

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

October 4, 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, Bedford Fire Chief Ron Whipple, Bedford Ordinance Supervisor Damon Cecil

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:

Approval of the September 20, 2016 township board minutes.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION HONORING WILLIAM AND MARGARET COOK, OWNERS OF THE HOSTA AND DAYLILLY FARM

Stewart read a proclamation from the township honoring Mr. & Mrs. William Cook, owners of the Hosta and Daylilly Farm on Samaria Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – reminded and encouraged residents to vote in the upcoming General election and commented on the fire and police department items on the agenda.

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-\$33,090.24, Fire District-\$9,262.91, Police Fund-\$287.53, Park Fund-\$1,297.60, Transit System Fund-\$12,535.00, Metro Act Fund-\$446.25, Library Operating Fund-\$1,051.14, Downtown Development Authority-\$30,324.65, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$378,662.95, and Trust and Agency Fund-\$425.90 for a total of \$467,384.17. 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 STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RESOLUTION

Hershberger spoke, informing the board that this is a listing of all streetlight assessment districts in Bedford for 2016, including any added this year. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the 2016 Streetlight Assessment District Resolution, 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 PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE TRAINING TOWER

Fire Chief Ron Whipple spoke, stating the board had paid for a study of the fire tower to assess the needs of the building. Built in 1999 at a cost of \$320,000, Whipple could find no records showing it had ever been inspected since its construction. The building is an asset to the fire department and the community for its ability to provide fire training to Bedford firemen as well as other county jurisdictions fire departments and needs to be maintained to OSHA and MFPA standards, which have been made more stringent in recent years. The study stated that renovations and upgrades needed to the structure would cost \$15,871.00 for the equipment, and recommended 3 companies who could best handle the installation of this equipment, since the company that provides the equipment does not do installations. He presented 3 bids, ranging in price from \$12,500.00 to \$40,579.00 and recommended the board approve the bid for \$15,860.00 from Call's Metal Building Erectors, Inc. because they erect and deal with metal framed buildings. Approval of this request will bring the building up to OSHA and MFPA standards, and another inspection will not be required for 5 years. Board members asked questions and discussed the issue at length. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Francis to approve the purchase of equipment for the repair of the fire training tower from Fire Facilities, Inc. at a cost of \$15,871.00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to adopt the recommendation of Fire Chief Whipple to accept the bid from Call's Metal Building Erectors, Inc. for the installation of fire equipment to repair the fire training tower at a cost of \$15,860.00. 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 PAY INCREASES FOR THE ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Ordinance Supervisor Damon Cecil spoke, informing the board of the changes and improvements that have been made in the Ordinance Department since he was hired, trying to better organize and communicate with the public. He did a comparable of pay scales with other jurisdictions, shared the results with board members and recommended a pay increase to \$19.00 for the ordinance officer position, and \$19.50 for the Ordinance Supervisor position. Discussion followed with board members asking questions of Cecil and commenting on salary increase amounts. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Pirrone to adjust the hourly compensation for the township ordinance department employees to \$21.00 per hour for the part-time Ordinance Dept. Supervisor, and \$19.00 per hour for the part-time Ordinance Officer. 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 PURCHASE OF TWO CARS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Francis, on behalf of the Finance Committee, spoke to the board giving the history of the request from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for 2 police vehicles to replace vehicle #33 which has 155,000 miles and #34 which has 160,000 miles. The Finance Committee recommends this purchase be made entirely out of the General Fund, because although the projection for the

police millage suggests there will be \$43,000 in the fund when the millage ends, this number is subject to change as circumstances arise. Board members commented on and discussed this issue at length, with Tienvieri reminding the board that the 2016-17 budget only allows for the purchase of one car, therefore a budget amendment will need to be done if this request is approved. She further read a report that she had presented to the board just before the meeting began, mentioning several jurisdictions she had contacted to inquire how they handled both police coverage for their jurisdictions and the purchase of police cars. Further discussion followed, with Tienvieri stating she believed more study needed to be done on other needs the township might have, such as mosquito control, technology upgrades, etc., before the board decided to spend general fund money on a second police car. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Pirrone to approve the purchase of two 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles (Explorers), using the State/County purchasing program, for a total cost not to exceed \$40,000 per vehicle, including the necessary light bar and various other equipment as recommended in the information submitted previously by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, using funds from the General Fund because it is projected that there will not be sufficient funds in the Police Millage Fund to cover the purchase of the vehicles. This motion is subject to a satisfactory resolution regarding the potential transfer of various equipment items from vehicles #33 and #34 to one or more of the new vehicles to be purchased. Because only one vehicle was budgeted in the original 2016-17 General Fund budget, an amendment will be required to allow for the additional vehicle to be purchased. This budget amendment will be presented at a later date. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: Tienvieri Excused: None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Pagels, 7515 Apache – commented negatively regarding a proposed special assessment district for road improvement for Indian Acres subdivision.

Mark Ellsworth, County Commissioner, 1421 Winding Way – informed the board of possible 911 call issues with regard to calls for an ambulance from the township fire department.

Tim McAfee, 9837 Pamela – commented on neighbors poisoning animals and feeding wild animals.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – mentioned the importance of the sheriff's dept. having adequate police cars and suggested the board consider a police oversight committee to address potential issues/concerns/questions regarding the police department.

Stewart invited Ellsworth to come back to the podium to answer questions from board members regarding his 911 concerns. Attorney Goldsmith commented that the board may want to consider inviting a representative from either the EMA or MCA to explain how the ambulance service works within the framework of the contracts the county has for ambulance services.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Pirrone – commented on the need to get answers regarding the police vehicles, asked Hershberger if she would be commenting on the SAD questions, and stated the Farmers Market will be open for a few more weekends.

Steiner – asked for a report on the status of the Assessing Department, mentioned the Star Motel issue, suggested the police committee be reconvened to look at a future millage and other issues,

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mentioned attending a Focus on the Future forum he and Francis attended hosted by the MCBDC.

O'Dell – commented on how well Stewart is representing Bedford with regard to water issues, both in Bedford and the region.

Francis – also commented on the MCBDC seminar, the need to have more control over the police vehicles we purchase, and stated he would be looking at the Sheriff's Dept contract when it's up for renewal.

Hershberger – commented on the potential SAD for Indian Acres subdivision, stating she has not received a petition as yet, will not have any cost figures until the petition is submitted and signatures approved, an info meeting for all residents in the district will be held and cost estimates given before the 1st public hearings are held, and residents can remove or add their names to the petition at info meeting or before any public hearing, and the estimated cost cannot exceed 10% after approval by the township board. She also informed the public the last day to register to vote is October 11, 2016, if you are not registered, a new Bedford resident or will be 18 years old by November 8, 2016 you can register to vote at the township hall in the Clerk's Dept or by mail. If you are unable to vote at the polls on Election Day please contact the Clerk's Dept. for an absentee ballot.

Stewart – stated that Consumer's Energy has reinstated its incentive grant for the Library, spoke to water issues, both local and regional, stated the Star Motel owners met with building and ordinance departments regarding repairing/remodeling the buildings, no work has been done yet and they only have until December 31st, 2016 to complete any needed repairs. He also commented on contacting other jurisdictions to get info on how they are handling issues, which can help our township improve.

Phil Goldsmith, attorney – gave additional detail to the board regarding the Star Motel demolition issue, stating if the work is not complete by December 31st 2016, he will file a report with the Judge, who will rule for allowing the demolition.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary