

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

June 21, 2016

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Greg Stewart, Supervisor
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
Paul Francis, Treasurer

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

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith and David Manning,
Finance Director, Dennis Kolar, Building Official

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

PUBLIC HEARING

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A STREETLIGHT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR 2345 W. DEAN ROAD

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Pirrone to open the public hearing for a streetlight special assessment district for 2345 W. Dean Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich Kenny, Forestview Lanes, spoke, stating this request is his and he has paid for the installation of the proposed light and will be paying for the usage on his tax bill.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Pirrone to close the public hearing for a streetlight special assessment district for 2345 W. Dean Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Hershberger spoke, also stating the \$202.00 installation fee and the \$8.55 per month usage fee will be paid by the property owner. The proposed light is a 54 watt LED which is comparable to a 100 watt non-LED. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by O'Dell to approve the streetlight special assessment district for 2345 W. Dean Road; the \$202.00 cost of installation is already paid by the owner and \$8.55 usage fee will be charged to the owner of the property, on his tax bill. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

Approval of the June 7, 2016 Bedford Township Board minutes.

Acceptance of the General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD Reports from the Treasurer

Approval of the Revenue/Expense Report and Balance Sheet for the period ending 5/31/2016.

Approval of the Appointment of Jodi Russ to the Communications Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2018.

Approval of the Appointment of Lori Welling to the Communications Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2018.

Approval of the Appointment of Nate Elarton to the Communications Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2018.

Page 2
Bedford Township Board
June 21, 2016

Tienvieri questioned ~~the residents named~~ WHY OTHER APPLICANTS WERE NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR the Communications Committee, and Francis questioned whether the committee has been officially formed and the structure set up. Stewart responded. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE MONROE COUNTY SENIOR MILLAGE

Joe Grifka and Sandy Pierce from the Every Ninth American Committee offered a presentation explaining to the board and the public the need for the two Monroe County Senior Millage proposals that are on the August 2, 2016 Primary Election ballot. They further explained how the millage monies are used and how those monies benefit the senior population of Bedford Township and Monroe County. Board members asked questions and commented on the issue. On behalf of the board, Stewart thanked them for their informative presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosemary Schroeder, 10360 Douglas – spoke in support of the Senior Millage.

Scott Ruetz, 2816 Sanibel – spoke to the Communications Committee issue.

Henry Lievens & Mark Ellsworth, County Commissioners Districts 8 & 9 – updated the board on County Commissioner issues.

Pam LaPan, 1261 E. Temperance – spoke in support of the Senior Millage.

Carol Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke in support of the Senior Millage.

Lamar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke in support of the Fire Protection Renewal Millage.

Bill Decker, Sr., 1951 W. Erie – spoke in support of Linda Willing and the Building Department.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2015-16 SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS BUDGET

Finance Director Manning spoke, explaining the line items in the 2015-16 special revenue funds budget that need to be adjusted. Tienvieri and O'Dell questioned the Metro Funds line item. Stewart and Manning responded. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the resolution amending the 2015-16 Special Revenue Funds Budget, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SALARY INCREASE FOR LINDA WILLING, BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Dennis Kolar, Building Official, spoke, explaining the request for a salary increase for Linda Willing, the part-time building department secretary. He mentioned her strong work ethic, excellent customer service and efficiency as reasons to approve a salary increase while still having her remain a part-time employee. Board members asked questions and commented on the issue. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Steiner to approve the salary increase for Linda Willing, part-time secretary to the Building Department to \$18.29 per hour, beginning with the June 21, 2016 pay period. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO GIVE FULL-TIME STATUS TO ADAM TRUNA,
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Stewart spoke, reading the memo he had placed in the board packet, explaining this request, and giving details and examples of the need and mentioned the many years that Adam was working full-time but classified as part-time. Discussion followed with Pirrone and Tienvieri both stating they didn't see the need to approve this request. Motion was made by Francis seconded by O'Dell to approve classifying Adam Truna as a full-time employee in the Maintenance Department, including benefits. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: Pirrone, Tienvieri. 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-\$127,205.29, Fire District-\$31,588.39, Police Fund-\$3,543.03, Park Fund-\$11,410.22, Library Operating Fund-\$3,352.51, Water Revenue Fund-\$5,920.00, Rehabilitation Fund-\$17.00, Wild Haven Park SAD-\$1,676.08, Chapel Creek SAD-\$1,700.13, Downtown Development Authority-\$1,877.28, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$382,155.17, and Trust and Agency Fund-\$9,761.84 for a total of \$580,206.94. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2016-17 MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP'S ASSOCIATION
DUES

Stewart spoke; referring to the cover letter received with the invoice and expressed his support of this issue. Francis stated the MTA has a strong group in Lansing, lobbying in support of township issues, and at the request of Tienvieri, Stewart more clearly explained the role of the MTA to the public. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger to approve the 2016-17 Michigan Township Association dues and legal defense fee totaling \$6,268.89, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lamar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – commented on building and assessing department issues, and stated he is running for County Commissioner in District 9.

Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – thanked township employees for their hard work, knowledge and experience & commented on the Lake Erie Transit issue.

Lauren Ruetz, 2816 Sanibel – spoke in support of her husband being appointed to the Communications Committee, and commented on other issues.

Michelle Bork, 8153 Jackman – questioned why she was not appointed to the Communications Committee.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – commented on rumors regarding board members credit card usage and personal purchases made on the township accounts, and the need for political organizations, such as CFFR, to be fiscally responsible.

David Dunnigan, 354 W. Erie – commented on employee pay raise issues.

Page 4
Bedford Township Board
June 21, 2016

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – commented on employee pay raises, the township’s mission statement, and spoke in support of the Senior Millage, the Fire Protection Millage and the Public Transportation Millage.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Tienvieri – questioned the status of the special use ordinance changes, asked about Metro Act funds usage for the Bedford library sidewalks, questioned if Stewart had spoken with Road Commission engineers regarding Samaria Heritage Group’s sidewalk/crosswalk issue, mentioned an article in the Bedford Now regarding a new agricultural support project in Bedford, and asked where the water information page in the board packet had come from.

Pirrone – questioned the planning meeting information he had received too late, commented on firing employees and questioned actual department employee needs, and commented on and explained the credit card/personal purchase issue raised by Keane.

Steiner – commented on his township credit card usage, and said they were recommended for use by the township auditor, asked about the status of the special use ordinance amendment and when would there be a joint committee of the whole meeting with the planning commission, stated he believed Metro funds should be spent as much as possible but not frivolously, and said he believed the Communications Commission needed to be given clear directives.

O’Dell – questioned the Metro Act Funds expenditures and the need for more information, and reminded residents of the Bedford Fireworks display at the Bedford Community Stadium on Friday, June 24th.

Francis – credit cards are issued to board members for township expenses, allows for better tracking record and tax exemptions, can never be used for personal items, also mentioned summer tax bills will be mailed out by July 1st, and are due on September 14th for payment without penalty. Tax deferments are available to residents who may need it; contact his office for more information.

Hershberger – stated she is holding a meeting on the special use ordinance at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd, with Mr. Kenny, the township attorney, and Karen Kincaid. The proposed ordinance changes scheduled for the July 5th meeting will only be in draft format due to the complexity of the issue and needed approvals from both the county and township planning commissions. Regarding the Star Motel demo issue, she has received 3 bids for the demolition; they are on the township website. A joint committee of the whole meeting is planned with the township board and planning commission on Wednesday, June 29th at 7 p.m. Absentee ballots will be mailed out by Friday, June 24th, if you need an absentee ballot for the August Primary Election, contact the Clerk’s office. Mosquito pellets are still available at the township hall; they are free with proof of residency.

Stewart – stated there would be a committee of the whole meeting on June 29th at 7:00 p.m. with the planning commission to discuss ordinance issues. He also mentioned he had met with the Samaria Heritage Group regarding sidewalks and crosswalks, and the group has not yet reached a consensus as to what they want, he has spoken with Scott Assenmacher from the Road Commission regarding the parking and travel patterns on Lewis Avenue in Temperance and

Page 5
Bedford Township Board
June 21, 2016

expects to have revised plans by next week, the water report in the info portion of the board packet came from TMACOG's Water Source Committee of which he is a member, and gave the board details of the report. He also commented on the Communications Committee appointments stating it's important that it be done right and not used as a political tool, commented on the credit card issue, and the agricultural support project written in the Bedford Now.

Goldsmith, Township Attorney – spoke to the special use ordinance issue and stated there are different ways to handle this because this ordinance will be for more than just Forestview lanes. This ordinance revision will have to go thru both local and county planning. He also gave the board an update on the Star Motel demolition issue, stating the owner has a new attorney and he has filed with the circuit court to have the demo stopped. He has written a response letter to that attorney and after July 20th the demolition can go forward unless the court says otherwise, which he does not believe the court will do.

Tienvieri – informed the public she does not have a township credit card and questioned whether the Forestview lanes ordinance violation issues could be removed to help him with bank loan issues.

Rich Kenny, Forestview Lanes – Stewart allowed Mr. Kenny to come to the podium and explain. Mr. Kenny stated he has no ordinance violations, which is not the problem; the problem is that he is dependent on an annual special use ordinance permit which might not be renewed. His bank has a problem with his business being dependent on an annual permit.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary