

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

April 4, 2017

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Paul Pirrone, Supervisor
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
Paul Francis, Treasurer

Michelle Bork, Trustee
TC Clements, Trustee
Rick Steiner, Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Adam Massingill, Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith, Rev. Frank Paine, St. Lukes Lutheran 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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROLL FOR THE SANDYWELL DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to open the public hearing for approval of the assessment roll for the Sandywell Drive road improvement assessment. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

No one came forward to speak.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to close the public hearing for approval of the assessment roll for the Sandywell Drive road improvement assessment. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

Hershberger spoke, stating approval of this resolution will set the roll for this special assessment district. The district includes 19 parcels; the total cost is estimated at \$228,180 or \$10,800 per parcel. This assessment will be for 15 years, or residents have the option of paying it in full by December, with no interest. She also stated the information will be mailed to all residents in the district. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Tienvieri to establish the roll for the Sandywell Drive road improvement special assessment, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROLL FOR THE INDIAN ACRES SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to open the public hearing for approval of the assessment roll for the Indian Acres Subdivision road improvement assessment. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

Hershberger spoke, stating there are 134 parcels in the district, and 55% of the residents signed the petition requesting the road improvement. The cost will be \$6,750 per parcel, and the length of the assessment will be 15 years.

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Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – spoke asking for approval of a road weight restriction ordinance, asked about the Supervisor’s promise to maintain the road, and asked if the broken cross tile issue has been addressed.

A.M. Davis, 7575 Indian – stated his opposition to the special assessment district.

Mark Santa-Maria, 7632 Indian – commented on the hard work done to accomplish this special assessment district and questioned the process.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to close the public hearing for approval of the assessment roll for the Indian Acres Subdivision road improvement assessment. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

Hershberger responded to questions regarding the process for a special assessment district, further stating she would be sending a letter to all residents in the district notifying them of the costs and other details. Tienvieri questioned the drain tile issue. Barry Buschmann, from Mannik & Smith Group responded to the drainage tile question. Tienvieri also mentioned the empty lots in this subdivision cannot be sold because they are actually stub streets and asked the Supervisor to contact the Sheriff’s Dept. to request better monitoring of subdivision roads for speeders.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the roll for the Indian Acres Subdivision road improvement special assessment at a total cost of \$905,000.00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

Approval of the March 21, 2017 township board minutes.

Approval of the appointment of Al Prieur, Barry Buschmann, & Rudy Ruiz to the Grant Writing Committee for a 2 year term ending December 31, 2018.

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

PRESENTATIONS

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR FIRE CHIEF ADAM MASSINGILL

Fire Chief Adam Massingill was officially sworn in by Clerk Hershberger, the board and audience stood and applauded.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR ASST. FIRE CHIEF KIRK KEANE

Assistant Fire Chief Kirk Keane was officially sworn in by Clerk Hershberger, the board and audience stood and applauded.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR LT. BRAD PERIAT

Lt. Brad Periat was officially sworn in by Clerk Hershberger, the board and audience stood and applauded.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF BUD BILLINGS FROM THE BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pirrone announced Bedford Firefighter Bud Billings was ill and could not be in attendance, the board would honor him at a later date.

NANCY ELZINGA, ADVOCATES FOR A CLEAN LAKE ERIE

Nancy Elzinga, 4285 Little Streams – spoke to the board on behalf of the Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie. She gave the board information on her organization and why there is a need to work in this area. She then introduced Patrick Right who stated the need to have Lake Erie declared “impaired” which would then require the EPA to get involved in a cleanup. He asked the board to consider supporting this issue by approving a resolution. Board members commented. Ms. Elzinga offered to send the township a sample resolution to work with.

CYBER SECURITY PRESENTATION

Pirrone thanked James Brunt, Michelle Bork and Al Prieur for their hard work on this issue. Al Prieur introduced the University of Michigan students who would be making the presentation. Nicholas Zajciw, Lillian Zhou, Bilal Sharqi, Yimai Peng spoke to the board and gave a power point presentation of a feasibility study on having a Public Safety Cybersecurity Center in Bedford Township. Board members commented, asked questions, and thanked them for their information.

STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE BEDFORD TOWNSHIP'S COMPENSATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Bill Zeiler, 1130 Brandywine and Chairman of the Compensation Committee, spoke, reading the committee recommendations and giving information on how the salary determinations were made. He then answered board members questions. Tienvieri spoke questioning the reasoning behind recommending raises for the Clerk and Treasurer but none for the Supervisor, and stating she was against all raises and would not be voting to approve them. Francis and Steiner spoke to the issue and Hershberger gave information from the MTA on how Bedford's elected official's salaries compare with similar sized jurisdictions. Goldsmith spoke, reminding the board they could not change any of the Compensation Committee's recommendations, they can only reject the recommendation. There is no need to approve it; the recommendation will take effect in the 2017-18 fiscal year unless rejected by a 2/3rds vote of the board. Board members thanked the Compensation Committee for their hard work. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Pirrone to deny the recommendations from the Compensation Committee for elected official's salary increases for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bork, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: Francis, Clements, Steiner & Hershberger. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE BEDFORD LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM RENTAL PERMIT

Jodi Russ, 1273 Winding Way, and Head Bedford Librarian, spoke to the board explaining this request is from the Bedford Library Advisory Board, because the library gets so many requests to hold wedding and baby showers and birthday parties in the public meeting room, it would encourage more public involvement in the library, and the money charged would help with the

library's fund balance. The advisory board used the Park Board permit as the basis, the room would be rented only when the library is closed, the charges requested are \$200.00 rental fees and a \$200.00 refundable deposit, the fee would more than cover the cost of a staff person on site and an estimated 1 hour additional cost of clean up after the event, the times would be from 5 to 11 pm. Discussion followed, with board members questioning if the fee was high enough, how staff would be paid, and minor issues on the permit needing to be changed. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the Bedford Library Community Room Rental Permit with a fee of \$250.00, with minor wording corrections, to be reviewed one year from now, and the contracted library staff to be paid \$12.00 per hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE BEDFORD TOWNSHIP GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE

Steiner spoke, reading the Mission Statement and explaining various issues. Tienvieri requested a minor wording change. Steiner stated the committee would be meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month and they would be coming back to the board with any questions regarding whether the board wished to pursue certain grants if the township would be expected to provide large matching funding. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the mission statement for the Bedford Township Grant Writing Committee, with a minor wording change. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache, again asked the Supervisor and board about a weigh master and ordinance for weight restrictions.

Greg Skiver, 1520 Meadowbrook, thanked the Supervisor for looking at the road issues in his subdivision and questioned the status of the issue. Pirrone responded that he is working with the road commission on the problem.

Dale Track, 2842 Sanibel, asked that the public comment times be changed on the agenda to better allow residents to comment on issues before they are voted, and commented on the Compensation Committee, questioning the information they used in making their determination on salaries.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE SALE OF A TOWNSHIP VEHICLE

Hershberger spoke, stating only one bid was received for the township vehicle, in the amount of \$751.00 from Amanda Hugo. She further stated the bid was posted on the website, the township Facebook page, and cable station. Tienvieri spoke stating she believed the car was worth more according to Blue Book value. Pirrone spoke, stating the car is in very poor shape, it needs a complete brake replacement. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Bork to accept the bid of \$751.00 for the 1999 Ford Escort vehicle. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bork, Francis, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger, & Pirrone. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES- Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$13,514.06, Fire District-\$22,961.75, Police Fund-\$285.49, Park Fund-\$4,069.90, Cemetery Operating Fund-\$48.35, Library Operating Fund-\$7,121.40, Water Revenue Fund-\$2,220.00, Downtown Development Authority-\$15,544.73, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$377,266.85, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$250.90 for a total of \$443,283.43. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger, Tienvieri & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – stated she understood the drainage repair would cost an estimated \$40,000 and asked for assurance that the cost would be borne by the MCRC.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to personal issues with the township supervisor and commented on TAC issues and concerns regarding the TAC money that is currently being held by the township.

Tim Janney, 3818 Consear – stated the prayer at the beginning of the meeting is a nice addition and requested public comment time be changed on the agenda.

Dale Track, 2842 Sanibel – spoke to concerns regarding the Compensation Committee and how they determined their elected official salary determination.

Al Prieur, 1167 N. Park – responded to comments made by Gail Keane regarding his family.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Clements – reminded residents that April is Autism month and to watch for the blue lights, thanked 1st responders for their hard work last night, and spoke to the Compensation Commission issue.

Bork – expressed her opinion that the TAC fund should be removed from the township funds and wished everyone a good week.

Tienvieri – commented she is proud of being a Bedford resident and thanked the first responders and sheriff's dept. for all the hard work they have had this last month. She stated she was thankful for the swearing in ceremony and commented on the placement of public comment time on the agenda. She commented on the weigh master issue and requested the issue be placed on the agenda, mentioned to the new Grants Committee that grants are available thru S. County Water for water lines. She also asked about the contract with the Monroe Ambulance Service, asking why we pay for this when we have first responders, and commented on her support for the Cyber Security Hub issue.

Steiner – stated he is impressed with the great job our emergency services are doing, they had a hard job last night and his thoughts and prayers are with the family of the person who died.

Francis – stated that the township auditor has never advised the township to remove TAC monies from the townships account, and the attorneys are working on a resolution to disburse the funds and terminate the township's relationship with TAC. He also mentioned that income tax returns are due on April 18th 2017 and explained the reason for that date.

Hershberger – responded to Ms. Pagels questions regarding the funding for the drain issue in Indian Acres, and said she would contact Barry Buschmann regarding the issue. She also stated that Compensation Committee meetings are posted meetings and open to the public. Mosquito dunks for standing water are available to township residents, the recycling bins are now located behind the township hall every Tuesday, and the township hall will be open only until noon on Good Friday, April 14th. In addition, she thanked all the 1st responders on their hard work and congratulated Adam Massingill on his upcoming wedding.

Pirrone – Thanked the Fire Dept. for their hard work this last month; he will have the public comment time on the agenda moved up on the agenda before Staff Reports; repeated he is working on the Forestview road issues with both Barry Buschmann and the Road Commission, regarding the weighmaster issue; he is getting different costs between the Sheriff's Dept and the Michigan State police; Bedford needs to get certified thru the MEDC in order to be able to apply for grants; we now have a location with signage behind the township hall for composting but this is only for leaves and grass, no bags and there is a dumpster available for sticks and brush; the new lights at the library are still not complete, just waiting for the rest of the order; attended the grand opening of John's Trailers on Lewis Ave (site of the old Chevrolet dealership); is dealing with phone issues, stating he receives too many phone calls and feels the phone tree is either not adequate or not set up right, is suggesting the possibility of having a receptionist or reworking the phone tree; we have a student from the ISD working at the front desk directing residents and helping other departments as needed; he is having Habitec Security putting emergency buttons in all departments and wants to install a new camera facing the recycling area to better control what is dumped there; with regard to road maintenance; crack sealing of roads will be done with SADs; he will check into the ordinance for weight restrictions; and asked Attorney Goldsmith to comment on TAC and the funds the township is holding for them.

Goldsmith spoke to the TAC funds issue, stating his office has been working to write a resolution to disburse the funds to TAC. He further stated the funds are private, they had been given to TAC for a particular purpose and felt they should not be held by the township. These funds were originally part of the EDC budget by resolution, and now that the EDC is inactive, the funds should be privatized and a resolution is needed to accomplish that goal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary