

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

February 7, 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: Craig Killinen, Pastor of Bridgepoint Church, Barry Buschmann, Mannik & Smith Group, Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith, Randy Pierce, Monroe County Road Commission

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 Craig Killinen offered prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR TIMBERWOODS PUD, II

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to open the public hearing for the approval of a special assessment district for Timberwoods PUD, II. Motion carried unanimously.

No one came forward to speak to the issue.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to close the public hearing for the approval of a special assessment district for Timberwoods PUD, II. Motion carried unanimously.

Hershberger explained this special assessment district is for 2 streetlights in a 13 lot development, the developer has already paid for the lights and installation, the lot owners will only be paying for usage. The cost to the lot owners will be \$30.12 per year, based on a usage fee of \$16.32 per light. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the special assessment district for Timberwoods PUD, II, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Pirrone spoke, stating due to time constraints, residents who wished to speak during public comment would no longer be allowed to have other residents “give their time” to allow for a longer time to speak. He also asked board members to limit their comments for the same reason. Clements spoke, asking to have item 7-B, Request for Approval of the Township’s Employee Performance Evaluation removed from the agenda until the March 7, 2017 board meeting. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Francis to approve the agenda as amended, with the removal of item 7-B, Request for Approval of the Township’s Employee Performance Evaluation. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

Approval of the January 17, 2017 township board minutes.

The appointment of Robyne Bush as Planning Commission Liaison to the BZA with a term ending 12/31/2017.

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The appointment of Lisa Janos to the Housing Commission for a partial term ending 12/31/2017.

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

STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A WAIVER OF FEES FOR A TEMPORARY SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE FARMER'S MARKET

Bob Potter, secretary of the Farmer's Market, spoke, asking the board to approve the waiver of BZA and Planning fees for the temporary special use permit for the Farmer's Market on the property of the Lambertville United Methodist Church, at 8165 Douglas Road and said this is the same request that has been made for the last 4 or 5 years. He also mentioned the letter to the board from the church officially making this request and allowing him to be their spokesman. Tienvieri asked the township attorney why this issue has not been fixed or amended in the township ordinances so that they do not need to come to the board every year with this request. Attorney Goldsmith responded, board members asked additional questions, and Mr. Potter thanked the board for their time in this matter. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Steiner to approve the waiver of fees for a temporary special use permit for the Farmer's Market at the Lambertville United Methodist Church at the corner of Dean and Douglas. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

TMACOG REPORT FROM DEPUTY SUPERVISOR AL PRIEUR

Pirrone invited Deputy Supervisor Al Prieur to the podium to speak to the board about TMACOG issues and informed the board that Prieur is now a member of the Executive Board to TMACOG. Prieur spoke, giving the board detailed information on the TMACOG meetings he has attended and the issues that were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Gurecky, 3216 W. Dean – commented to the board on item 7-C, Discussion Regarding Lifetime Healthcare Benefits for Employees, stating he is against changing the current policy and his reasons why.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – commented on item 7-C encouraging board members to be faithful to retirees and on 7-B, Request for Approval of the Township's Employee Performance Evaluation, stating contracted employees should be included in the evaluations.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY LIGHTING INSTALLATION PROPOSAL

Pirrone spoke, stating he has been partly successful in getting volunteers/apprentices to handle the installation, but still needs a contractor to oversee the project. The proposal is for Zeiler Electric to have two men handle the project, and as many volunteers/apprentices as available, to work as well which would mean the \$9,000 cost would be reduced. This proposal is for the contractors only; it does not include equipment needed to do the job. Pirrone suggested he may be able to get the equipment at no charge, and will look into doing so. Board members questioned liability issues with regard to the volunteers/apprentices and equipment to be used.

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The township attorney responded to these issues, stating he would prefer all the equipment be supplied by or through the contractor as well as the apprentices or licensed electricians working on the project, thereby insuring the equipment is sound and proper insurances are in place, and potential workman's comp. issues will be covered. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Hershberger to accept the proposal from Zeiler Electric for the installation of the lights at the township library at a cost not to exceed \$9,000.00, with the Supervisor attempting to procure a free or at a reduced rate, an aerial lift from a reputable company that has certified equipment, at a cost not to exceed \$500.00 per day, including the comments from the township attorney regarding workman's compensation insurance and liabilities before they step on the property. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING LIFETIME HEALTHCARE BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES

Pirrone spoke, stating this issue is on the agenda because it was a campaign promise he had made to do so after talking with residents. His recommendation is to give all retirees the rate of reimbursement for a single, instead of the spousal rate. This would affect two current retirees out of the five receiving reimbursement, and all three of the potential retirees. Clements spoke against this issue, Francis explained the history behind the issue, and former finance director Andy Gurecky spoke to the issue. The rest of the board asked questions and commented. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Francis to continue with the current reimbursement for the 5 current retirees and 3 potential retirees as proposed in the October 5, 2010 document. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

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-\$59,774.99, Fire District-\$38,334.68, Police Fund-\$3,587.82, Park Fund-\$11,114.65, Transit System Fund-\$15,468.00, Library Operating Fund-\$3,330.38, Water Revenue Fund-\$2,970.00, Wild Haven SAD-\$297.50, Downtown Development Authority-\$40,655.88, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$391,344.67, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$225.90 for a total of \$567,104.47. 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 CONSUMERS ENERGY CONTRACT

Hershberger spoke, stating this contract came about after she asked Consumers to do a map and survey of all streetlights at large to be sure we were not being charged for lights that either weren't there or had been removed. The survey did show some lights that we should not have been paying for but also showed some lighting we were not being charged for. The lighting we were incorrectly charged for has been corrected and this contract covers lighting that we were not charged for. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Clements to approve the Consumers Energy contract, 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 ROADWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2021

Francis spoke, explaining the history of the original plan and the need to continue to have a plan in order to maintain the roads already completed and complete those still in need of repair. Barry Buschmann from Mannik & Smith Co. and Randy Pierce from the MCRC both spoke to the issue, giving information and details of the importance of having a plan. Board members asked questions of both men. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the Roadway Asset Management Plan for 2017-2021, as stated, at a cost of \$4,800.00. 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 SALE OF A TOWNSHIP VEHICLE

Pirrone spoke, stating the vehicle is a 1999 Ford Escort, with relatively low mileage, but it needs major repairs and is not worth repairing. He is proposing taking bids, using the township website, if it went to auction it would cost more than the township would make on it. Tienvieri suggested it be bid out with a minimum bid required. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Steiner to approve the sale of the 1999 Ford Escort, by placing it for bid on the township website and any other means necessary, with a minimum bid of \$600.00. 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 AN INCREASE IN PAY FOR LEWIS SMITH, LEVEL III ASSESSOR

Pirrone spoke, stating he is requesting approval to increase the pay for Lewis Smith to \$25.00 per hour, to bring his salary in line with other Level III's who receive that rate. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Hershberger to increase the pay of Level III Assessor Lewis Smith to \$25.00 per hour, effective immediately. 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

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – spoke against the proposed Indian Acres SAD.

Andy Gurecky, 3216 W. Dean – thanked the board for their decision regarding the retiree's health benefits.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – commented on and referred to the most recent contract activities report from the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Steiner – stated he had met with former fire Chief Ruiz to discuss a grant writing committee, mentioned the different types of grants available and will do a recap of the grant information and talk to the three full time board members.

Clements – mentioned the memorial for Jonathon Scout and the need to continue to focus on people in the community.

Tienvieri – stated her appreciation for the two fire reports listed under information in the board packet, asked about the status of the board policy and why it hasn't been on an agenda, questioned why the board meeting was not being filmed, and urged members to read the MTA magazine, citing it as an excellent source of information.

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Francis – stated he would be sending out the most current copy of the board policy and apologized for not getting it out sooner, citing other pressing issues. He also reminded residents that property taxes are due on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, there's a 3% late penalty for payment after that date, and as of the 28th of February, the unpaid tax bills go to the county. He further mentioned a special board meeting on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 pm to consider two candidates for the position of Bedford Fire Chief. Ron Walters from Endevis will also be present, he then handed out packets to board members for that meeting.

Bork – stated she is looking at contracted services contracts/agreements to see which ones need to be bid out again, mentioned that since the EDC is no longer active, the TAC monies in the account, approximately \$30,000 need to be taken out.

Hershberger – stated the board meeting is being filmed using the static camera due to the death of George Welling's father and offered her sympathies to the family. She then asked Buschmann to come to the podium to explain the drainage issues with the proposed Indian Acres SAD, and then asked the township attorney to speak to the Indian Acres SAD to clear up misinformation that is being both circulated and stated tonight by a resident. Both Buschmann and Goldsmith gave detailed information regarding this issue, with Goldsmith affirming the township is following the letter of the law with regard to special assessment districts.

Pirrone – expressed his sympathies to George Welling and his family, offered his apologies to Ms. Keane for comments he had made to her, and mentioned attending a new officials training in Lansing along with Bork, Clements and his deputy. In addition:

ITC is putting new poles along their lines in Bedford, affected residents will be notified and any trees in the easement will be removed.

Had a meeting with SEMCOG to review programs that may benefit Bedford Township.

He is planning on using a volunteer and her job coach from ISD to help with calls, give directions, and help with departments, as needed.

The County Equalizer will be giving a report after doing a review of the Assessing Dept.

He has met with Jodi (Head Librarian) and John Rawlings regarding making the library more energy efficient regarding HVAC.

Had a meeting with the County Sheriff to review services and better understand how the dept. works.

The Temperance Fire house has issues with a sagging roof/ceiling, the damage is structural and there's no insurance coverage, he is waiting for an official report from the insurance company.

Medical Marijuana issue and state law changes, the changes will go into effect the end of 2017, the board needs to consider what they want in the community.

He has met with Tim Lake from MCBDC regarding the Sunrise Windows issue and Cyber Security.

A rep. from U of M and 4 graduate students are doing a study for a Cyber Security Hub in Bedford.

The striping of Lewis Avenue in downtown Temperance will take place after the planned Lewis Avenue road improvement.

He congratulated TC Clements on his assistance in using an AED on a resident in distress at the Bedford Senior Center recently.

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Bedford will be hosting a rib fest on June 23, 24 & 25th at the Bedford High School, he is meeting with the Park board on the 13th regarding the fireworks that same weekend.

First Lt. Tony Cuevas from the Michigan State Police will be doing a presentation at the 2/21/2017 township board meeting.

He met with Enbridge regarding the pipeline in Bedford, they have vehicles that could be donated to the township and possible grants, Bedford will be applying.

He met with former Supervisor Greg Stewart regarding SEMCOG.

The Star Motel has tested positive for asbestos and will be getting prices for removal before the demo can be done.

The Law Enforcement committee is still in process, the committee will be in place soon.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary