

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
December 20, 2016
7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Paul Pirrone, Supervisor	Michelle Bork, Trustee
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk	TC Clements, Trustee
Paul Francis, Treasurer	Rick Steiner, Trustee
	Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith, Pastor Nate Elarton, Compelled 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. Pastor Nate Elarton opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The December 6, 2016 township board minutes.

To Accept and place on file the General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD reports.

To approve and place on file the Revenue/Expense report and Balance Sheet for the period ending November 30, 2016

To accept with regret the resignation of Timothy Brooks from the Fire Dept.

To accept with regret the resignation of Greg Grant from the Fire Dept.

To accept with regret the resignation of Nathalie Jacobs from the Library Board effective 1/1/2017.

To re-appoint George Welling to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending 12/31/2019.

To re-appoint Arvind Shah as a first alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2019.

To re-appoint Tom Zdybek to the Planning Commission for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2019.

To re-appoint Joyce Blanton, Vivian Garber, Annabelle Myers, Carol Reinhardt, Connie Velliquette, Janet Sass, Diane Bernath, Nancy Piechorowski, Kristina Houstin & Denise Riddle to the Beautification Committee for terms ending 12/31/2022.

To appoint Mary Eileen Kunz to the Library Advisory Board for a term ending 12/31/2019.

To appoint Paula Brown to the unexpired term on the Library Advisory Board for a term to end 12/31/2018.

To appoint Dan Steffen to the Planning Commission for a 1st term ending 12/31/2019.

To appoint Joe Garverick to the Planning Commission for a 1st term ending 12/31/2019.

To appoint Matt Hafer to the Grant and Loan Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2019.

Page 2
Bedford Township Board
December 20, 2017

To appoint Timothy Schmieder to the Grant and Loan Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2019.

To appoint Greg LaScala as an alternate to the Communications/Media Commission for a 1st term ending 12/31/2018.

To appoint Maryann Bourque as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term ending date of 12/31/2019.

Pirrone read the consent agenda items to the board. Motion was made by Tienvieri, 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 LT. DAVE BOX

Fire Chief Ron Whipple asked Lt. Dave Box to come to the podium to be sworn in. Hershberger swore in Lt. Dave Box, with the board congratulating him and thanking him for his service to the community.

PRESENTATION HONORING RETIRING KROGER MANAGER DOUG DEARMOND

Pirrone invited Kroger Manager Doug DeArmond to the podium, where Hershberger read the resolution honoring him for his service to the community. The board applauded and congratulated him on his retirement.

VOSS LIGHTING PRESENTATION

Pirrone invited Roger Kirkpatrick from Voss Lighting to inform the board of an opportunity to become a member of the NCPA (National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance) whose goal is to work with government agencies to reduce costs. He then explained to the board what membership in the organization will provide. He stated there are no costs involved in membership, and it will actually save costs involved in a bidding process, although it will not prevent the board from competitive bidding when the board chooses to do so. Goldsmith mentioned the township has a self-imposed bidding policy of a purchase of \$20,000 or more must be bid, but suggested if the board approves membership and then decides on a purchase of this size, they should make a motion to waive the bidding policy before approving the purchase. Board members asked questions and commented on the issue with regard to a proposed bid/contract that will be discussed later in this board meeting. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to approve membership in the NCPA (National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance). Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Zorn, Michigan State Senator – spoke to the board regarding two bills that were approved at the recently ended lame duck session. One was an energy policy bill and the other a bill to allow schools to stock a drug to prevent drug overdoses in schools. He further stated that in the years he has served as State Representative and now State Senator he has voted on 894 bills, not missing a single vote during any of his terms of office.

UPDATE/INFORMATION FROM RANDY PIERCE, MCRC

Randy Pierce, Director of the Monroe County Road Commission came to the board meeting to give an overview of the commission's duties and responsibilities. He commended the board for having a plan in place for maintenance of Bedford's roads, saying he would like to see it extended and continue. He then answered board members questions.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE/REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DEPT. ON THE TMACOG WATER COMMITTEE MEETING AND SEMCOG MEETING

Deputy Supervisor Al Prieur spoke, stating he had attended a TMACOG Water Quality board meeting on December 2, 2016 and informed the board this is a new committee, still in its formation stages; they're looking at funding and setting goals. He also attended a SEMCOG Executive board meeting in Detroit, where they discussed transportation issues, water issues as well as other related issues. Board members asked questions, with Tienvieri stating she wants to see results from these organizations not just discussions. Board members thanked Prieur for this information.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF AN ASSESSING CONTRACT WITH CHRISTINE EICHLER

Alan Matlow, township assessor, spoke to the issue asking the board to consider renewing the contract with Christine Eichler until the end of June of 2017. He further explained his department is currently understaffed, she has done a good job this last year and he would like to see her continue, and hopefully be able to be hired full time after her current obligations at another township are fulfilled sometime after April of 2017. Board members commented and asked questions. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the renewal of the contract with Christine Eichler, in the Assessing Department at the same compensation as she is currently receiving, effective November 10, 2016 thru June 30, 2017. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

DISCUSSION OF PTR AGENDA

Steiner spoke explaining to the board the advantages of using the Progress Tracking Report to keep track of board issues and projects for future board meetings. He has created two types, one for items to come back to the board for future review and the other to track the status of longer term projects. The Supervisor's department will oversee these reports and all board members and their deputies will be involved in the report regarding items that need to come back to the board. The Park board is looking at using this system as well. There will be a PTR report in each board packet.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN UPGRADE TO LED LIGHTING FOR THE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Roger Kirkpatrick, Voss Lighting, came back to the podium to answer board members questions regarding the proposal. Tienvieri stated there is an urgent need to resolve the lighting issue at the library, stating the current lighting at the library is very bad. Board members questioned Mr. Kirkpatrick, and discussion followed as to whether this is truly the lowest bit. Hershberger stated she would get pricing on what our current light bulbs cost. Motion was made by

Page 4
Bedford Township Board
December 20, 2017

Tienvieri, seconded by Steiner to table this issue until the January 3, 2017 board meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. 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-\$320,455.04, Fire District-\$60,690.88, Police Fund-\$1,715.66, Park Fund-\$1,377.30, Transit System Fund-\$14,816.00, Library Operating Fund-\$3,567.45, Wild Haven Park SAD-\$125,422.19, Downtown Development Authority-\$9,875.15, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$5,095.13, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$9,292.50 for a total of \$552,307.30. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING PENSION & LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE AND EXTRA MEETING PAY FOR TRUSTEES

Pirrone spoke stating this issue had come up before but without the information this board has received regarding costs. Tienvieri stated she felt that since the township's part-time employees were not eligible for pension and life insurance benefits, she believed it wasn't fair to offer those benefits to part-time trustees. Francis & Steiner both supported keeping the benefits because trustees are "on" 24/7 even though they do not have office hours, the cost is minimal, and trustees can elect to not accept either or both benefits. The extra meeting pay for trustees was also discussed, with Steiner, Bork, Clements and Pirrone supporting the issue, stating the paid boards required the trustees to spend extra time studying issues that would come before them (ex. BZA, Planning, & Park), the trustee could again choose to not accept the extra pay and the cost is minimal. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to retain the pension coverage, life insurance coverage and extra meeting pay for trustees. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger. Nays: Tienvieri & Pirrone. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SEWER RATE INCREASE FOR 2017

Francis spoke, explaining to the board an error he had found in the paperwork presented in the board agenda, stating the correction did not change the increase in sewer rate charges. He further explained in detail the research done in determining the increase, and said the increases recommended would be as follows: sewer usage would go from \$4.12 per 1,000 gal. of usage to \$4.74; depreciation costs would increase from \$12.98 to \$14.94 per quarter; and debt service would increase from \$12.18 to \$14.01 per quarter. He then informed the board that needed improvements to the sewer system will cost an estimated \$12 million dollars, and he and the Drain Commissioner will be recommending the board approve using \$3 million of the \$5 million the township has in reserve and finance the other \$9 million on a 30 year bond. Discussion followed with suggestions to change the billing to monthly and offer e-billing to cut costs. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to adopt the resolution to establish the sewer use charges for the Bedford Township sanitary sewage service system for 2017, 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 TO HIRE PART-TIME HELP IN THE ASSESSING DEPT.

Al Matlow, township assessor was asked to come to the podium to speak to the issue and answer board members questions. He stated that he and the Supervisor had looked over her resume, held an interview and were impressed with Ms. Elmer. She would be working 30 hours a week at a starting pay of \$14.50 per hour, working Monday thru Friday and will start taking classes for certification in the spring. Tienvieri stated her resume was impressive and suggested increasing her base pay to \$15.50. Discussion followed, with Clement suggesting keeping her starting pay at \$14.50 with a review in 6 months. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Tienvieri to hire Kelly Elmer to fill a part-time position in the Assessing Department at a starting pay to be a minimum of \$14.50 per hour with a review on 7/1/2017. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tim Schumacher, 6419 Secor – spoke to the residual effects of a recent water main break near his home, and mentioned that sewer lines are a separate, closed system from the water lines.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and then gave statistics regarding traffic deaths in the last year, questioning why more traffic tickets are not issued by the contracted Sheriff's Deputies, and mentioned the recent arrest of an arson suspect in Bedford.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Francis - stated he appreciated the better communications between board members, spoke to possible law enforcement issues and the need to find out what the public wants in the way of police protection. He also spoke to potential fire department issues and needs, asking if the 1 mill millage was enough to support the fire department.

Hershberger – stated the township hall would be closed on December 23rd, 26th and 30th, as well as January 2, 2017 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, as well as a safe holiday.

Tienvieri – asked that when board meeting issues involve township or county employees, they be moved to the beginning of the agenda, stated she was honored to swear in Lt. Box to the Fire Dept., congratulated Senator Zorn on his record of not missing a vote in his years as a State Rep., and State Senator, informed the board that the Library Board is hosting a reception for the new board on January 26, 2017, asked that she be removed from the PTR for her offer at the last board meeting to be a job coach for students with disabilities, thinking it was a board issue but realizing with other duties and responsibilities that she doesn't have time to do it, mentioned an e-mail to board members from Mary Pagels, regarding the proposed Indian Acres road improvement issue and asked the clerk to send out a letter with information. Hershberger responded that a letter is going out to residents, informing them the petition is valid and an informational meeting is set.

Clements – thanked Tim Brooks, Greg Grant and Nathalie Jacobs for their service to the community, recognized Al Prieur for his quick responses to board members questions and issues, stated he hoped the public recognized that the discussion regarding the PTR is, this is a tool to help them make sure the board is working them, thanked the police department for their arrest of the arson suspect, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Page 6
Bedford Township Board
December 20, 2017

Bork – expressed her concerns with cars stopping when busses are picking up children on bad roads, stated she is working with the maintenance department to utilize them to help with snow and road issues, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Steiner – commented on the aging sewer lines allowing ground water to seep in and causing the sewer treatment plant to have to treat clean water, mentioned the mispronunciation of Tienvieri's last name, and reminded the board that December 31st is the date that the Star Motel issue will be settled. Attorney Goldsmith stated he already has the paperwork ready for the court on this issue. He then thanked the fire and police departments and first responders for their hard work, welcomed Ms. Elmer as a new employee and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pirrone – Thanked and congratulated fire fighters, welcomed Ms. Elmer, and stated the board has been great to work with, especially Ms. Bork, and all have been a lot of help to him and Al, the board is working together trying to get things done in the community. Al is working on a group calendar in the office, so that everyone knows what is going on regarding meetings, etc. Maintenance has started working on helping with snow plowing in the subdivisions, he will make sure all subdivisions are worked on equally, as needed, and is working with the road commission on this issue. The township road committee has met and he has added Jeff Zink and Bob Stammer (former road commission members) to the committee. He has had meetings with the Bedford School Superintendent, Randy Pierce from the Road Commission, been to a meeting with Dundee officials and a Planning/Zoning streamlining seminar. He then informed the public he has appointed Clements as Park Board liaison, Tienvieri as Library liaison, Bork as Planning liaison, Hershberger as Communication/Media liaison, Steiner as BZA liaison, and Francis as Fire Advisory Board liaison. Lastly he mentioned the possibility of having a Cyber Security Center thru the University of Michigan, a free program and then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary