

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

August 9, 2016

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
Paul Francis, Treasurer
Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

Larry O'Dell, Trustee
Paul Pirrone, Trustee
Rick Steiner, Trustee

EXCUSED: Greg Stewart, Supervisor

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Graham, Lennard Graham & Goldsmith, Connie Velliquette, Monroe Conservation District

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Township Board was called to order by Hershberger at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Hershberger informed the board of the excused absence of the Township Supervisor and asked for a motion to appoint a Moderator for this meeting. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to appoint Clerk Hershberger as Moderator for this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Hershberger. Nays: None. Excused: Stewart

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The July 19, 2016 Bedford Township Board minutes.

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, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Hershberger. Nays: None. Excused: Stewart

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION/REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE

Steiner reported the sub-committee has met on several occasions to create by-laws for the Communication/Cable Commission and presented the first draft of the document along with the power point presentation from the Exploratory Committee's revised power point presentation. He asked the board to look both documents over and report via e-mail or phone any changes or recommendations. Board members spoke, offering suggestions and ideas, as well as commenting on the work that needs to be done. After discussion, Steiner stated he would make suggested changes and bring the revised draft back to the board at the first meeting in September (9/6/2016).

REQUEST FOR A RE-APPROVAL OF THE MOBILITE LLC METRO ACT BILATERAL PERMIT

Hershberger spoke, stating this permit had been originally approved by the board at the July 5, 2016 meeting and the company has returned the document with changes. The townships

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attorney stated the original permit the board approved was a state produced base document; it's not unusual for companies to make minor changes. He further informed the board that one of the changes was made by the township clerk, and the rest requested by Mobilite, LLC. Discussion followed, with board members asking questions regarding the changes. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Francis to approve the revised Mobilite LLC Metro Act Bilateral Permit with the original language in section 1.8 of the document to be restored. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Hershberger. Nays: None. Excused: Stewart

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES- Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$264,689.22, Fire District-\$9,518.51, Police Fund-\$96,156.24, Park Fund-\$14,051.29, Transit System Fund-\$17,847.00, Library Operating Fund-\$18,946.12, Chapel Creek SAD-\$1,206.25, Fairfield Drive Debt Service-\$35,247.06, Downtown Development Authority-\$23,671.70, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$847,617.82, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$26,199.39, for a total of \$1,355,150.60. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Hershberger. Nays: None. Excused: Stewart

REQUEST FROM THE MONROE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Hershberger introduced Connie Velliquette, a board member for the Monroe Conservation District. She asked the board to consider renewing the contract with the Conservation District and for the board to increase their funding from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 annually. She then introduced Ben Lehr, who works for the district, and had him explain to the board all the services the Conservation District provides to farmers and residents of the county. Discussion followed, with board members asking questions of both Ms. Velliquette and Mr. Lehr. Motion was made by O'Dell, seconded by Francis to increase the township's payment to the Monroe Conservation District to \$1,000.00 and update the service agreement. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Hershberger. Nays: None. Excused: Stewart

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gail Keane, 1056 Temperance Rd. – thanked the board for approving the monies for the Monroe Conservation District, mentioning some of the services they provide.

Connie Velliquette, 6684 Greenbrier – thanked the board for their support of the Monroe Conservation District.

Bob Potter, 1518 W. Temperance - thanked the board for their support of the Monroe Conservation District.

Kenneth Gonyea, 8311 Lambert Dr. – stated he was surprised the Primary Election voter turnout was only 25%, mentioned the problems with stolen signage and offered suggestions for placement of election signage for future elections.

Gail Roth, 1783 W. Samaria – commented on the upcoming Downtown Temperance Day and her inability to chair the event.

Dale Track, 2842 Sanibel – asked the board questions regarding employee health care changes, employee retirement fund reduction, and the availability of the tickler file to the public.

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Scott Ruetz, 2816 Sanibel – asked the board questions regarding the Communication Committee. Logan Tisdale, 2816 Brandywine – thanked the Adopt-a-Road members for their hard work cleaning up the roads, approved of the positive millage vote for the local and county issues, and suggested that the board look at other areas for fiscal responsibility instead of focusing only on employee benefits.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Tienvieri - stated she had contacted the Monroe County Road Commission regarding accidents at Smith and Douglas, and the road commission is looking into the issue to make the intersection safer and will get back to her.

Pirrone - thanked Velliquette and the Conservation District, stated he agreed with Dale Track regarding reductions to the employee retirement fund, and mentioned the rumors of part time help only at the township.

Steiner - stated that the township supervisor would have and oversee any kind of “tickler file” that may be in existence, and believes the Communication Committee should be an advocate for the residents.

O'Dell – commented on his position as liaison to the Park Commission, and that he had not been asked to follow up with any issues regarding Downtown Temperance Day.

Francis – updated the board on proposed changes to the employee retirement contribution, saying they are still waiting for information from our labor attorney over possible issues with regard to union employees, and the township’s health insurance is being worked on by both Ascent and Burnham & Flowers to provide adequate coverage for township employees at a reduced cost.

Hershberger – thanked her election workers and the polling locations for their work on the August primary and her department is gearing up for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary