

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

July 11, 2017

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard Graham & Goldsmith, Michigan State Senator
Dale Zorn, Greg Meyers, Community Relations, Consumers Energy, Alan Matlow, Township Assessor

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 MOHAWK TRAILS SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

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

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

Hershberger spoke, explaining this is the second public hearing for Mohawk Trails and will establish the roll. The estimated cost per parcel of the project will be \$7,350.00, assessed over 15 years, at 3 ¼% interest. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the resolution to set the district roll for the Mohawk Trails Subdivision Road improvement special assessment district, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: 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, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2017 regular Meeting of the Bedford Township Board;

The appointment of Matt Hafer to the Library Advisory Board for a term ending 12/31/2019;

The appointment of Michelle Reed to the Veteran's Committee for a term ending 12/31/2018.

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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, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF MONROE COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – SENATOR DALE ZORN

Michigan State Senator Dale Zorn spoke, reminded the board that Monroe County will be celebrating its bi-centennial on Friday, July 14, 2017, and stated he wished to recognize all the individual jurisdictions in Monroe County with a tribute. He then read a portion of the tribute that was signed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, himself and our State Representatives. He then offered to answer any questions board members may have and commented on the state shared revenues Bedford would receive.

PRESENTATION HONORING MILITARY VETERANS

Pirrone and Hershberger presented pins honoring four veterans of the military, thanking them on behalf of the board and community for their service to our country.

William Grundy, US Army, Vietnam

Chris Knaggs, US Airforce, Vietnam

Charles Schmidlin, US Navy, Korea

Dustin Perkins, US Coast Guard, Middle East Conflict

The board and audience stood and applauded.

PRESENTATION FROM CONSUMERS ENERGY REGARDING THE NEW METERS – GREG MEYERS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY

Greg Meyers, Community Relations specialist for Consumers Energy introduced Catherine Burkholder, also from Consumers Energy who spoke to the issue of the new meters being installed in the township. She gave information and details regarding the issue and answered residents and board members questions regarding this project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Lennex, 7261 Forest Valley – commented on the replacement trustee position and process.

Tim Janney, 3818 Consear – commented on the replacement trustee position and process.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine - commented on the replacement trustee position and process.

Jim Nyhan, 8277 Argyll - commented on the replacement trustee position and process.

STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SALARY INCREASE FOR JODIE RECTOR, PLANNING/GIS SPECIALIST

Hershberger spoke, informing the board of the employee review and recommendation letter from Karen Kincaid. She stated she is recommending a \$2,000 per year increase in pay, bringing her salary to \$40,811.00 per year and a title change to GIS Specialist. She has read all the materials available regarding the GIS program, and will be getting extra training from the county. Several board members spoke positively regarding Ms. Rector's abilities and work ethic. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to increase the salary for Planning Assistant/GIS Specialist, Jodie Rector by \$2,000 per year, retroactive to July 4, 2017. Motion carried on a roll

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call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SALARY INCREASE FOR KELLY ELMER, ASSESSING DEPT

Pirrone asked Alan Matlow, Township Assessor to speak to the issue. Matlow informed the board that Kelly Elmer has passed her MCAT and will be taking the MCAO at the end of the month. He stated she is a hard worker and a good addition to the staff. He also spoke to Assessing Department issues, giving the board information on the status of the department and where it stands with regard to state compliance issues. Board members asked questions and commented on the need for classifications for pay and the problem of employees receiving certifications paid for by the township, then leaving for a better paying job.

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Francis to approve the salary increase by \$2.00 per hour for Kelly Elmer, Assessing Department, retroactive to July 4, 2017. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DISSOLVE THE TEMPERANCE ACTION COMMITTEE UNDER THE EDC OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

Attorney Goldsmith spoke stating there are three resolutions, one each for the Temperance Action Committee, Lambertville Pride, and the Samaria Heritage Group in which they operated under the Economic Development Corporation, which has been inactive for over two years. Because the EDC is inactive, these groups have not been able to accomplish the requirements of those resolutions. He then read some of the clauses in the resolutions that cannot be accomplished. He further stated that on the advice of the township auditor, any money that the township was holding for these organizations has been returned to them, and now the board needs to individually adopt the resolutions to withdraw the relationship between them and the inactive EDC. Discussion followed with board members suggesting the board continue to have a relationship with the three organizations, and work together toward improving Bedford Township.

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Francis to adopt the resolution to dissolve the Temperance Action Committee under the Economic Development Corporation of the Township of Bedford. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DISSOLVE THE LAMBERTVILLE PRIDE UNDER THE EDC OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Steiner to adopt the resolution to dissolve the Lambertville Pride under the Economic Development Corporation of the Township of Bedford. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DISSOLVE THE SAMARIA HERITAGE GROUP UNDER THE EDC OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

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Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to adopt the resolution to dissolve the Samaria Heritage Group under the Economic Development Corporation of the Township of Bedford. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to formally extend the support to Temperance Action Committee, Lambertville Pride and Samaria Heritage Group to continue a friendly working relationship with them. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

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

Hershberger spoke stating the Monroe County Road Commission is requesting the township board's approval of the contract with Erie Construction for the Sandywell Drive special assessment district. Board members questioned why this SAD was not bid out along with the other county wide projects. Barry Buschmann, township engineer spoke, stating the MCRC will not permit SAD's to be bid out with their county projects, mainly due to possible drainage or other issues that are not part of the actual paving.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to accept and approve the MCRC road improvement contract for the Sandywell Drive special assessment district, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING A TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE REPLACEMENT

All of the board members spoke, giving their suggestions and opinions on the best way to handle the process of selecting a candidate for the open position of township trustee due to the resignation of Michelle Bork. Hershberger and Attorney Goldsmith reminded the board of the 45 day window the board has to approve a replacement, and the decision needs to be made by the 28th of July to assure compliance with the law. After much discussion, the board agreed to hold a special meeting on Thursday, July 20th, at 6:00 pm to interview the 5 or more top candidates out of the 14 who have submitted resumes, and vote to approve their choice. The board also agreed to submit to clerk Hershberger their top three choices by Friday, the 14th, and she will use that information to narrow the field.

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-\$203,787.57, Fire District-\$44,829.88, Police Fund-\$2,157.11, Park Fund-\$20,282.50, Metro Act Fund-\$12,204.50, Library Operating Fund-\$34,435.62, Water Revenue Fund-\$8,050.00, Mohawk Trail SAD-\$458.27, Fairfield SAD-\$824.31, Downtown Development Authority-\$27,123.24, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$2,666.85, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$16,505.15, for a total of \$373,325.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO 5802-034-001-10 (SW CORNER OF LEWIS AVNUE AND FIRECREEK COURT) FROM RT (2 FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-1 (LOCAL COMMERCIAL)

Bryce Bankowski, applicant spoke, stating he is requesting this zoning change because he wants to put an office building on the site, both the county and local planning commissions have approved this request.

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to approve the Firecreek Reals Estate, LLC request for a rezoning of parcel no 5802-034-001-10, from RT, 2 family residential, to C-1, local commercial, located at the southwest corner of Lewis Avenue and Firecreek court as it is consistent with the master plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A TENTATIVE PRELIMINARY PLAT APPROVAL FOR VILLAGE MEADOWS III & IV

Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to approve the tentative preliminary plat for Village Meadows Plats III & IV on parcel no 5802-014-067-02, located on Temperance Road east of Lewis Avenue, conditioned upon addressing all the issues outlined in the review letters from the Monroe County Road Commission, the Monroe County Drain Commission, Mannik and Smith Group and the Bedford Township Fire Department. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Lennex, 7261 Forest Valley – commented again on the replacement trustee position and process.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – commented on used asphalt from road improvements being used on public or private property, suggested an election be held for the trustee position, and questioned the new member to library advisory board.

Al Prieur, 1167 North Park – spoke to the issue of a veteran’s monument and questioned when TAC was going to work on their veteran’s monument.

Lamar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke to the issue of the township trustee position and referred to comments made by the township assessor.

Tim Schumacher, 6419 Secor – spoke to the issue of smart meters in Bedford and the water rate increase.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – commented again on the issue of the township trustee position.

Marge Cousino, 7849 Comanche – commented on the success of the Mohawk Trails special assessment district process and thanked the clerk’s department for all of their help and support.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Clements – informed the board that the 2nd phase of the repairs to the Parmelee Park skate board park will be starting this week, so it will be closed for a short time.

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Tienvieri – responded to comments made by resident Tisdale, explained why her request to have an item on this agenda was not needed, expressed her disappointment in the article in the paper regarding the Law Enforcement Committee’s decision, and asked for an agenda item on the 2nd meeting in August regarding, board members authority to speak to the press before an item comes to the township board.

Steiner – spoke in depth regarding comments made by resident Lennex regarding the November 2016 election and the trustee position issue, and mentioned the need for newer fire equipment for the fire department, commending the fire department on the great job they do and the weekly updates the board receives from the fire chief.

Francis – commented on the article concerning the Law Enforcement Committee in the paper, suggesting a need for a structure for all committees/boards to follow. He also commented on resident Lennex’ s comments regarding targeting board members in previous elections, stating the election is over and there is no place for it now.

Hershberger – informed the board that the new computers are being installed, and should be complete by next week and she is receiving daily safety check reports on the township’s computer systems. She then read the list of 14 applicants for the township trustee position.

Pirrone – spoke to the trustee position issue, stating his opinions and said he respects the opinions of all of the other board members. He then commented on the letter from the Temperance Action Committee in the paper, stating he is tired of the negativity and is moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary