 10, 2018**

Debi Martone

414 N. Bailey Street • Romeo, MI 48065 • 586-337-1128 • debimartone@gmail.com

September 7, 2018

MACON COUNTY CLERK  
MICHIGAN

18 SEP 10 AM 9:39

FILED

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself and explain the reason for my dedication to this recall of Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk.

I wrote hundreds of stories as a writer for The Romeo Observer newspaper for 13 years prior to the day it ceased publication in 2015. After that time I helped form The Record newspaper, where I held the title of Staff Writer.

One of my roles as Staff Writer was to cover all of the Bruce Township municipal meetings. This position with The Record did not last long, however, as my job was sabotaged by one of the Bruce Township contractors who wanted to ensure certain aspects of her business relationship with the township would not be exposed.

When I learned Ms. Brockmann was a conspirator in this maneuver, it prompted me to pay even closer attention to the dealings of the Bruce Township clerk and supervisor, as well as continue my investigation of the story I was uncovering for the newspaper.

During this time, I became a confidant to many in the tri-community area of Romeo and Washington and Bruce townships.

I received an anonymous tip that Ms. Brockmann was a Business Agent for the TPOAM (Technical, Professional, Officeworkers Association of Michigan.) This tip prompted a Google search which verified the claim (see attached.)

Bruce Township is a client of the POAM/TPOAM and utilizes this agency for their union negotiating and contracting needs. Although she will attest to the fact that the township's business agent is Kevin Loftis, the recall language is written to reflect the conflict of interest Ms. Brockmann did NOT divulge when presenting the contract to the Bruce Township Board of Trustees for approval on May 17, 2017. Furthermore, Ms. Brockmann should have abstained from voting on this contract due to the conflict of interest her employment with the TPOAM creates for the employees who benefit from this contract and the taxpayers who ultimately pay for it.

The Minutes from the May 17, 2017 meeting are attached.

The Bruce Township Treasurer, Debbie Obrecht states that she was unaware of Ms. Brockmann's affiliation and employment with the TPOAM until it was brought to her attention by others. Mr. Robert Davis, Mrs. Obrecht's personal attorney, then disclosed this information to the Bruce Township Board of Trustees at their December 13, 2017 Regular Meeting.

On a side note, Mr. Davis was initially present for this meeting to address Agenda item 7.i. (attached), "Censure of Treasurer." It is believed this censure was a maneuver to keep Mrs. Obrecht from publicly announcing this conflict of interest at that or any future meetings.

As a Bruce Township resident and taxpayer, former reporter and now as an "unofficial investigative journalist," I can and will testify that I had no knowledge of Ms. Brockmann's employment with the TPOAM from watching Bruce Township board meetings or any other public announcement thereof prior to receiving the anonymous tip that I received via text message last November.

It is my hope that, upon reviewing this evidence, the Honorable Judge and Board of Review will approve the language for the recall of Ms. Brockmann for her failure to disclose a conflict of interest and abstain from voting on the township's union employee contract due to her employment with the TPOAM.

Your time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Debi Martone



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PLATFORM ABOUT

# Info

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Wrong Susan Brockmann? | Update Profile

## Susan Brockmann

## FREE Susan's Direct Phone & E

Business Agent at Technical Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan

Download ZoomInfo's Community Edition an

Location: 27056 Joy Road, Redford, Michigan, United States

Susan's Direct Phone and Email, plus an ad

Company: Technical Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan

10 FREE contacts every month.

Join the Community

HQ Phone: (313) 937-9000

Access Susan's Contact Information

It's free & takes less than a minute!

Additional contacts at Susan's com



ABOUT TPOAM ▾ CONTACT US NEWS & EVENTS

twitter.com/nipoam **f**

LEGISLATIVE LEGAL GRIEVANCE SERVICES RESOURCES ▾

**RECENT**

**Susan Brockmann**



Union R  
Training



Signed &



**A G E N D A**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BRUCE TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**\*\*WEDNESDAY\*\***  
**May 17, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

May  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS

\*Board Meeting  
May 17, 2017

\*Planning Commission  
May 24, 2017

\*ZBA  
May 22, 2017

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Consent Agenda** (All items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of any item(s) is required by a Board member, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Public comments on the Consent Agenda items are permitted.)
  - a. **Approval of Minutes**
    - i. **Regular Board April 19, 2017**
  - b. **Approval of Agenda (subject to amendment)**
  - c. **Approval of Financial Reports & Budget Amendments**
  - d. **Approval of Bills**
4. **Comments from the Floor \***
5. **Hearings and Reviews**
6. **Unfinished Business**
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Special Assessment District-Paving -Christopher Court (Cedarview Subdivision)**
    - i. **Resolution 1**
    - ii. **Resolution 2**
8. **Strategic Business Park 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to Conditional Rezoning**
9. **Planning Commission Meeting Date Changes**
10. **Fire Department Attorney Representation Request**
11. **Hydrant Ordinance**
12. **Fireworks Application – 72725 Sorrel Dr.**
13. **TPOAM Union Contract – Tentative Agreement**
14. **Library Appointment**
15. **Communications**
16. **Adjournment**

\*Audience members commenting from the floor will do so from the podium and will be asked to provide their name and address for the record. Comments will be directed to the Chair who will then answer the question (or not) or direct the question to the appropriate Board member for a response (or not). If a Board member wishes to ask a question of an individual at the microphone, the Board member should ask for permission from the Chair.

*UPCOMING MEETINGS*

Board Meeting	June 21, 2017
Planning Commission	June 28, 2017
ZBA Meeting	June 26, 2017

<p style="text-align: center;">Township of Bruce Regular Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, May 17, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Township Hall 223 East Gates, Romeo, MI 48065 MINUTES</p>	
<p>Supervisor Cory called the meeting to order at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Members present:</b> Supervisor Richard Cory , Clerk Susan Brockmann, Treasurer Deborah Obrecht, Trustee Mark Falker and Trustee Paul Okoniewski</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>
<p><b>Others Present:</b> Chief Stankiewicz, Stephanie Racz, Darryl Racz, Stocy Sobotha, Greg Blaszczyk, Gus Demas, Lillian Demas, Arianna Welsh, Mike Fillbrook, Tom Kalkofen, Kelly Garrison, Joe Gwisdalla, Trese Servitto-Smith, Dorothy Sochowicz, Dan Walker, Debra Beauvais, Darlene Kryta and Dana Jenuwine as recording secretary.</p>	<p><b>OTHERS PRESENT</b></p>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance recited and the board took a moment in the memory of Richard Shafer who passed away May 12, 2017.</p>	<p><b>PLEDGE</b></p>
<p><b>AGENDA: Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to amend the agenda as follows:</b></p> <p><b>Remove: 11. Hydrant Ordinance</b></p> <p><b>Move: 8. Strategic Business Park 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to Conditional Rezoning to 6. Unfinished Business</b></p> <p><b>AYES: CORY, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI, OBRECHT FALKER</b></p> <p><b>NAYS: NONE</b></p> <p><b>Motion by Obrecht, support by Falker to add Weber Security as item #11.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: FALKER, OKONIEWSKI, OBRECHT</b></p> <p><b>NAYS: CORY, BROCKMANN</b></p> <p><b>Motion by Falker, support by Okoniewski to approve the consent agenda as amended.</b></p> <p><b>AYES: OBRECHT, BROCKMANN, CORY, OKONIEWSKI, FALKER</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>



<p><b>NAYS: NONE</b></p>	
<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:</b>  Comments were heard from Trese Smith, Joe Gwisdalla, Darlene Kryta, Greg Blasiuk, Kelly Garrison and Debra Beauvais</p>	<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR</b></p>
<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS:</b>  <b>NONE AT THIS TIME</b></p>	<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS</b></p>
<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</b>  <b>STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARK 3<sup>rd</sup> AMENDMENT TO CONDITIONAL REZONING:</b> Resolved by Brockmann, support by Falker to accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the conditional rezoning agreement between Strategic Business Park and Bruce Township as presented.</p> <p><b>AYES: OKONIEWSKI, CORY, OBRECHT, FALKER, BROCKMANN</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b></p>	<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>  <b>STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARK 3<sup>RD</sup> AMENDMENT</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>  <b>SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT - PAVING - CHRISTOPHER COURT (CEDARVIEW SUB):</b>  Resolved by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to adopt Resolutions 1 &amp; 2 for the Christopher Court paving project.</p> <p><b>AYES: FALKER, OBRECHT, CORY, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b></p> <p><b>PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:</b> Motion by Obrecht, support by Okoniewski to approve the planning commission meeting schedule changes as presented.</p> <p><b>AYES: FALKER, BROCKMANN, CORY, OBRECHT, OKONIEWSKI</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b></p> <p><b>FIRE DEPARTMENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION:</b> Motion by Brockmann, support by Obrecht to approve Seibert and Dloski, LLC as legal counsel to represent the Bruce Township Fire Department.</p> <p><b>AYES: OKONIEWSKI, FALKER, CORY, OBRECHT, BROCKMANN</b>  <b>NAYS: NONE</b></p> <p><b>WEBER SECURITY:</b> Treasurer Obrecht spoke regarding the sounding of the security alarm on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the installation of security cameras. Motion by Obrecht to approve installation of security cameras at a one-time cost of \$2,400.00. Motion died</p>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b>  <b>SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT - PAVING - CHRISTOPHER COURT (CEDARVIEW SUB)</b></p>

for lack of support. Trustee Okoniewski feels we need more research before moving forward and requested a total assessment of the security system and the submission of 3 quotes.

**FIREWORKS APPLICATION - 72752 Sorrel Drive:** Chief Stankiewicz has no issues with the application. **Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to approve the fireworks application for 72752 Sorrel Drive.**

**AYES: FALKER, OBRECHT, CORY, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: NONE**

**TPOAM UNION CONTRACT:** Clerk Brockmann spoke regarding recent negotiations with the TPOAM union. **Motion by Okoniewski, support by Falker to accept the tentative agreement between the Township of Bruce and the TPOAM Union as presented.**

**AYES: OBRECHT, BROCKMANN, CORY, FALKER, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: NONE**

**LIBRARY APPOINTMENT:** Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to appoint Dan Walker to the Romeo District Library Board of Directors for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021.

**AYES: FALKER, BROCKMANN, CORY, OKONIEWSKI**  
**NAYS: OBRECHT**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Supervisor Cory thanked Mary Davis for the flower pots located at the front and back doors.  
Clerk Brockmann reported a shred day has been scheduled for September 9, 2017 at the township hall from 9:00 to 12:00 and the Farmer's Market is returning to the park.  
Trustee Okoniewski reported the light at 34 Mile and Van Dyke has been engineered and is scheduled for install in June or July. It will have radio controlled signals. Also, 34 Mile Road is closed for repairs due to peat moss 30' below the surface.  
Treasurer Obrecht expressed concerns regarding emails, sewer flows, computer issues and contracting with the Sheriff's office for service. She also indicated the Cloverfield development has secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITC easement and she congratulated the Almont, Armada and Romeo seniors.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Falker, support by Obrecht to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AYES: ALL  
NAYS: NONE**

---

**Susan Brockmann, Clerk**

**Date**

---

**Dana Jenuwine, Recording Secretary**

**Date**



**A G E N D A**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BRUCE TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**\*\*WEDNESDAY\*\***  
**December 13, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

September  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS

\*Planning Commission  
December 6, 2017

\*Board Meeting  
December 13, 2017

\*ZBA  
December 18, 2017  
\*indicates a change in regular  
schedule

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda** (All items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of any item(s) is required by a Board member, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Public comments on the Consent Agenda items are permitted.)
  - a. **Approval of Minutes**
    - i. **Regular Minutes November 8, 2017**
    - ii. **Special Board Minutes November 26, 2017**
    - iii. **Set CDBG Public Hearing (January 17, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Twp. Hall)**
  - b. **Approval of Agenda (subject to amendment)**
  - c. **Approval of Financial Reports & Budget Amendments**
  - d. **Approval of Bills**
  - e. **Loan for \$16,000 from General to Water Receiving**
4. **Comments from the Floor \***
  - a. **Treasurer's Presentations**
5. **Hearings and Reviews**
6. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. **Ordinance Health Check**
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Fire Department – Part-Time Hire**
  - b. **Designation of Publications**
  - c. **Sewer Charges-Ordinance Clarification**
  - d. **Strategic Business Park Site Plan**
  - e. **Authorize PC To Start Marijuana Discussions**
  - f. **MCC 2018 Summer and Winter Tax Collection Resolution**
  - g. **Attorney Fees**
  - h. **The Meadows SLU**
  - i. **Censure of Treasurer**
8. **Communications**
9. **Adjournment**

\*Audience members commenting from the floor will do so from the podium and will be asked to provide their name and address for the record. Comments will be directed to the Chair who will then answer the question (or not) or direct the question to the appropriate Board member for a response (or not). If a Board member wishes to ask a question of an individual at the microphone, the Board member should ask for permission from the Chair.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Planning Commission	January 10, 2018
Board Meeting	January 17, 2018
ZBA Meeting	January 22, 2018

<p style="text-align: center;">Township of Bruce Regular Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, December 13, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce Township Hall 223 East Gates, Romeo, MI 48065 MINUTES</p>	
<p>Supervisor Cory called the meeting to order at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Members present:</b> Supervisor Richard Cory , Clerk Brockmann, Treasurer Deborah Obrecht, Trustee Mark Falker and Trustee Paul Okoniewski</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None</p>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
<p><b>Others Present:</b> Frank Lamb, Mike Fillbrook, Tom Kalkofen, Trese Servitto-Smith, Steve Farr, Chuck Pedrotte, Donna Adams, Mike Adams, Dorothy Sochowicz, Dan Walker, Stephanie Racz, Darryl Racz, Justin Racz and Dana Jenuwine as recording secretary.</p>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
<p>Pledge of Allegiance recited</p>	<b>PLEDGE</b>
<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Falker, support by Okoniewski to amend the consent agenda as follows:</b></p> <p><b>REMOVE:</b></p> <p>4a. Treasurer's Presentations 6a. Ordinance Health Check 7a. Fire Department - Part Time Hire</p> <p><b>MOVE:</b></p> <p>7h. The Meadows SLU to 7a.</p> <p><b>AYES: OKONIEWSKI, BROCKMANN, CORY, FALKER</b> <b>NAYS: OBRECHT</b> <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p> <p>Motion by Falker, support by Okoniewski to approve the consent agenda as amended.</p> <p><b>AYES: CORY, FALKER, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWSKI</b> <b>NAYS: OBRECHT</b> <b>ABSENT: NONE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSENT AGENDA AMENDMENTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:</b> Comments were heard from Robert Davis, Sue Hier, Peter Coutsos, Trese Smith, Mike Adams, Frank Lamb, Dan Walker and Dana Jenuwine</p>	<b>COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR</b>
<p><b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS:</b> NONE</p>	<b>HEARINGS AND REVIEWS</b>
<p><b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</b> NONE</p>	<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS:</b> <b>THE MEADOWS - SLU:</b> Trustee Okoniewski gave a synopsis of the Planning Commission public hearing and comments. Motion by Okoniewski, support by Falker to accept the planning commission's recommendation to deny the special land use application for the Meadows-North based on the township attorney's opinion that the developer has not demonstrated a clearly defined legal right to access Sunset Lane.</p> <p><b>AYES: CORY, BROCKMANN, OBRECHT, FALKER, OKONIEWSKI</b> <b>NAYS: NONE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW BUSINESS</b> <b>THE MEADOWS - SLU</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>

**ABSENT: NONE**

**DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATIONS:**

Clerk Brockmann spoke regarding the end of publication for the Source Newspaper. She indicated the Macomb Daily will offer same pricing, it has more circulation and is a daily paper.

**Motion by Brockmann, support by Falker to use the Macomb Daily as the designated source for publication.**

**AYES: OKONIEWSKI, FALKER, CORY BROCKMANN**

**NAYS: OBRECHT**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**SEWER CHARGES - ORDINANCE CLARIFICATION:**

Treasurer Obrecht passed out documentation regarding the January 2017 meeting and discussion included but was not limited to sewer debt reduction vs. ready to serve fees, allocated vs. committed, how the fees are applied, etc. The ordinance has been sent to the attorney for further clarification.

**STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARK SITE PLAN:** Justin Racz of Strategic Business Park spoke regarding the development at 33 Mile and McKay. He indicated there have been changes in plans and asked to rescind the site plan for phase 3 of the project consisting of 60 units known as The Villages.

**MARIJUANA DISCUSSION:** Discussion was held regarding the direction the board would like to take as it pertains to marijuana. It was noted there are many issues that need clarification by the state and federal governments before the township can decide their direction.

**MCC 2018 SUMMER AND WINTER TAX COLLECTION:**

**Resolved by Obrecht, support by Falker to approve the collection of Macomb Community College taxes on the summer tax bills in the amount of \$1.50 per parcel.**

**AYES: BROCKMANN, CORY, OKONIEWSKI, FALKER, OBRECHT**

**NAYS: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**ATTORNEY FEES:** Discussion was held regarding the increasing attorney bills and calls regarding same issues.

**Motion by Brockmann, support by Okoniewski to adopt a policy that no calls or emails incurring charges from the attorney be authorized without 2 board members agreeing to the call or email.**

**AYES: FALKER, CORY, BROCKMANN, OKONIEWKSI**

**NAYS: OBRECHT**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**CENSURE OF TREASURER:** Trustee Okoniewski read a statement which included but was not limited to the stress and anguish in the office, the never ceasing emails and text messages from the treasurer and the fact that since the 80's there has only been one board member that is the common denominator.

Discussion continued including but not limited to accusations against employees and residents and how the people's work is no longer the people's work but the treasurer's, lowering the temperature in the office, what the options are as they pertain to elected officials and getting the workplace back to the workplace. No action at this time.

**DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATIONS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SEWER CHARGES - ORDINANCE CLARIFICATION**

**STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARK SITE PLAN**

**MARIJUANA DISCUSSION**

**MCC 2018 SUMMER AND WINTER TAX COLLECTION**

**RESOLUTION CARRIED**

**ATTORNEY FEES**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CENSURE OF TREASURER**



Deborah S. Obrecht  
Township of Bruce Treasurer  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

September 6, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I apologize that I cannot attend the hearing to approve the recall language for Richard Cory, the Bruce Township Supervisor and Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk, in person. Due to summer taxes being due and payable the next day, I am unable to leave my office to attend this hearing.

As an elected Treasurer and voting member of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees, I can testify that the recall petition stating Susan Brockmann did not disclose a conflict of interest due to her affiliation with the TPOAM is true and accurate.

At our December 13, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, under Comments from the Floor, an attorney presented to the Township Board formal documents supporting that the Township Clerk works for the TPOAM.

The Bruce Township Administrative Employees Association is a member of this union. Our Business Agent is Kevin Loftis. Clerk Brockmann holds the same title (Business Agent) with the TPOAM. Copies of her signature as Susan Brockmann, Business Agent, TPOAM were provided for numerous contracts throughout the State of Michigan.

I was not made aware of this employment conflict until November by a resident. In January of 2017, the Township began negotiations to renew the Bruce Township Administrative Employees Association contract. Clerk Brockmann presented the contract and voted on this contract at the May 17, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees and never divulged her conflict of interest to the Board or community.

Further, in an email sent to the entire Board of Trustees, dated July 10, 2017 at 4:57 p.m, the Clerk specifically threatened that she will encourage her employees to contact their union representative and suggested litigation against Bruce Township if they are unhappy with their jobs, their peers or their supervisors. This email was sent prior to the Board's knowledge of her affiliation with the TPOAM and created a conflict of interest internally as well.

This conduct by the Clerk is reprehensible and shows an abuse of her position as Clerk. Her employment with the Township's union contracting agency was clearly and purposely withheld from the employees, the Board and the Bruce Township residents.



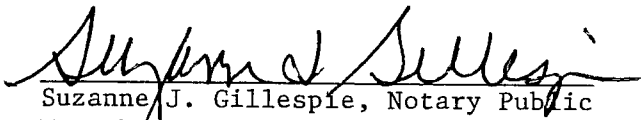
Respectfully submitted.



Deborah S. Obrecht  
Bruce Township Treasurer

STATE OF MICHIGAN    )  
                                  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF MACOMB    )

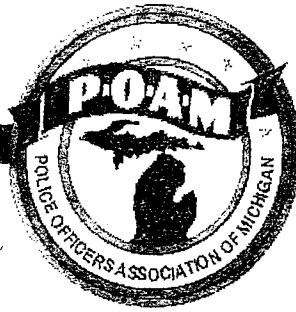
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of September, 2018.



Suzanne J. Gillespie, Notary Public  
Macomb County, Michigan  
My Comm. Expires: 10Jan2020  
Acting in Macomb County

MENU

SIDEBAR



Below you will find a list of all Michigan law enforcement departments and offices whose employees are members of the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

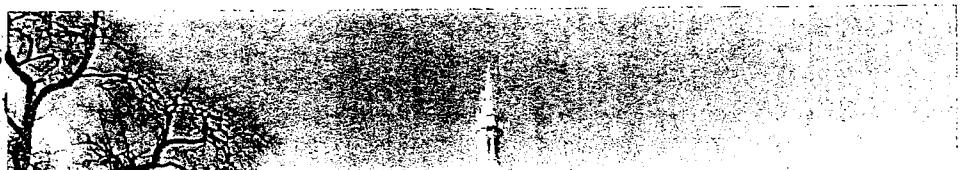
*\* as of 01/01/2012*

- Birmingham Command Officers Association
- Birmingham Police Officers Association
- Blackman Township Police Officers Association
- Blackman Township Public Safety Officer Sergeants Association
- Branch County Command Officers Association
- Branch County Deputy Sheriffs Association
- Bronson Police Officers Association
- Brownstown Township Command Officers Association
- \* Bruce Township Administrative Employees Association
- Buena Vista Township Command Officers Association
- Buena Vista Township Police Officers Association
- Burton Command Officers Association
- Burton Police Officers Association

## C

Back to top

- Cadillac Command Officers Ass
- Cadillac Police Officers Associat



POAM  
27056 Joy Road  
Redford, MI 48239

6/1/17

Attn: Heather

Union dues payable for:

Mary Davis \$31.00  
147 Sisson Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

Dana Jenuwine \$31.00  
74525 McKay  
Romeo, MI 48065

Eileen Rhodes \$31.00  
11151 34 Mile Road  
Romeo, MI 48065

Dorothy Sochowicz \$31.00  
71137 Oaktree Lane  
Romeo, MI 48065

Bonnie Scherr \$31.00  
70520 Dutchess  
Romeo, MI 48065

Total paid for month of December 2017

701-000.000-231.610 \$155.00



**Thomas Scherer**

Business Agent

Clinton Township POA



**Kevin Loftis**

\* Business Agent, Research Analyst

Oak Park PSOA



**Thomas Funke**

Business Agent

Livonia POA

ARTICLE 36  
TERM OF AGREEMENT

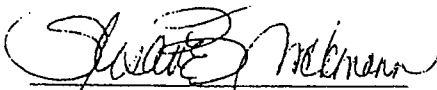
36.1: This Agreement shall be in force from January 1, 2015 through and including December 31, 2017. Be it provided, however, that economic conditions shall be implemented upon execution of the Agreement as established by the signatures below or as provided by the Agreement.

36.2: It shall be the exclusive responsibility, authority and prerogative of the Union to notify the Employer of its desire to amend or modify the Agreement upon its expiration. Such notice shall be made in writing to the Friend of Court with a copy to the County Human Resources Director within the period October 1, 2017 through and including December 31, 2017 or the bargaining unit shall be considered to have decertified and the parties shall be prohibited from collective bargaining.

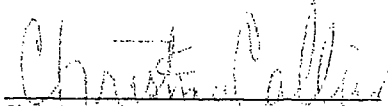
36.3: Should any law now existing or hereafter enacted, or any proclamation, regulation or edict of any state or national agency invalidate any portion of this Agreement, the entire Agreement shall not be invalidated. Should any portion, by such circumstances as provided above, become invalid, either party may request and the parties shall meet to negotiate the invalidated portion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

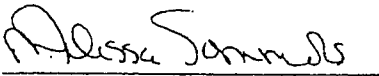
FOR THE UNION



Susan Brockmann, Business Agent  
TPOAM

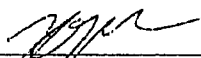


Christine Collins, Local President

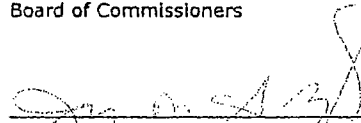


Melissa Sommers, Steward

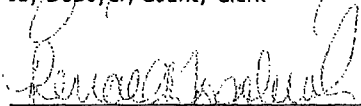
THE COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR



Jeff Bohm, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners



Jay DeBoyer, County Clerk



Renae Topolewski, Friend of Court

# Debi Martone

414 N. Bailey Street • Romeo, Mi 48065 • (586) 336-3823 • debimartone@comcast.net

MACOMB COUNTY CLERK  
MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN

18 SEP 10 AM 9:39

FILED

September 7, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself and explain the reason for my dedication to this recall of Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk, and Richard Cory, the Bruce Township Supervisor.

I wrote hundreds of stories as a writer for The Romeo Observer newspaper for 13 years prior to the day it ceased publication in 2015. After that time I helped form The Record newspaper, where I held the title of Staff Writer.

One of my roles as Staff Writer was to cover all of the Bruce Township municipal meetings. This position with The Record did not last long, however, as my job was sabotaged by one of the Bruce Township contractors, The Mitt TV, who wanted to ensure certain aspects of her business relationship with the township would not be exposed.

When I learned Ms. Brockmann was a conspirator in this maneuver, it prompted me to pay even closer attention to the dealings of the Bruce Township clerk and supervisor, as well as continue my investigation of the story I was uncovering for the newspaper.

Last fall I received information via documents I received through the Freedom of Information Act that provided proof that Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory were indeed conspiring behind the scenes on behalf of the before mentioned contractor. Without board knowledge or approval, both of these elected officials deceived the board and the public to ensure assistance in establishing this contractor's business venture (see letter from the Bruce Township Treasurer, Debbie Obrecht, sent separately.) One of those private maneuvers was the hiring of the attorney, Jeffrey Schroder of the law firm, Plunkett Cooney.

Mr. Schroder, Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory signed a Letter of Engagement, attached, on June 30, 2017. At that time, Mr. Schroder met with both parties and incurred legal fees payable to a firm other than Seibert and Dloski, the legal team already contracted for township business. The Bruce Township board had no knowledge of, nor had they had the opportunity for discussion or approval of the hiring of Plunkett Cooney, privately or publicly at the board table. (See letter from Mrs. Debbie Obrecht.)

The Letter of Engagement clearly states, under Scope of Work (attached), that Mr. Schroder was working on behalf of Bruce Township. Subsequently, a letter received from the organization, Michigan Community Media, Inc./WBRW, (attached) also clearly states that Mr. Schroder represented Bruce Township as well.

According to Mrs. Obrecht, this relationship between Mr. Schroder/Plunkett Cooney and Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory was not shared with the Bruce Township Board of Trustees until July 18, 2017, AFTER actions were already taken by Mr. Schroder and fees were incurred to the township.

Considering the secretive manner in which this contract was signed, it is clear there was a no-bid process to obtain it.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Plunkett Cooney was also the legal firm used by the contractor mentioned earlier (see attached.) I do not believe the hiring of this law firm by Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory was coincidental.

It is my hope that upon reviewing this evidence, the Honorable Judge and Board of Review will approve the language for the recall of Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory.

Your time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Debi Martone





September 29, 2017

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act I am requesting the following documents:

1. Method of payment used by the treasure of Bruce Township, or any and all elected officials, township employees or other person or entity acting on Bruce Township's behalf, to pay \$30.85 to Plunkett Cooney per invoice#:JUN17; Date:8/3/2017 and any and all bookkeeping and accounting records of the payment.
2. Any and all invoices for legal advice and other related services Bruce Township, and any and all of its elected officials and any and all employees of Bruce Township employees incurred from any and all attorneys representing the firm Plunkett Cooney dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
3. Any and all invoices for legal advice and other related services Bruce Township incurred from any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney that resulted in the total unpaid invoices as of 09/15/17 in the amount of \$2,560.00, per Professional Services Invoice #10673906, dated 09/15/17, that was sent to Bruce Township to the attention of Susan Brockmann.
4. All bookkeeping and accounting records of any and all payments made from the treasurer of Bruce Township, or any and all elected officials and any and all employees of Bruce Township paid on Bruce Township's behalf, paid to any and all attorneys representing the firm Plunkett Cooney dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
5. Any and all communications, not limited to texts, emails, written notes and meeting minutes between any and all attorneys from the firm Plunkett Cooney and any and all Bruce Township elected officials and any and all township employees dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
6. Any and all meeting dates and copies of minutes from any and all Public Meetings held by the Bruce Township Board of Trustees that reflect the retention of any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney, dating from January 1, 2015-present.
7. Any and all letter of agreements, letter of engagement and/or contracts between BT and any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney between the dates of January 1, 2015 to present.

Thank you,  
Debi Martone



June 30, 2017

Richard Cory, Township Supervisor  
Susan Brockmann, Township Clerk  
Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

RE: Bruce Township- WBRW and Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Dear Mr. Cory and Ms. Brockmann:

Thank you very much for selecting Plunkett Cooney to represent your interests in a proceeding as counsel in connection with the above-referenced matter. We will do our best to achieve your objectives and justify the confidence you have placed in us.

We have found that our clients appreciate seeing the terms of our engagement set forth in writing and that is the purpose of this letter. If you have any questions about these matters, please call us. We wish to clarify your expectations and avoid any misunderstanding from the outset of our representation.

You have hired us for our legal expertise although you retain the right to make all final decisions regarding the disposition of this matter. Additionally, you should expect to be informed at reasonable intervals as to how this matter is progressing and to have your questions answered to the best of our ability.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

You have requested that we represent Bruce Township with respect to negotiating a resolution to the outstanding issues that remain from an expired interim agreement for the operation of the community media center in Washington Township. Specifically, the following issues exist: (a) the use of the call letters "WBRW" by a private corporation, Michigan Community Media, Inc. without a license or agreement; and (b) the inability of Bruce Township to place its government/community meetings on the public access channel being operated by Michigan Community Media, Inc. We will attempt to negotiate a resolution to these issues and/or begin negotiations with the proper parties to split the signal so that Bruce Township has its own dedicated PEG channel pending approval of Comcast and/or AT&T. This agreement does not cover any litigation.

#### **ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW**

---

38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 991-8000 • F: (248) 991-4640 • plunkettcooney.com

To increase the likelihood that your objectives will be fully realized, complete cooperation between us is essential. Our role is to counsel you and to advise you of the legal consequences of possible courses of action. Your role is to consider our advice and decide upon the course of action to follow. Obviously, we both can better perform our roles if we clearly and currently communicate with each other. We will use our best efforts to do so.

Your agreement is with Plunkett Cooney which will provide you the many benefits of its diverse staff and resources.

At this point, we believe it is in your best interest that I will be working on this matter. We may also obtain the assistance of other lawyers in our firm when our professional judgment indicates that it is necessary or desirable to do so, but you should feel free to contact me or any of our attorneys on your team if it is convenient or helpful. In short, our objective is to make it as easy as possible for you to contact us, to find out the current status of this matter and to answer any questions that you may have. In addition to helping you achieve the best legal result possible, we want you to feel comfortable and confident in your relationship with us.

#### **FEES**

In this matter, our fees will be based solely on an hourly basis billed at \$200.00 per hour. We will bill for this matter on a monthly basis and payment of our statement, which will be delivered to you via email from the email address [billflar@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:billflar@plunkettcooney.com). Your payment is expected within 30 days of receipt of the bill. Further, if certain expenses of any transaction are incurred on your behalf, these invoices will be sent directly to you for payment.

If you would like, we will attempt to estimate fees and expenses for the matter we are engaged to handle for you. However, actual fees and expenses incurred are a result of many conditions, a number of which are beyond our control, particularly when other parties are involved. Accordingly, an estimate should be viewed as only that. If any other factors occur that may cause a significant change in our estimate, we will try to let you know as soon as possible.

If you ever have a question about our billing procedures or statements, please ask us. We prefer to address these issues so that you fully understand the procedures and our

Page 3  
June 30, 2017

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statements and are satisfied with them. We want you to be frank with us should you have any concerns.

### **TERMINATION**

Either one of us may terminate this engagement by notifying the other in writing. We will comply with all applicable ethical considerations at the termination of this engagement. We will be entitled to be paid for services rendered and expenses incurred up to the effective date of termination.

If you agree with the foregoing, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter. Our receipt of the signed copy of this letter will constitute confirmation of your oral authorization for us to proceed on the matters described in this letter.

Again, we appreciate your employing Piunkett Cooney to represent you in this particular matter, and we look forward to working with you and providing you with the best in quality legal services.

Very truly yours,

Piunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@piunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw

Page 4  
June 30, 2017

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The matters set forth in this letter are understood and agreed to by the undersigned as of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

**Bruce Township**

By:   
Richard Cory  
Its: Township Supervisor

By:   
Susan Brockmann  
Its: Township Clerk



July 6, 2017

Michigan Community Media, Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Grayson, Executive Director  
8100 Wicker  
Washington Township, MI 48094

VIA Certified Mail and Email [contact@micommunitymedia.org](mailto:contact@micommunitymedia.org)

**Re: Public Access Channel- WBRW**

Dear Mr. Grayson:

We represent Bruce Township with respect to the use of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels and the use of the call letters WBRW. Pursuant to a service agreement that expired on March 31, 2016, Washington Township was responsible for establishing a Community Media Center (CMC) and retaining a management company for the purpose of managing the CMC operation (see attached). The expired agreement stated that the "CMC shall utilize the current PEG signal(s) and will operate under the WBRW call letters." In addition, the expired agreement stated as follows: "The positions of Romeo, Bruce, and Washington regarding the ownership of the PEG signal(s) and call letters WBRW shall be reserved for further discussion between the communities and are not affected by this agreement." Therefore, as the contracted vendor presently operating the CMC for Washington Township, please be advised that you have no authority to prohibit access to the PEG signals and no authority to operate under the WBRW call letters.

The representations to the public that your company is "WBRW" or that you are the public access channel and speak on behalf of this channel for commercial or political purposes is strictly prohibited. The Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (Act 480 of 2006) specifically prohibits the use of a PEG channel for commercial purposes. MCL 484.3304. Michigan Community Media, Inc. operating without authorization as "WBRW" has repeatedly used the PEG channel to advocate the awarding of a contract to itself (a corporation) in violation of this provision. Please be advised that the Michigan Public Service Commission may impose penalties for the violation of this Act at MCL 484.3314.

In addition, Bruce Township is being denied access to the PEG channel for the purpose of cablecasting its government meetings. Pursuant to the franchise agreements and the prior intergovernmental agreements for the operation of the PEG channel, Bruce Township

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

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retains an interest in both the PEG channel and the call letters WBRW. You cannot deny equal access to a "public access" channel and this is outlined in your contract with Washington Township in paragraph 4.10 ("Provide Equal Access"). This contract provision states what federal law requires: you have no authority to control the content of programming on a public access channel unless you reasonably believe the content contains obscenity.

For these reasons, Bruce Township must demand that you agree, in writing, to immediately cease and desist from operating under the WBRW call letters and denying access to the PEG channel for purpose of cablecasting non-commercial programs including government meetings and community events. To that end, you must remove the letters "WBRW" from any and all vehicles, advertisements, materials, websites, and graphic images and cease all other use of WBRW with your programming, agreeing not to adopt that term—or any colorable imitation of it—at any time in the future.

If your company wishes to obtain an interim license or agreement for the use of the call letters WBRW while the issues surrounding the use of the PEG channel are discussed and negotiated between the member communities, please contact me by the close of business on **July 14, 2017**. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw  
cc: Board of Directors, Michigan Community Media, Inc.



**A G E N D A**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BRUCE TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**\*\*WEDNESDAY\*\***  
**November 8, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

September SCHEDULED MEETINGS
* <u>Planning Commission</u> November 1, 2017
* <u>Board Meeting</u> November 8, 2017
* <u>ZBA</u> November 27, 2017

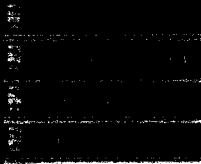
1. **Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda** (All items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of any item(s) is required by a Board member, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Public comments on the Consent Agenda items are permitted.)
  - a. **Approval of Minutes**
    - i. **Regular Board October 18, 2017**
  - b. **Approval of Agenda (subject to amendment)**
  - c. **Approval of Financial Reports & Budget Amendments**
  - d. **Approval of Bills**
4. **Comments from the Floor \***
5. **Hearings and Reviews**
6. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. **Ordinance Health Check**
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Seibert & Dloski Fees**
  - b. **Hi Tech Service Contract**
  - c. **Plunkette Cooney Contract**
  - d. **Veteran Missing Photo**
  - e. **Closed Session- Employee Matter**
8. **Communications**
9. **Adjournment**

\*Audience members commenting from the floor will do so from the podium and will be asked to provide their name and address for the record. Comments will be directed to the Chair who will then answer the question (or not) or direct the question to the appropriate Board member for a response (or not). If a Board member wishes to ask a question of an individual at the microphone, the Board member should ask for permission from the Chair.

<i>UPCOMING MEETINGS</i>	
Planning Commission	December 6, 2017*
Board Meeting	December 13, 2017*
ZBA Meeting	December 18, 2017*



Township Information



Quick links

- Agendas/Minutes
- Dog Licenses
- Comms & Volunteer Oppor
- Household Hazard Waste
- Internet Providers
- Macomb City Directory
- Macomb Road Comm
- Make Macomb Your Home
- Michigan Invasive Species
- Trash Haulers

How To

- Access
- Appeal
- Apply for
- File
- Recycle



Welcome

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Walter Reed Visit 2018

August - Unofficial Results Detail  
Unofficial Summary Results

Low-dye Paper Shredding Event - Ever

Great Lakes Water Authority - Fishery Video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGEH7C\\_Lakeatary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGEH7C_Lakeatary)

[KGEH7C\\_Lakeatary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGEH7C_Lakeatary) - youtube

MIDOT PRESS RELEASE

Vehicle Safety  
Road Safety

State of Michigan Department of Treasury  
Warns Taxpayers of Fraudulent Phone Calls



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MITT.TV



CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR VIDEOS OF  
OUR TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

<http://time.com/thequalityindex>  
Mitt TV: 780-211-8121

Business & Visitors

- Economic Development Information
- Ordinance 186-Land Development
- Zoning Ordinance 161

More

Upcoming events

September 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						6

- Shredding Event
- Planning Commission
- Recycling 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

view all events

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

THE MITT.TV, INC.

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendants

vs.

Case No. 18-1202-CZ  
Hon. Carl J. Marlinga

TARA HUMPHREY and  
DANNY BARLOTTA,  
Jointly & Severally

Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs

and

TARA HUMPHREY,

Plaintiff

v

THE MITT.TV, INC. and RUTH HEIDEBREICHT,

Defendants

---

LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C.  
ANGELO DONOFRIO (P81836)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
39999 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 228-3900  
[adonofrio@lucidolaw.com](mailto:adonofrio@lucidolaw.com)

BURGESS SHARP & GOLDEN, PLLC  
PETER N. CAMPS (P 68561)  
Attorneys for Defendant Humphrey  
43260 Garfield Road, Suite 280  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 226-2627  
[peter@bsglawfirm.com](mailto:peter@bsglawfirm.com)

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**PLAINTIFF/COUNTER-DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO COUNTERCLAIM MADE  
AGAINST THE MITT.TV AND HEIDEBREICHT**

NOW COME the Plaintiff/Counter-Defendants, THEMITT.TV and RUTH HEIDEBREICHT, by and through their attorneys, LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C. and for their Answer to the Counterclaim of Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff TARA HUMPHREY respond as follows:

LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C.  
*Attorneys and Counselors at Law*  
LUCIDO'S PROFESSIONAL OFFICE PLAZA  
39999 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, Michigan 48038-4098  
(586) 228-3900 Fax (586) 228-3906

Document received by the MI Macomb 16th Circuit Court.

PLUNKETT  COONEY

July 29, 2016

**HAND DELIVERED**

Susan Heir  
61412 Glenwood Trail  
Washington Twp., MI 48094

**HAND DELIVERED**

WBRW  
6 Walter Sheetz  
Washington Twp., 48094

Re: ~~Ruth Heidebreicht~~

Dear Ms. Heir:

Please be advised that our firm represents Ruth Heidebreicht. It has come to our attention that you have made several false and defamatory statements concerning Ruth Heidebreicht to a number of individuals. We are requesting that you retract those untrue statements and cease and desist from making derogatory and unlawful statements concerning my client.

Many of the other comments you made are false. In particular, you recently wrote a letter to the editor of *The Source* including The Mitt TV's status as a non-profit organization was questioned. The Mitt TV is an approved non-profit 501(C) corporation.

When you accuse Ms. Heidebreicht of sharing a video that she had no access to, you are falsely accusing her of committing a crime. Such comments are defamatory and actionable in a civil lawsuit.

You have made numerous and repeated accusations concerning Ms. Heidebreicht which you know are untrue. Your unfounded comments, Facebook posts and TV broadcasts have unfairly damaged Ms. Heidebreicht's personal and professional reputation.

**On behalf of Ms. Heidebreicht, I demand an unequivocal retraction of your defamatory statements pursuant to MCL 600.2911(b) by Tuesday, August 2, 2016 in the same medium in which you first advanced them. Further, I emphasize that you cease and desist in the future from making these types of comments concerning Ms. Heidebreicht.**

If the retraction is not promptly received and if your behavior continues, my client will seek appropriate redress to the fullest extent allowed by law. If you do have an attorney, please provide their contact information and I will be happy to communicate with him or her.

**ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW**

38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 2000 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 901-4000 • F: (248) 901-4040 • plunkettcooney.com

Susan Heir, WBRW ·

Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Michelle R. E. Donovan*

Michelle R. E. Donovan  
Plunkett Cooney  
(248) 901-4053  
[mdonovan@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:mdonovan@plunkettcooney.com)

MRED/pmm

cc: Ruth Heidebreicht

Open.P0875.P0875.17234883-1

Deborah S. Obrecht  
Township of Bruce Treasurer  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

September 6, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I am sorry I am unable to attend the hearing to approve the recall language for Richard Cory, the Bruce Township Supervisory and Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk. As the elected treasurer of Bruce Township and a voting board member, I feel I am able to provide valuable information in support of the language that has been submitted.

As a voting member of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees, I can testify to the fact that there was no board discussion, at the board table or in closed session, prior the township's clerk and supervisor hiring Jeffrey Schroder, from the law firm Plunkett Cooney. Furthermore, as the treasurer of Bruce Township, I can testify that I was NOT informed the township was incurring legal fees for this attorney until AFTER he was already under contract by the clerk and supervisor.

At our October 18, 2017 Regular Board meeting, I requested check #50299, payable to Plunkett & Cooney for \$2,830.85, be pulled for discussion. This invoice represented hourly fees at \$200/hour and travel expenses for the period of June 23, 2017 to July 26, 2017. This was the first I knew of this expense.

On June 30, 2017, Susan Brockmann and Richard Cory, without Board authorization, entered into a formal contract with Plunkett Cooney. MCL 41.187 specifically provides the Board authority to enter into an attorney contract. Individual board members do NOT have the authority to enter into a contractual agreement on behalf of the Township.

Furthermore, the Cease & Desist letter dated June 6, 2017 and addressed to Michigan Community Media, Inc. was not provided to the Township Board until July 18, 2017 via email by Clerk Brockmann at 5:30 p.m. This letter required a reply by July 14, 2017. The Board never reviewed nor authorized the "legal threat" stated in this letter prior to it being sent to Michigan Community Media, Inc..

Both of these actions required prior Board approval and authorization. Therefore, the Board was not obligated to authorize payment for these services.

In addition, the Clerk's office never provided the Board with a copy of the signed engagement letter. It took the Clerk's office 44 days to provide a copy of the reply letter from the Michigan Community Media's attorney to the board. My request for this information was based upon an article in the Macomb Daily, dated August 1, 2017 titled, "Bruce Township begins process of getting own cable channel." Jeffrey Schroder,

of Plunkett Cooney, charged \$233 in fees to assist in reviewing this specific article with the writer, Matt Fahr.

I have a detail time log of the exchange requesting this information from the Clerk's office for the 44 days.

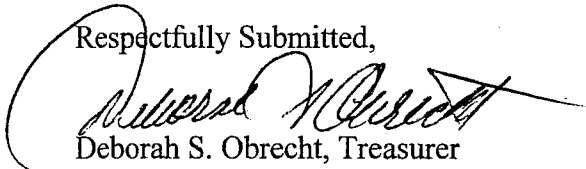
Our retained Township legal firm, Seibert & Dloski, was not contacted to represent us on this matter.

Township attorney, Bob Seibert stated that implicitly the approval of the Plunkett Cooney invoices would be approving the Plunkett Cooney contract. As a voting member of the Board of Trustees, I was denied my rights to review and vote on this contract prior to its inception.

Further, the public trusts and expects transparency from Board members to comply with the approval requirements in hiring legal counsel. Bob Seibert recommended the board should retroactively and formally vote on the contract, for the record, and have the actual hiring of Plunkett Cooney be reflected in the Township minutes. He said it is not a legal requirement but was strongly encouraged. At our November 8, 2017 meeting, I made a motion to follow this advice, but my motion was not seconded. Therefore, the Board took no formal action to hire Plunkett Cooney to represent the Township.

As a voting member of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees, I can confirm the language stated on the recall petition for Richard Cory and Susan Brockmann, that the law firm Plunkett Cooney was hired with a no-bid contract prior to Board knowledge or approval, is true and accurate.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah S. Obrecht, Treasurer

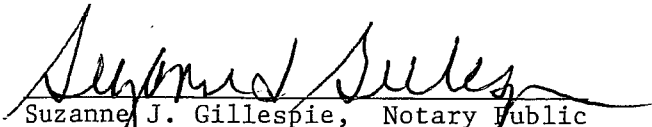
STATE OF MICHIGAN )

)

COUNTY OF MACOMB )

Subscr

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of September, 2018.



Suzanne J. Gillespie, Notary Public  
Macomb County, Michigan  
My Comm. Expires: 10Jan2020  
Acting in Macomb County



*Debi Martone*

414 N. Bailey Street • Romeo, MI 48065 • (586) 336-3823 • debimartone@comcast.net

MADEIRA COUNTY CLERK  
MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN

18 SEP 10 AM 9:39

FILED

September 7, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to take a moment of your time to introduce myself and explain the reason for my dedication to this recall of Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk, and Richard Cory, the Bruce Township Supervisor.

I wrote hundreds of stories as a writer for The Romeo Observer newspaper for 13 years prior to the day it ceased publication in 2015. After that time I helped form The Record newspaper, where I held the title of Staff Writer.

One of my roles as Staff Writer was to cover all of the Bruce Township municipal meetings. This position with The Record did not last long, however, as my job was sabotaged by one of the Bruce Township contractors, The Mitt TV, who wanted to ensure certain aspects of her business relationship with the township would not be exposed.

When I learned Ms. Brockmann was a conspirator in this maneuver, it prompted me to pay even closer attention to the dealings of the Bruce Township clerk and supervisor, as well as continue my investigation of the story I was uncovering for the newspaper.

Last fall I received information via documents I received through the Freedom of Information Act that provided proof that Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory were indeed conspiring behind the scenes on behalf of the before mentioned contractor. Without board knowledge or approval, both of these elected officials deceived the board and the public to ensure assistance in establishing this contractor's business venture (see letter from the Bruce Township Treasurer, Debbie Obrecht, sent separately.) One of those private maneuvers was the hiring of the attorney, Jeffrey Schroder of the law firm, Plunkett Cooney.

Mr. Schroder, Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory signed a Letter of Engagement, attached, on June 30, 2017. At that time, Mr. Schroder met with both parties and incurred legal fees payable to a firm other than Seibert and Dloski, the legal team already contracted for township business. The Bruce Township board had no knowledge of, nor had they had the opportunity for discussion or approval of the hiring of Plunkett Cooney, privately or publicly at the board table. (See letter from Mrs. Debbie Obrecht.)

The Letter of Engagement clearly states, under Scope of Work (attached), that Mr. Schroder was working on behalf of Bruce Township. Subsequently, a letter received from the organization, Michigan Community Media, Inc./WBRW, (attached) also clearly states that Mr. Schroder represented Bruce Township as well.



According to Mrs. Obrecht, this relationship between Mr. Schroder/Plunkett Cooney and Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory was not shared with the Bruce Township Board of Trustees until July 18, 2017, AFTER actions were already taken by Mr. Schroder and fees were incurred to the township.

Considering the secretive manner in which this contract was signed, it is clear there was a no-bid process to obtain it.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Plunkett Cooney was also the legal firm used by the contractor mentioned earlier (see attached.) I do not believe the hiring of this law firm by Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory was coincidental.

It is my hope that upon reviewing this evidence, the Honorable Judge and Board of Review will approve the language for the recall of Ms. Brockmann and Mr. Cory.

Your time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Debi Martone



September 29, 2017

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act I am requesting the following documents:

1. Method of payment used by the treasure of Bruce Township, or any and all elected officials, township employees or other person or entity acting on Bruce Township's behalf, to pay \$30.85 to Plunkett Cooney per invoice#:JUN17; Date:8/3/2017 and any and all bookkeeping and accounting records of the payment.
2. Any and all invoices for legal advice and other related services Bruce Township, and any and all of its elected officials and any and all employees of Bruce Township employees incurred from any and all attorneys representing the firm Plunkett Cooney dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
3. Any and all invoices for legal advice and other related services Bruce Township incurred from any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney that resulted in the total unpaid invoices as of 09/15/17 in the amount of \$2,560.00, per Professional Services Invoice #10673906, dated 09/15/17, that was sent to Bruce Township to the attention of Susan Brockmann.
4. All bookkeeping and accounting records of any and all payments made from the treasurer of Bruce Township, or any and all elected officials and any and all employees of Bruce Township paid on Bruce Township's behalf, paid to any and all attorneys representing the firm Plunkett Cooney dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
5. Any and all communications, not limited to texts, emails, written notes and meeting minutes between any and all attorneys from the firm Plunkett Cooney and any and all Bruce Township elected officials and any and all township employees dating from January 1, 2015 to present.
6. Any and all meeting dates and copies of minutes from any and all Public Meetings held by the Bruce Township Board of Trustees that reflect the retention of any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney, dating from January 1, 2015-present.
7. Any and all letter of agreements, letter of engagement and/or contracts between BT and any and all attorneys representing the law firm Plunkett Cooney between the dates of January 1, 2015 to present.

Thank you,  
Debi Martone



June 30, 2017

Richard Cory, Township Supervisor  
Susan Brockmann, Township Clerk  
Bruce Township  
223 E. Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

RE: Bruce Township- WBRW and Michigan Community Media, Inc.

Dear Mr. Cory and Ms. Brockmann:

Thank you very much for selecting Plunkett Cooney to represent your interests in a proceeding as counsel in connection with the above-referenced matter. We will do our best to achieve your objectives and justify the confidence you have placed in us.

We have found that our clients appreciate seeing the terms of our engagement set forth in writing and that is the purpose of this letter. If you have any questions about these matters, please call us. We wish to clarify your expectations and avoid any misunderstanding from the outset of our representation.

You have hired us for our legal expertise although you retain the right to make all final decisions regarding the disposition of this matter. Additionally, you should expect to be informed at reasonable intervals as to how this matter is progressing and to have your questions answered to the best of our ability.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

You have requested that we represent Bruce Township with respect to negotiating a resolution to the outstanding issues that remain from an expired interim agreement for the operation of the community media center in Washington Township. Specifically, the following issues exist: (a) the use of the call letters "WBRW" by a private corporation, Michigan Community Media, Inc. without a license or agreement; and (b) the inability of Bruce Township to place its government/community meetings on the public access channel being operated by Michigan Community Media, Inc. We will attempt to negotiate a resolution to these issues and/or begin negotiations with the proper parties to split the signal so that Bruce Township has its own dedicated PEG channel pending approval of Comcast and/or AT&T. This agreement does not cover any litigation.

#### ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 901-0000 • F: (248) 901-4040 • plunkettcooney.com

To increase the likelihood that your objectives will be fully realized, complete cooperation between us is essential. Our role is to counsel you and to advise you of the legal consequences of possible courses of action. Your role is to consider our advice and decide upon the course of action to follow. Obviously, we both can better perform our roles if we clearly and currently communicate with each other. We will use our best efforts to do so.

Your agreement is with Plunkett Cooney which will provide you the many benefits of its diverse staff and resources.

At this point, we believe it is in your best interest that I will be working on this matter. We may also obtain the assistance of other lawyers in our firm when our professional judgment indicates that it is necessary or desirable to do so, but you should feel free to contact me or any of our attorneys on your team if it is convenient or helpful. In short, our objective is to make it as easy as possible for you to contact us, to find out the current status of this matter and to answer any questions that you may have. In addition to helping you achieve the best legal result possible, we want you to feel comfortable and confident in your relationship with us.

#### **FEES**

In this matter, our fees will be based solely on an hourly basis billed at \$200.00 per hour. We will bill for this matter on a monthly basis and payment of our statement, which will be delivered to you via email from the email address [billfiler@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:billfiler@plunkettcooney.com). Your payment is expected within 30 days of receipt of the bill. Further, if certain expenses of any transaction are incurred on your behalf, these invoices will be sent directly to you for payment.

If you would like, we will attempt to estimate fees and expenses for the matter we are engaged to handle for you. However, actual fees and expenses incurred are a result of many conditions, a number of which are beyond our control, particularly when other parties are involved. Accordingly, an estimate should be viewed as only that. If any other factors occur that may cause a significant change in our estimate, we will try to let you know as soon as possible.

If you ever have a question about our billing procedures or statements, please ask us. We prefer to address these issues so that you fully understand the procedures and our

Page 3  
June 30, 2017

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statements and are satisfied with them. We want you to be frank with us should you have any concerns.

### **TERMINATION**

Either one of us may terminate this engagement by notifying the other in writing. We will comply with all applicable ethical considerations at the termination of this engagement. We will be entitled to be paid for services rendered and expenses incurred up to the effective date of termination.

If you agree with the foregoing, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter. Our receipt of the signed copy of this letter will constitute confirmation of your oral authorization for us to proceed on the matters described in this letter.

Again, we appreciate your employing Plunkett Cooney to represent you in this particular matter, and we look forward to working with you and providing you with the best in quality legal services.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw

Page 4  
June 30, 2017

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The matters set forth in this letter are understood and agreed to by the undersigned as  
of the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

**Bruce Township**

By:   
Richard Cory  
Its: Township Supervisor

By:   
Susan Brockmann  
Its: Township Clerk



July 6, 2017

Michigan Community Media, Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Grayson, Executive Director  
8100 Wicker  
Washington Township, MI 48094

VIA Certified Mail and Email contact@micommunitymedia.org

**Re: Public Access Channel- WBRW**

Dear Mr. Grayson:

We represent Bruce Township with respect to the use of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels and the use of the call letters WBRW. Pursuant to a service agreement that expired on March 31, 2016, Washington Township was responsible for establishing a Community Media Center (CMC) and retaining a management company for the purpose of managing the CMC operation (see attached). The expired agreement stated that the "CMC shall utilize the current PEG signal(s) and will operate under the WBRW call letters." In addition, the expired agreement stated as follows: "The positions of Romeo, Bruce, and Washington regarding the ownership of the PEG signal(s) and call letters WBRW shall be reserved for further discussion between the communities and are not affected by this agreement." Therefore, as the contracted vendor presently operating the CMC for Washington Township, please be advised that you have no authority to prohibit access to the PEG signals and no authority to operate under the WBRW call letters.

The representations to the public that your company is "WBRW" or that you are the public access channel and speak on behalf of this channel for commercial or political purposes is strictly prohibited. The Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (Act 480 of 2006) specifically prohibits the use of a PEG channel for commercial purposes. MCL 484.3304. Michigan Community Media, Inc. operating without authorization as "WBRW" has repeatedly used the PEG channel to advocate the awarding of a contract to itself (a corporation) in violation of this provision. Please be advised that the Michigan Public Service Commission may impose penalties for the violation of this Act at MCL 484.3314.

In addition, Bruce Township is being denied access to the PEG channel for the purpose of cablecasting its government meetings. Pursuant to the franchise agreements and the prior intergovernmental agreements for the operation of the PEG channel, Bruce Township

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 901-4000 • F: (248) 901-4040 • plunkettcooney.com



retains an interest in both the PEG channel and the call letters WBRW. You cannot deny equal access to a "public access" channel and this is outlined in your contract with Washington Township in paragraph 4.10 ("Provide Equal Access"). This contract provision states what federal law requires: you have no authority to control the content of programming on a public access channel unless you reasonably believe the content contains obscenity.

For these reasons, Bruce Township must demand that you agree, in writing, to immediately cease and desist from operating under the WBRW call letters and denying access to the PEG channel for purpose of cablecasting non-commercial programs including government meetings and community events. To that end, you must remove the letters "WBRW" from any and all vehicles, advertisements, materials, websites, and graphic images and cease all other use of WBRW with your programming, agreeing not to adopt that term—or any colorable imitation of it—at any time in the future.

If your company wishes to obtain an interim license or agreement for the use of the call letters WBRW while the issues surrounding the use of the PEG channel are discussed and negotiated between the member communities, please contact me by the close of business on **July 14, 2017**. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Plunkett Cooney



Jeffrey M. Schroder  
Direct dial: (248) 594-2796  
Email: jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

JMS/nw

cc: Board of Directors, Michigan Community Media, Inc.



**A G E N D A**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BRUCE TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**\*\*WEDNESDAY\*\***  
**November 8, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

September  
SCHEDULED  
MEETINGS

\*Planning Commission  
November 1, 2017

\*Board Meeting  
November 8, 2017

\*ZBA  
November 27, 2017  
\*indicates a change in regular  
schedule

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consent Agenda** (All items under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Board and will be enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of any item(s) is required by a Board member, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. Public comments on the Consent Agenda items are permitted.)
  - a. **Approval of Minutes**
    - i. **Regular Board October 18, 2017**
  - b. **Approval of Agenda (subject to amendment)**
  - c. **Approval of Financial Reports & Budget Amendments**
  - d. **Approval of Bills**
4. **Comments from the Floor \***
5. **Hearings and Reviews**
6. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. **Ordinance Health Check**
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Seibert & Dloski Fees**
  - b. **Hi Tech Service Contract**
  - c. **Plunkette Cooney Contract**
  - d. **Veteran Missing Photo**
  - e. **Closed Session- Employee Matter**
8. **Communications**
9. **Adjournment**

\*Audience members commenting from the floor will do so from the podium and will be asked to provide their name and address for the record. Comments will be directed to the Chair who will then answer the question (or not) or direct the question to the appropriate Board member for a response (or not). If a Board member wishes to ask a question of an individual at the microphone, the Board member should ask for permission from the Chair.

*UPCOMING MEETINGS*

Planning Commission	December 6, 2017*
Board Meeting	December 13, 2017*
ZBA Meeting	December 18, 2017*

\*indicates a change in regular schedule

Township Information



Business & Visitors

- Economic Development Information
- Ordinance 186-Land Development
- Zoning Ordinance 161

More

Quick links

- Agendas/Minutes
- Dog Licenses
- Comm & Volunteer Oppor
- Household Haz Waste
- Internet Providers
- Macomb City Directory
- Macomb Road Comm
- Make Macomb Your Home
- Michigan Invasive Species
- Trash Haulers

Welcome

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Walter Reed Visit 2018

August - Unofficial Results Detail  
Unofficial Summary Results

Upcoming events

September 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						6

- Shredding Event
- Planning Commission
- Recycling - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

How To

- Access
- Appeal
- Apply For
- File
- Recycle

Disposing Paper Shredding Form - Flyer

Great Lakes Water Authority - Fishing Wines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u>

KGLH's\_Estate - youtube

view all events

MDOT PRESS RELEASE

Michigan Department of Transportation  
Express Lanes on I-75

State of Michigan Department of Treasury  
Warns Taxpayers of Fraudulent Phone Calls



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MIITV



CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR VIDEOS OF  
OUR TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIITV>  
MIITV: 786.91.9121

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

THE MITT.TV, INC.

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendants

vs.

Case No. 18-1202-CZ  
Hon. Carl J. Marlinga

TARA HUMPHREY and  
DANNY BARTOLOTTA,  
Jointly & Severally

Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs

and

TARA HUMPHREY,

Plaintiff

v

THE MITT.TV, INC. and RUTH HEIDEBREICHT,

Defendants

LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C.  
ANGELO DONOFRIO (P81836)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
39999 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 228-3900  
[adonofrio@lucidolaw.com](mailto:adonofrio@lucidolaw.com)

BURGESS SHARP & GOLDEN, PLLC  
PETER N. CAMPS (P 68561)  
Attorneys for Defendant Humphrey  
43260 Garfield Road, Suite 280  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 226-2627  
[peter@bsglawfirm.com](mailto:peter@bsglawfirm.com)

**PLAINTIFF/COUNTER-DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO COUNTERCLAIM MADE  
AGAINST THE MITT.TV AND HEIDEBREICHT**

NOW COME the Plaintiff/Counter-Defendants, THEMITT.TV and RUTH HEIDEBREICHT, by and through their attorneys, LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C. and for their Answer to the Counterclaim of Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff TARA HUMPHREY respond as follows:

LUCIDO & MANZELLA, P.C.  
*Attorneys and Counselors at Law*  
LUCIDO'S PROFESSIONAL OFFICE PLAZA  
39999 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, Michigan 48038-4098  
(586) 228-3900 Fax (586) 228-3906

Document received by the MI Macomb 16th Circuit Court.

PLUNKETT  COONEY

July 29, 2016

**HAND DELIVERED**

Susan Heir  
61412 Glenwood Trail  
Washington Twp., MI 48094

**HAND DELIVERED**

WBRW  
6 Walter Sheetz  
Washington Twp., 48094

Re: ~~Ruth Heidebreicht~~

Dear Ms. Heir:

Please be advised that our firm represents Ruth Heidebreicht. It has come to our attention that you have made several false and defamatory statements concerning Ruth Heidebreicht to a number of individuals. We are requesting that you retract those untrue statements and cease and desist from making derogatory and unlawful statements concerning my client.

Many of the other comments you made are false. In particular, you recently wrote a letter to the editor of *The Source* including The Mitt TV's status as a non-profit organization was questioned. The Mitt TV is an approved non-profit 501(C) corporation.

When you accuse Ms. Heidebreicht of sharing a video that she had no access to, you are falsely accusing her of committing a crime. Such comments are defamatory and actionable in a civil lawsuit.

You have made numerous and repeated accusations concerning Ms. Heidebreicht which you know are untrue. Your unfounded comments, Facebook posts and TV broadcasts have unfairly damaged Ms. Heidebreicht's personal and professional reputation.

**On behalf of Ms. Heidebreicht, I demand an unequivocal retraction of your defamatory statements pursuant to MCL 600.2911(b) by Tuesday, August 2, 2016 in the same medium in which you first advanced them. Further, I emphasize that you cease and desist in the future from making these types of comments concerning Ms. Heidebreicht.**

If the retraction is not promptly received and if your behavior continues, my client will seek appropriate redress to the fullest extent allowed by law. If you do have an attorney, please provide their contact information and I will be happy to communicate with him or her.

**ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW**

38505 Woodward Ave., Suite 2000 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • T: (248) 901-4000 • F: (248) 901-4040 • plunkettcooney.com

Susan Heir, WBRW ·  
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Michelle R. E. Donovan*

Michelle R. E. Donovan  
Plunkett Cooney  
(248) 901-4053  
[mdonovan@plunkettcooney.com](mailto:mdonovan@plunkettcooney.com)

MRED/pmm

cc: Ruth Heidebreicht

Open.P0875.P0875.17234883-1

Deborah S. Obrecht  
Township of Bruce Treasurer  
223 East Gates Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

September 6, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I am sorry I am unable to attend the hearing to approve the recall language for Richard Cory, the Bruce Township Supervisory and Susan Brockmann, the Bruce Township Clerk. As the elected treasurer of Bruce Township and a voting board member, I feel I am able to provide valuable information in support of the language that has been submitted.

As a voting member of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees, I can testify to the fact that there was no board discussion, at the board table or in closed session, prior the township's clerk and supervisor hiring Jeffrey Schroder, from the law firm Plunkett Cooney. Furthermore, as the treasurer of Bruce Township, I can testify that I was NOT informed the township was incurring legal fees for this attorney until AFTER he was already under contract by the clerk and supervisor.

At our October 18, 2017 Regular Board meeting, I requested check #50299, payable to Plunkett & Cooney for \$2,830.85, be pulled for discussion. This invoice represented hourly fees at \$200/hour and travel expenses for the period of June 23, 2017 to July 26, 2017. This was the first I knew of this expense.

On June 30, 2017, Susan Brockmann and Richard Cory, without Board authorization, entered into a formal contract with Plunkett Cooney. MCL 41.187 specifically provides the Board authority to enter into an attorney contract. Individual board members do NOT have the authority to enter into a contractual agreement on behalf of the Township.

Furthermore, the Cease & Desist letter dated June 6, 2017 and addressed to Michigan Community Media, Inc. was not provided to the Township Board until July 18, 2017 via email by Clerk Brockmann at 5:30 p.m. This letter required a reply by July 14, 2017. The Board never reviewed nor authorized the "legal threat" stated in this letter prior to it being sent to Michigan Community Media, Inc..

Both of these actions required prior Board approval and authorization. Therefore, the Board was not obligated to authorize payment for these services.

In addition, the Clerk's office never provided the Board with a copy of the signed engagement letter. It took the Clerk's office 44 days to provide a copy of the reply letter from the Michigan Community Media's attorney to the board. My request for this information was based upon an article in the Macomb Daily, dated August 1, 2017 titled, "Bruce Township begins process of getting own cable channel." Jeffrey Schroder,

of Plunkett Cooney, charged \$233 in fees to assist in reviewing this specific article with the writer, Matt Fahr.

I have a detail time log of the exchange requesting this information from the Clerk's office for the 44 days.

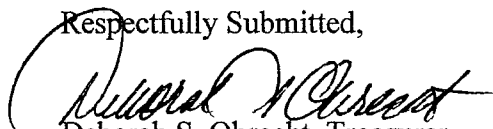
Our retained Township legal firm, Seibert & Dloski, was not contacted to represent us on this matter.

Township attorney, Bob Seibert stated that implicitly the approval of the Plunkett Cooney invoices would be approving the Plunkett Cooney contract. As a voting member of the Board of Trustees, I was denied my rights to review and vote on this contract prior to its inception.

Further, the public trusts and expects transparency from Board members to comply with the approval requirements in hiring legal counsel. Bob Seibert recommended the board should retroactively and formally vote on the contract, for the record, and have the actual hiring of Plunkett Cooney be reflected in the Township minutes. He said it is not a legal requirement but was strongly encouraged. At our November 8, 2017 meeting, I made a motion to follow this advice, but my motion was not seconded. Therefore, the Board took no formal action to hire Plunkett Cooney to represent the Township.

As a voting member of the Bruce Township Board of Trustees, I can confirm the language stated on the recall petition for Richard Cory and Susan Brockmann, that the law firm Plunkett Cooney was hired with a no-bid contract prior to Board knowledge or approval, is true and accurate.

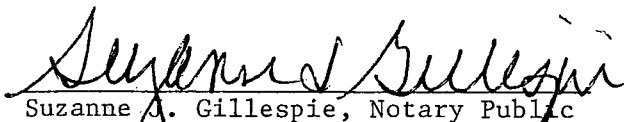
Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah S. Obrecht, Treasurer

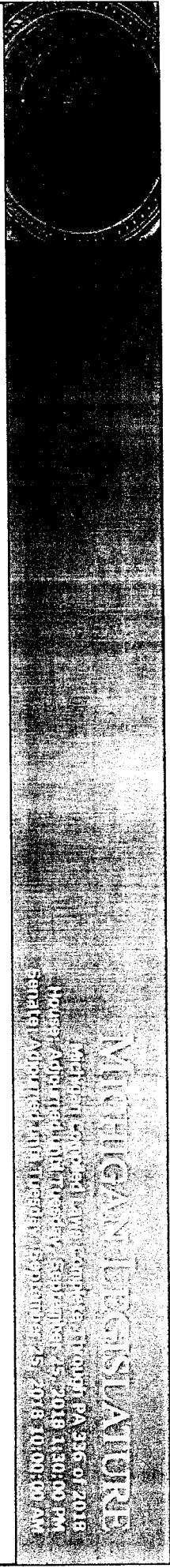
STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
  )  
COUNTY OF MACOMB    )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of September, 2018.



Suzanne J. Gillespie, Notary Public  
Macomb County, Michigan  
My Comm. Expires: 10Jan2020  
Acting in Macomb County





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NAVIGATE SECTIONS  
 MCL Chapter Index  
 Chapter 41  
 Act 246 of 1945  
 Section 41.187

[friendly link](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

**TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES (EXCERPT)**

Act 246 of 1945  
 Section 41.187

**Legislature**

Bills  
 Appropriation Bills  
 Calendars  
 Committees  
 Committee Bill Records  
 Committee Meetings  
 Concurrent Resolutions  
 Initiatives/Alternative  
 Measures  
 Joint Resolutions  
 Journals  
 Legislators  
 Public Act (Signed Bills)  
 Resolutions  
 Rules  
 Session Schedules  
 Search - Basic  
 Search - Advanced

Sec. 7.

**41.187 Employment, duties, and compensation of attorney.**  
 The township board of a township may employ an attorney to represent the township in civil matters and in the prosecution of violations of township ordinances. The attorney shall receive the compensation determined by the township board. In prosecution of a violation of a township ordinance, the township attorney shall countersign the certificates of jurors and witnesses.

**History:** Add. 1989, Act 78, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989

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