

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182  
November 15, 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: Senator Dale Zorn, Phil Goldsmith, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith & Don McGuire, L. Donavon McGuire, CPA PC

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

- A) Approval of the November 1, 2016 Township Board minutes.
- B) Accept and place on file the General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD reports from the Treasurer.
- C) Approve and place on file the Revenue/Expense report and Balance Sheet for the period ending October 31, 2016.
- D) Approval of the re-appointment of Tom Zdybek to the Planning Commission for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2019;
- E) Approval of the re-appointment of Arvind Shah to the Board of Zoning Appeals as a 1<sup>st</sup> alternate for a term ending 12/31/2019;
- F) Approval of the re-appointment of George Welling to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2019.

Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the consent agenda with the removal of items D, E, and F. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Tienvieri, & Stewart. Nays: Francis, O'Dell, Steiner, & Hershberger. Excused: None  
Discussion followed, with board members stating their reason for voting either for or against the motion and offering other options.

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve items A, B, and C on the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Board members further discussed the issue of board and commission appointments and the timing of those appointments.

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Tienvieri to table items D, E, and F, as presented on the Consent Agenda until the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Ruetz, 2816 Sanibel, commented on the SEMCOG issue and board appointments.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine, commented on board appointments.

**Page 2**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**November 15, 2016**

Tim McAfee, 9837 Pamela, commended Stewart and O'Dell on their years of service to the township.

Jim Krieger, 8336 Monroe, spoke in support of the board appointments, SEMCOG, and offered to serve on the SEMCOG board on behalf of Bedford Township.

**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-\$45,119.75, Fire District-\$10,289.43, Police Fund-\$303.49, Park Fund-\$1,240.68, Transit System Fund-\$36,681.00, Library Operating Fund-\$4,484.47, Water Revenue Fund-\$14,100.00, Downtown Development Authority-\$8,260.00, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$893.57, Trust and Agency Fund-\$206.00 for a total of \$121,578.39. 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 2017 SEMCOG MEMBERSHIP DUES

Stewart spoke, explaining the word SEMCOG stands for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and informed the board of the many benefits of membership. Board members commented and asked questions. Motion was made by O'Dell, seconded by Francis to continue the township's membership with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments for 2017 at a cost of \$1,972.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

PRESENTATION OF AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

Don McGuire, township auditor, spoke giving the board an overview of the township's financial status, stating the township is in a very reasonable financial condition with a General Fund balance of 2.9 million as of June 30, 2016. He further explained the status of the various Special Funds and answered board members questions. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger to accept the township's audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, 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 THE RESOLUTION EXEMPTING BEDFORD TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2017

Phil Goldsmith, township attorney spoke, explaining Public Act 152 and the township's right to "opt out" of the requirements, if the board approves. Francis spoke, explaining the board has three choices, one is to "opt out", the second is to go with a "hard cap", the third is the 80/20 option. After much research it is felt that the best option is to "opt out" of the requirements because of the hardship it would cause employees, and instead to follow the township's plan to raise the percentage paid by the employees slowly each year until 20% is reached. Board members discussed at length Benny card issues and the funding of the employees portion. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to adopt the resolution exempting Bedford Township Government from the requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011 for the calendar year of

**Page 3**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**November 15, 2016**

2017, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: Pirrone. Excused: None

Hershberger spoke, explaining the proposed tiered contribution spreadsheet, which would require the elected and management employees to pay 17%, deputies and Union employees to pay 13%, and the staff contribution rate to be 11%, which when combined would equal out to 14%, which is the amount the board had agreed upon for overall contribution. Discussion followed with board members asking detailed questions regarding the costs. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the tiered staff contribution for health care, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR DALE ZORN**

Michigan State Senator Dale Zorn spoke, reading portions of a tribute to outgoing Supervisor Greg Stewart, signed by Governor Rick Snyder, Lt. Governor Brian Calley, State Representative Jason Sheppard and himself. He also stated he had one in process for outgoing Trustee Larry O'Dell. The board and audience stood and applauded.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Tim McAfee, 9837 Pamela, commended the 4 remaining board members and County Commissioner Mark Ellsworth.

Michelle Bork, 8153 Jackman, thanked everyone for her election as township trustee and is looking forward to working with the board members.

Mark Ellsworth, 1421 Winding Way, thanked Stewart and O'Dell for their dedication and service, commented on special interest groups and challenged the new board to act responsibly and with professionalism.

Todd Hershberger, 3640 Knepper, thanked Stewart for his 4 years of service and O'Dell for his many years of service on behalf of the township, also mentioning their service as Lion's Club members.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine, thanked Stewart and O'Dell for their service to the community and exhorted the new board to rule justly and righteously and in fear of the Lord.

Tim McAfee, 9837 Pamela (Jim Krieger 8336 Monroe gave his time to Mr. McAfee), reminded residents to please spay and neuter your animals

**REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**

**Tienvieri** – asked when the swearing of new officials would take place? Hershberger responded board members could come to her office at the township to be sworn in. Tienvieri then asked who would swear her in and she stated her deputy would do so.

**Pirrone** – stated he plans to let the public know regarding boards and commission applications and thanked O'Dell and Stewart for their service to the township.

**Steiner** – commented on the last board meeting comments regarding the need for glucometers in township fire trucks. Stated he received a memo from the Township Fire Chief stating the township's state licensed ambulances carried glucometers but the fire fighting vehicles do not because they are not state licensed. He then asked O'Dell and Stewart to stand and honored

**Page 4**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**November 15, 2016**

them for their years of service to the township by serving on the township board and serving as members of the Bedford Lions Club.

**O'Dell** – stated he is honored to have worked with so many great individuals in so many areas of his life, and stated he appreciated the recognition from residents and board members. He then read the following parting words: May your journey through life be filled with joy, May your heart be filled with love, and may God be a resident of your soul forever.

**Francis** – stated he has known both O'Dell and Stewart for many years and will miss having them on the board. He also mentioned that tax bills will be mailed out to residents on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and taxes are due February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Hershberger** – wished both O'Dell and Stewart the best in their retirement, thanked her election workers for the great job they did on Election Day, and reminded residents the township hall would be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. She also mentioned the Communications/Media Committee have met and elected officers, it will be a good board, they are eager to get started.

**Stewart** - stated Bedford Firefighter Casey Pollins received the Monroe County Ambulance Service's Lifesaving Award for saving a person's life while working at the Francis Family YMCA. He also thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis  
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary