

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

May 16, 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

EXCUSED: Trudy Hershberger at 8:05 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith, Scott Assenmacher, Monroe County Road Commission, Deputy Sheriff Heath Velliquette, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Adam Massingill, Bedford Township Fire Chief, Rev. Timothy Loewe, Pastor of the Christ the King Lutheran 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 and prayer.

PUBLIC HEARING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Pirrone requested item 6-A, Request For Approval To Hire A New Part-Time Staff Person In The Assessing Department, be removed from the agenda due to the fact the applicant withdrew her application. Pirrone stated he will continue to look for a replacement and former assessor Lew Smith has agreed to help in the interim, by working one day a week as a seasonal employee. He also asked for the addition of 4-D, Presentation of Body Cam Information for the Sheriff's Department be added to the agenda, Deputy Sheriff Heath Velliquette will be giving information regarding the possible purchase of body cams. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the agenda with the removal of item 6-A, and the addition of item 4-D Presentation of Body Cam Information for the Sheriff's Department. 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:

Approval of the May 2, 2017 Township Board Minutes.

The General, Savings, Pooled Funds & CD Report.

The Expense Report and Balance Sheet for period ending April 30, 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

PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ROYAL (BUD) BILLINGS FROM THE BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pirrone and Hershberger invited retiring firefighter Royal Billings to come to the podium. Hershberger read the plaque honoring Mr. Billings for his 30 years of service to the Bedford

Community. The audience and the board stood and applauded Mr. Billings, he then thanked everyone.

PRESENTATION OF RIBBONS TO BEDFORD TOWNSHIP CHILDREN'S ART CONTEST WINNERS

Pirrone announced this is the first year for a children's art contest, stating this would be an annual event. Pirrone and Hershberger announced the winners, runners up, and honorable mentions, handing out ribbons to each one in attendance. He further stated the pictures will be posted in the township hall.

MONROE COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2017-DEPUTY SHERIFF HEATH VELLIQUETTE

Deputy Chief Velliquette spoke, going over the April 2017 police summary report, giving details of the information listed on the document. He then answered board members questions.

PRESENTATION OF BODY CAM INFORMATION FOR BEDFORD TOWNSHIP'S CONTRACTED DEPUTIES IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT-DEPUTY SHERIFF HEATH VELLIQUETTE

Pirrone spoke, stating approval of the purchase of body cams for the Bedford Township contracted deputies on the agenda under new business and explaining the costs of the body cams will come from a \$28,000 Community Stabilization Fund which can be used to fund various needs in the township. Deputy Chief Velliquette spoke, explaining how these body cams would benefit the deputies while they're on duty and stated he strongly supported the COBAN brand of body cams, which would be the same as the 28 cams the Sheriff's Department has purchased for some of the county-wide deputies and those working in the jail. The COBAN brand is also the same company the Sheriff's Department uses for the cameras that are currently installed in the Sheriff's cars. The \$9,565.00 price for 10 body cams includes warranty and support. Francis then spoke, explaining the Community Stabilization Fund money is a new program from the state to replace personal property money that jurisdictions are not receiving. Velliquette then answered questions from the board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke to individual traffic issues on the Sheriff's April report and stated he is happy to see improvements in the numbers.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR RE-APPROVAL OF THE TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AND DISCUSSION OF A WEIGHMASTER – SCOTT ASSENMACHER, MONROE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Pirrone spoke explaining the re-approval was needed for the truck route ordinance due to the road commission not allowing the township to designate all of Sterns Road as a truck route because the road is not built to handle the heavy trucks. He then introduced Scott Assenmacher, from the Monroe County Road Commission, who spoke to both the truck route ordinance issue and the weighmaster issue. Assenmacher mentioned the county is considering creating a weighmaster position at the county level, the county now relies on the Michigan State Police to control overweight truck issues, and said the Monroe County Road Commission would prefer a countywide weighmaster to work with them on these problems. He then responded to board members questions. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to adopt the truck route

ordinance, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP BURNING ORDINANCE

Pirrone asked Goldsmith to speak to the issue. Goldsmith presented the amendment and explained the additions and changes. He further stated both the ordinance department and the fire department had looked over the proposed ordinance and given their input. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Clements to adopt the 10th resolution amending the township burning ordinance, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES- Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$98,286.27, Fire District-\$8,492.17, Police Fund-\$1,227.93, Park Fund-\$25,298.20, Library Operating Fund-\$3,389.31, Indian Acres SAD-\$1,814.83, Sandywell SAD-\$1,232.10 Downtown Development Authority-\$1,275.71, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$5,141.94, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$638.00 for a total of \$146,796.46. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MCRC CHANGE ORDER CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL ROAD, FROM SECOR ROAD WEST TO THE TOWNSHIP LINE

Francis spoke, stating this change came about after hearing comments made by residents on School Road who expressed their concerns whether the original chip/seal planned for School Road would be adequate and provide a long term safe surface for cars. The road committee looked at the issue and agreed it would be better to go with asphalt instead of just a chip seal. The increased cost for asphalt will be \$38,533.00; the funding will come from the township. Board members commented and asked questions. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to amend to MCRC contract for School Road, from Secor Road west to the township line at an additional cost to the township of \$38,533.00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SALARY INCREASE FOR THE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

Francis spoke explaining this issue came up at one of the budget sessions, where it was discussed to increase the Deputy Supervisor's salary up to the same salary as the current Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2017, instead of waiting until December 1, 2017 as was originally approved by the board at that time. Pirrone presented a job review to the board members, and discussion followed with board members agreeing the Deputy Supervisor has done a great job to date and is handling his job responsibilities very well. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Bork to approve the salary increase for the Deputy Supervisor to make it equal with the Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Clerk's salaries, effective July 1, 2017. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2017 FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR THE JUNE 23, 2017 TOWNSHIP FIREWORKS DISPLAY

In the absence of Clerk Hershberger, Deputy Clerk Francis spoke to the issue, explaining the background of this request from the Park Commission. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to approve the request from Ace Pyro, LLC to validate that Bedford Township is in fact the hiring authority for the June 23rd annual fireworks display. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF TWO RADIOS FOR THE ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Pirrone spoke, stating this request from the Ordinance Department will allow the Fire Dept. and the Ordinance Dept. to easily interact when called out on illegal burns, they will be programmed for both 911 and the Fire Dept. The money needed to purchase the radios will come from the Community Stabilization Fund. Ordinance Officer Cecil looked over the bids and recommends the low bid from Digicom Global Inc. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Clements to approve the purchase of two radios from Digicom Global Inc. at a cost of \$3,322.50 with the monies to come from the Community Stabilization Fund. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF BODY CAMS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WORKING AT THE BEDFORD SUBSTATION

Pirrone spoke, referring to the presentation made by Deputy Sheriff Velliquette regarding the number of body cams being requested, the recommended company and costs. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to approve the purchase of 10 body cams for the Monroe County Sheriff's Department contracted deputies for Bedford Township, from COBAN Technologies at a cost of \$9,565.00, with the monies to come from the Community Stabilization Fund. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Bork, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: None. Excused: Hershberger.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Kreuchaf, 10212 Jackman – as a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church he spoke to the board requesting help with the maintenance/improvements needed for their parking lot next to Carr's Grove Park, stating people using the park often use their parking lot. He also thanked the board members who attended the celebration of historic photos at Samaria Community Center, and spoke to a hand out given to board members regarding needs for the future of Samaria.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to the board regarding TAC issues and read a letter from Temperance resident and TAC member Michelle Sheppard regarding her property in Temperance.

Deb Publiski, 938 Mildred – spoke to the board regrading TAC issues.

Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – spoke regarding truck weight issues on Bedford's roads, and explained the number of tires and their size on a truck determines the weight placed on the highway.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke to the issue of the purchase of body cams for the Sheriff’s deputies and expressed concern that a policy be put in place regarding wearing and usage of body cams.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Clements – thanked the board for approving the body cams for the Sheriff’s deputies and radios for the Ordinance Dept. On behalf of the park board he stated work is continuing on the Skate Park and it will be completed as soon as possible, and reminded residents that Bedford’s fireworks display will be on Friday, June 23rd, inviting everyone to come out to watch. He also thanked the Samaria Heritage Group for their hard work.

Tienvieri – stated she was pleased to hear young Sophie Steinman reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting and that Jackman Road between Samaria and Rauch is in very bad shape and needs to be repaired.

Steiner – commented on a road issue on Dean Road near Crabb which was repaired last year and is experiencing some stress on the south edge of the asphalt, asking Paul P to look into it. He then stated that he, Barry Buschmann, Al Prier, and Bill Decker Sr had met for the Grant Writing Committee and many good ideas were brought forward. He suggested it would be good to have Consumers do an energy audit for the township.

Bork – Nothing to report

Francis – gave a report on the recent Fire Advisory Board meeting and talked about equipment needs for the fire department, including the purchase of trucks.

Hershberger – In the absence of Clerk Hershberger, Deputy Clerk Francis reminded residents that the township clerk’s dept. is a passport agency and to call 734-224-7323 to make an appointment. She then informed the board the U.S. Dept. of State had been at the clerk’s office that day to do the annual audit of passport procedures and we passed with “flying colors”.

Pirrone – stated he has been working hard to save money for the township and gave some examples of savings, and is continuing to look at the contracts the township has to hopefully garner more savings. He then informed the board that a group of volunteers from Bridgepoint Church will be spreading mulch at the library this weekend, and maintenance will handle the mulch and trimming at the township hall. He is planning a small veteran’s memorial at the front of the township hall, which will be done at no cost to the township. He also wants to create a Veteran’s Committee, which will assist the veterans in Bedford Township. The meetings between Bedford schools and MCCC regarding the Cyber Center are going well, the relationship is being formed with plans to start at the Whitman Center and hopefully be able to utilize the old Temperance Road Elementary School for a more permanent Cyber Center.

He has asked Barry Buschmann from Mannik & Smith Group to engineer a concrete pad on the grassy area behind the township hall for recycling and leaf pick-up containers to be placed, so that there will be no interference when the fire dept. needs to use the fire tower area for training. He has agreed to do this at no cost to the township.

The Star Motel on Telegraph Road has been demolished.

He is looking at improvements to the Lewis Avenue corridor and would like to work with TAC on this issue to benefit the township.

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He mentioned the current policy which limits the amount that can be spent to \$500.00 without board approval is an unworkable number and needs to be increased. Francis spoke to this issue, agreeing with Pirrone's comment.

Regarding the request from members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for assistance in the maintenance/repair of their parking lot next to Carr's Grove Park, he as well as Francis & Tienvieri stated it is against the law for a governmental entity to use taxpayer dollars for improvements to private property, even though residents having been using the lot when going to Carr's Park. Goldsmith concurred. Pirrone and Francis suggested looking into alternatives and meeting with members of the church.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary