

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182

April 18, 2017

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Paul Pirrone, Supervisor

Paul Francis, Treasurer

Rick Steiner, Trustee

Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

EXCUSED: Trudy Hershberger, Clerk, TC Clements, Trustee, Michelle Bork, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith, Det./Sargent Pauli, Chuck Marckel, Pastor of the Northwest Christian Church

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Township Board was called to order by Pirrone at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

Approval of the April 4, 2017 Township Board Minutes.

The General, Savings, Pooled Funds & CD Report.

The Expense Report and Balance Sheet for period ending March 31, 2017.

Acceptance of the resignation of Seabron Bowler from the Law Enforcement Committee.

Appointment of James Reaster to the Law Enforcement Committee for a 1st term ending December 31, 2018.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION HONORING DAVID RUDD, TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE DEPT.

Pirrone read a resolution from the township board, thanking and honoring maintenance department employee David Rudd for his years of service to the township. The board and audience applauded.

REPORT FROM THE MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

Detective/Sargent Pauli, from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, gave the board a short report for February and March of 2017, then answered questions and comments from the board members. Board members thanked him for his report and expressed their appreciation for the job the Sheriff's Department does for Bedford Township. The audience applauded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Bush, 215 Substation – spoke to the weighmaster issue on the agenda and voiced a list of questions regarding the subject. She also mentioned the TAC issue on the agenda.

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Carol Stephens, 7528 Wellsley – spoke to the weighmaster issue on the agenda and asked a question of the Sheriff’s Department.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke to the information presented by the Monroe County Sheriff’s Dept., questioning some of the statistics presented.

Denise Goerlich, 1049 Hachman – asked that the full board be present before voting on the TAC issue.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – handed out letters from two TAC members who could not be present, expressing their thoughts on the issue, then spoke to the issue on her own behalf.

Nancy Bellaire, 1300 Winding Way – commented on the weighmaster issue and the shift in revenue from the Monroe County Library if the township hires a weighmaster.

Deborah Publiski, 938 Mildred – spoke to the issue of the TAC resolution, questioning why it’s on the agenda.

Connie Velliquette, 6684 Greenbriar – spoke to the TAC issue, requesting there be a full board present when voting and asked if adding a weighmaster position to the township is fiscally responsible.

Al Prieur, 1167 N. Park – spoke to the TAC issue to explain why the issue is on the board agenda

Gene Stock, 9289 Crabb – spoke to the TAC issue, commenting on the many improvements to the Temperance area that they have done.

Mike Sprott, 8872 Tanglewood – spoke to the TAC issue and mentioned a large pot hole on Washington Street, near his office.

Jeff Pauli, 8339 Jam (Det./Sargent) – answered question from resident regarding a helicopter heard early one morning last week.

Tim Fitzgerald, 9195 Lewis – asked questions regarding the weighmaster issue.

Randy Breier, 1031 Howard – stated he does not support weighmaster issue, asked questions regarding that issue, and complimented the sheriff’s dept. on the good job they do for Bedford.

STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A 4:1 DEPTH TO WIDTH RATIO WAIVER FOR PARCEL NO 5802-034-027-40 AND 5802-034-037-10

Pirrone read the memo from Joe Keane, Assessing Dept., explaining the issue. Mr. Keane came to the podium to answer questions from board members. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Steiner to approve the 4:1 depth to width ratio waiver for parcel no’s 5802-034-027-40 and 5802-034-037-10, it is to be noted that a depth to width waiver request is not unprecedented, as this request has been before the Township board on several occasions and as a result of the number of times this request has been considered and granted, the Assessing Dept. is reviewing the ordinance for a possible amendment to increase the depth to width ratio while complying with the Land Division Act, Act 228 of 1967. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF RAPID INTERVENTION EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Fire Chief Kirk Keane spoke, explaining he was present to explain the need for this purchase in the absence of Fire Chief Massingill. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by

Francis to approve the purchase of rapid intervention equipment from West Shore Fire in the amount of \$10,267.00 to come from the fire departments current budget, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO HIRE CHRISTINE EICHLER AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE IN THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Pirrone read the proposal to hire Christine Eichler fulltime in the Assessing Department, then explained the need and gave details on the employees currently working there. Board members asked questions, and requested a job description and credentials, and a cover letter explaining the justification. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve hiring Christine Eichler to a full-time position in the Assessing Department at a salary of \$52,000, plus benefits, with the supervisor being asked to provide a job description and duties for this position to the board, at a later date. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWNSHIP BURNING ORDINANCE

Goldsmith spoke to the issue, giving the board the background on the proposed amendment and explaining and defining the proposed changes. Board members questioned portions of the ordinance amendment and after discussion agreed to postpone approval until the May 2, 2017 meeting. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Tienvieri to table the burning ordinance amendment until the May 2, 2017 board meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DISSOLVE THE TEMPERANCE ACTION COMMITTEE UNDER THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

Tienvieri read a letter from Michelle Sheppard opposing approval of the proposed resolution. Goldsmith spoke, giving a short history of the issue, stating that in 2007 the township board approved a resolution placing the Temperance Action Committee under the Economic Development Corporation with rules and restrictions and allowing the township to hold any monies donated to TAC that were to be used to improve Temperance. He further stated that now that the EDC is no longer active, he believes the relationship between the EDC and TAC needs to be dissolved by resolution and any money held by the township be returned to TAC. Pirrone reported on an e-mail he had received from the township auditor stating he believed the township should not be holding money for TAC or any other similar private entity. It was then reported by Francis that TAC's money has already been returned. Board members spoke to the issue, with Francis suggesting the board consider creating a committee composed of members of TAC, Lambertville Pride, and Samaria Heritage Group be formed which would allow them to continue to have input both to and from the township board regarding improvements to their respective areas, since TAC members do not seem to want the board to approve the resolution to dissolve the relationship with the EDC. Discussion followed, with Tienvieri making the following motion to approve the resolution. Both Francis and Steiner stated they would be voting against

the approval of the resolution, suggesting it was an issue for the full board, that the resolution wording needed to be changed, and the possibility of creating a committee be explored further. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Pirrone to adopt the resolution presented tonight to dissolve the Temperance Action Committee under the Economic Development Corporation for the purpose of making right the resolution that established them since we no longer have an active EDC. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nay: Steiner & Francis. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES- Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$69,212.46, Fire District-\$9,285.20, Police Fund-\$1,279.94, Park Fund-\$97.10, Transit System Fund-\$14,083.00, Library Operating Fund-\$399.10, Economic Development Corp.-\$30,908.11, Indian Acres SAD-\$427.01, Sandywell SAD-\$411.38, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$27.61, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$2,532.92, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$1,013.00 for a total of \$130,522.83. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH MCRC FOR OVERBAND CRACKFILL IN VILLAGE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION

Francis spoke to the issue, stating residents of the Village Meadows Subdivision had requested this road improvement and have paid the money needed to have the work done, but because the roads are owned by the Road Commission, the township is required to approve the contract with them to have the work completed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the contract with the Monroe County Road Commission for overband crackfill in Village Meadows Subdivision at a cost of \$5,284.00, which has already been paid for by the residents. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH MCRC FOR A SINGLE CHIP SEAL TO SUBSTATION ROAD, FROM MINX ROAD TO THE DEAD END OF SUBSTATION

Francis spoke, informing the board that this contract will be for a single chip seal to Substation Road, between Minx Road and to the end of Substation Road. The cost to the township will be \$20,447.00 and the Road Commission's portion is \$6,815.00; the total cost to be \$27,262.00.

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the contract with the Monroe County Road Commission for a single chip seal on Substation Road from Minx to the end of Substation at a total cost of \$27,262, the township's portion to be \$20,447. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROPOSED GENERAL CODE TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE

Pirrone read a portion of the proposed ordinance, which was sent to the township by the Road Commission. Discussion followed regarding the roads the Road Commission is suggesting be made into official truck routes. Discussion followed with board members suggesting the proposed truck route on a portion of Sterns between Lewis Avenue and the eastern township line

be extended to the township's western township line. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Francis to approve the General Code Truck Route Ordinance as presented with the stipulation that the Road Commission include all of Sterns Road as a truck route. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Steiner, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Bork, Clements, Hershberger

DISCUSSION REGARDING A PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

Tienvieri spoke and gave a detailed explanation of why she requested the issue of weighmaster to be on the agenda and mentioning the mis-information that was on Facebook. Francis and Steiner both spoke to the issue suggesting this be given to the Law Enforcement Committee to review. Pirrone stated he would give the information to the Law Enforcement Committee and contact the Michigan State Police to come and speak to the board.

EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to extend the meeting time of the board meeting to 10:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – thanked the board members who voted against approving the TAC resolution, commented on the public comment time, and responded to statements made by residents and board members.

Gerald Rozinski, 3505 School Road – spoke to the issue of road repairs to School Road, and expressed concern that tarring and chipping the road would be enough. Francis verbally responded to his concerns.

Joe Gore, 3200 White Street – commented/questioned the status of the demolition of the Star Motel, and commented on the weighmaster issue and the estimated costs.

Drew Lindecker, 3325 W. Temperance – stated he was thankful for the efforts the township is making to save our roads and commented on the weighmaster issue and the current ticketing.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Briarwood – commented on his concerns regarding current police protection and community safety.

Paul Swanbeck, 3711 School Road – thanked the board for their responses to the School road improvement questions and mentioned the traffic level has dramatically increased.

Al Prieur, 1167 North Park – responded to comments made by others, and also commented on the potential growth in Temperance.

Mike Gray, 1845 W. Dean – commented on and stated his support of the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept., stated the Law Enforcement Committee should deal with the safety officer issue.

Lynn Becker, 3720 School – stated he is thankful School Rd. will be repaired and expressed his concerns about the quality of the work to be done.

Mike Sprott, 8872 Tanglewood – stated he feels the Sheriff's Dept is doing a great job, and instead of a weighmaster the township needs another deputy. He further mentioned the burning ordinance and stated he feels there should be no burning at all in residential areas, and questioned burning regulations in Agricultural areas.

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REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Due to the lateness of the hour, the board members agreed to forgo their reports for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

