

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

January 3, 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: Matt Hafer, Bridgepoint Church, MCDC Deputy Tim Csurgo, Phil Westmoreland, Spicer Group, David Manning, Finance Director

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

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:

The December 20, 2016 Township Board minutes.

The appointment of Richard Blackwood to the South County Water Board thru 1/3/2019

The re-appointment of Jan Howard to the Compensation Committee thru 12/31/2020.

The re-appointment of Diana Collins to the Library Advisory Board thru 12/31/2019.

The re-appointment of David Beard to the Housing Commission thru 12/31/2021.

The re-appointment of R. LaMar Frederick to the Board of Review thru 12/31/2018.

The re-appointment of R. LaMar Frederick to the Fire Advisory Board thru 12/31/2018.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the consent agenda with a correction to the December 20, 2016 minutes to show the corrected names of township board members present. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

PRESENTATIONS

SAW GRANT UPDATE – MCDC DEPUTY TIM CSURGO & PHIL WESTMORELAND, SPICER GROUP

Phil Westmoreland from Spicer Group and Tim Csurgo, Deputy Monroe County Drain Commissioner gave the board the background and history of the SAW Grant, which is a study of the waste water infrastructure for both the long and short term in order to increase efficiency and better manage waste water in Bedford Township. They then gave detailed information as to the results of the study and outlined plans on how to implement repairs, estimating the costs of these plans in the 12 to 13 million dollar range and stated the Drain Commission is compiling a report to the state to apply for a low cost state loan. Csurgo then offered to host an official tour of the waste water treatment plant anytime the week of January 9th, and he answered questions regarding projected sewer and water rate increases. Pirrone thanked them on behalf of the board for the informational report.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE GIANT OAK SUBDIVISION DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN

Manning spoke stating the three resolutions are required by the State of Michigan to show the plan the township has to eliminate the debt incurred for three special assessment districts that were funded thru the General Fund. Manning then responded to board members questions. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the resolution for the Giant Oak Subdivision deficit elimination plan, 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 A RESOLUTION FOR THE WILD HAVEN PARK SUBDIVISION DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the resolution for the Wild Haven Park Subdivision deficit elimination plan, 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 A RESOLUTION FOR THE CHAPEL CREEK SUBDIVISION DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the resolution for the Chapel Creek Subdivision deficit elimination plan, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – commented on the proposed Apache Trails SAD.

Jodie Russ, 1273 Winding Way – spoke to the issue of the proposed LED lighting contract.

Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – spoke to the issue of proposed sewer rate increases.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – commented on traffic and law enforcement, and in support of the law enforcement committee.

Arlene Riter, 2560 Chapel Creek – commented on sewer rate increases and the Chapel Creek SAD.

Ernie Brancheau, Toledo, OH. – spoke to increased water usage costs.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Roger Kirkpatrick, Voss Lighting spoke and brought samples of the proposed LED lights for the library. He explained the cost savings and the breakdown of costs between the purchase of the lights and the cost of installation as well as the rebate offered by Consumers Energy. Discussion followed with Mr. Kirkpatrick answering board members questions regarding installation costs. Pirrone offered to check into the cost of installation of the lighting and to see about the possibility of bidding out the labor costs for a possible savings. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to suspend the township bidding policy for a one time transaction with Voss Lighting Company for the purchase of the lighting only. Motion carried on a roll call vote as

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follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None.
Excused: None

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Francis to approve the purchase of LED lights from Voss Lighting Company, for the library, at a cost of \$27,333.88, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: Bork. 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-\$24,447.25, Fire District-\$5,608.82 Police Fund-\$288.11, Park Fund-\$879.04, Library Operating Fund-\$12,211.00, Water Revenue Fund-\$2,500.00, Wild Haven Park SAD-\$1,807.73, Chapel Creek SAD-\$119.00, Downtown Development Authority-\$5,234.85, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$2,520.17, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$13,061.01 for a total of \$68,676.88. 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 REZONING OF PARCEL NO 5802-031-045-00 (6745 WHITEFORD CENTER) FROM C-1 LOCAL BUSINESS, TO R-2A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

Pirrone spoke stating this rezoning request would bring the parcel into conformity with surrounding use, follows the master plan and was approved by both township and county planning. Hershberger stated the applicant could not be in attendance due to illness. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to approve the request from Susan Landis-Dowlatkhhah for a rezoning of parcel no. 5802-031-045-00, otherwise known as 6745 Whiteford Center Road, from C-1, Local Commercial, to R-2A Single Family Residential as it is consistent with the Master Plan, consistent with zoning of surrounding parcels, and will bring the parcel use closer to compliance. 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 PURCHASE OF A SNOW PLOW BLADE FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPT.

Pirrone spoke, stating he had handed out a second bid for the snow plow, which was more expensive than the first bid because it's for a V shaped plow instead of a blade plow. He said this type would be better for the intended use of plowing the library, township and fire department parking lots. Discussion followed, with board members questioning whether township maintenance would be capable of plowing subdivision roads with the existing equipment, what costs would be incurred, if our insurance coverage is adequate, and if the union would allow maintenance to do this work. Pirrone and Bork responded to questions and stated they would get more information and bring the issue back to the board. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Bork to table the issue until the next board meeting (January 17, 2017), and bring back additional information regarding the purchase. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Steiner.

REQUEST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Pirrone spoke, stating he felt there is a need to establish a law enforcement committee and asked for board members comments. Board members asked questions as to who would be on the committee, what the scope or parameters of the committee would be, and Clements offered to be the liaison from the board for the proposed committee and work on possible members and parameters. Tienvieri stated she believes this committee is not necessary, the work of the committee should be done by the board and in a public forum. Steiner requested the committee report back to the board on at least a quarterly basis, Bork suggested the committee be similar in scope to the fire advisory board, only for law enforcement, Francis stated a committee is necessary to do the “grunt work” and help the township board. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bork to establish the Law Enforcement Committee, with Clements as Township Board Liaison, with the names of members and number of members to be determined. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pirrone spoke, stating there are many grants available to local governments, and suggested a committee be formed of residents who have an interest in or background in working on grant applications, further saying neither he, his deputy or any other full time employees have the time available to do such research. Discussion followed, with Francis stating a CD is available for a \$100.00 fee which gives info on grants available. Board members suggested possible candidates and Steiner agreed to act as liaison to this committee. Tienvieri again expressed her belief that committees are not necessary, the work should be done by the board and in a public forum. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Francis to establish a Grant Search Committee, with Steiner as Township Board Liaison, and the membership to be a minimum of three members and a maximum of five members. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TOWNSHIP'S ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES MANUAL

Tienvieri spoke to the issue, stating this manual had been worked on during the previous administration, it was a template from MTA, and she, Steiner, and former trustee O'Dell had worked on it, and made adjustments, but it was never approved by the board. She would like to have the board go over the document, one section per meeting to get it finalized. Discussion followed, with Steiner and Francis stating the version presented in the board packet was an older version and the most recent version is no. 7, and has changes. More discussion followed regarding which version needs to be worked on and how it needs to be done. Clements suggested tabling this item until a later date due to the lateness of the hour. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to table this issue until the 2nd meeting in February (February 21, 2017). Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jodi Russ, Township Librarian – commented on the approval of the purchase of LED lighting for the library.

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Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – spoke to the issue of snow plowing subdivision roads and promises made by some local candidates with regard to saving taxpayers’ dollars.

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – commented negatively regarding committees expressing concerns over possible corruption.

Todd Bork, 8153 Jackman – thanked Pirrone for the decision to snow plow in subdivisions.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke to the issue of having committees, especially the law enforcement committee.

Ernie Brancheau, Toledo, OH – commented on snow plowing of subdivision roads and spoke about “safe houses” in Bedford.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Bork – stated she does a lot of research on board issues and sees committees as another source of research, which is an asset to the board.

Clements – stated he is forwarding his HR review to the clerk, to be on the agenda for the January 17th board meeting.

Steiner – stated there is no corruption with regards to the boards and committees, township board members are held responsible to assure everything is above board. Committees & boards can only make recommendations to the township board not make decisions. He also commented on the Grants Committee and will look into a portable microphone for the board room.

Tienvieri – stated elected board members are allowed their own opinions, asked to have Ms. Riter’s issue checked by the assessing dept., said that climbing taxes are the result of the State Tax Commission, the township’s sewer usage capacity is fine that issue is reviewed by the Planning Dept. when a new subdivision is planned, commented on an e-mail received by the township attorney regarding the Star Motel demo issue, mentioned having the township closure dates on the township agenda for the next board meeting, expressed her disappointment that Dundee Mfg. was not coming to Bedford and requested a report on the issue with regard to the CDBG grant and IFT that had been applied for, requested a report on the status of Metro Funds for the possible striping of Lewis Avenue in Temperance, asked that professional contracts be checked for possible needed renewals or if there was a need to bid it out, and gave kudos to Phil Dale of the Bedford Fire Dept., for researching and finding a cost recovery program. She will meet with him regarding this subject on Monday, January 16th in the trustee’s office, and invited other board members to attend.

Francis – stated the board needs to keep going forward, all members do not need to agree, what’s important is to remember the board is doing what’s best for all the residents in Bedford.

Hershberger – commented on Dundee Mfg., and their decision to not move to Bedford, stating she had set up escrow accounts for the CDBG Grant and IFT and to contact Tim Lake at MCBSC for more information as to why the company changed its mind. She also gave details on the number of bags and groups that participated in the Adopt-A-Road program this fall, and if anyone is interested in participating in Adopt-A-Road to contact her. Letters will be going out to all residents of Indian Creek Subdivision next week to invite them to attend an informational meeting regarding costs, etc. for the proposed SAD. In addition, she mentioned her department is a passport agency and because the Temperance & Dundee passport agencies have closed, her

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department has had many more applications received so she is accepting passport applications by appointment only. Contact her office to make an appointment

Pirrone – invited residents to apply for either the Grant or Law Enforcement Committees, gave a report on the 1st Town Hall meeting at 6:00 pm that night, stating the discussion was about roads and the next one will be at 6:00 pm on February 7th to discuss sewer/water issues. He further mentioned several subdivision roads were plowed after the last big snow, and he received a lot of positive feedback about it. Members of the Bedford Fire Dept. met with him, Francis and Steiner to discuss improvements to the dept., the PTR issue is being reviewed, he and Prieur met with Steiner to get it going. He has met with a Mike Calvin regarding the possibility of holding a “ribfest” in Bedford around the same time as the Bedford Fireworks. He has also met with Tim Csurgo regarding sewer/water issues, had a road committee meeting with Barry Buschmann and members (Paul Francis, Jeff Zink, and Bob Stammer), congratulated Sue Soda and the Housing Commission for passing the HUD audit, has started working with the Finance Director on the budget process, stated that the building inspector and ordinance officer will be meeting tomorrow morning to sign the affidavit regarding the Star Motel demo. He has worked out a reduced price of 30% for parts and \$65.00 per hour labor for repairs to one of our Sheriff’s cars, saving \$700.00, and he will check with the electrical local union to see if volunteers could install the new lighting at the library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary