

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

July 20, 2017

6:00 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

The Special Meeting of the Bedford Township Board was called to order by Pirrone at 6:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Pirrone asked Attorney Goldsmith to explain the interview process, and the steps taken before this meeting. Goldsmith spoke stating the need to appoint a new trustee due to the resignation of trustee Michelle Bork. He then stated that Michigan law requires the board to appoint a replacement within 45 days of Bork's resignation, and that appointee would serve until the November 2018 General Election. If the appointment did not occur within that time frame, an election would have to be held in November of 2017 to elect a trustee to serve until November of 2018. The board agreed to accept applications for the position review the applications received and narrow their choices to 3, informing the township clerk of their choices. The top 5 applicants would then be contacted to be interviewed at tonight's meeting. Fourteen residents applied, five were chosen, and the candidates will have 20 minutes to make an opening statement and answer board members questions.

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

INTRODUCTION AND INTERVIEWS OF THE FINALIST CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF BEDFORD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Pirrone asked board members to pull names from a basket to determine the order in which candidates would speak. He also informed the board that one of the candidates, Heath Velliquette, notified him that he wished to withdraw his name from the list of finalists. The candidates will be interviewed in the following order: Linda Rohr, Dennis Jenkins, Lamar Frederick, & James Nyhan. He then asked the first candidate to come to the podium and the remaining candidates to leave the room and wait to be called in.

Linda Rohr, 8071 Comanche, Temperance, came to the podium and introduced herself, gave a brief history of her qualifications, and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. She then answered board members questions.

Dennis Jenkins, 1593 W. Temperance, Temperance, came to the podium and introduced himself, gave a brief history of his qualifications, and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. He then answered board members questions.

Lamar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek, Lambertville, came to the podium and introduced himself, gave a brief history of his qualifications, and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. He then answered board members questions.

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James Nyhan, 8277 Argyll, Lambertville, came to the podium and introduced himself, gave a brief history of his qualifications, and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. He then answered board members questions.

Steiner spoke, stating they are all good candidates, it will be difficult to choose, but suggested a criteria of education, experience, and a desire to serve would be good qualifications.

Tienvieri spoke, stating they are all good candidates but suggested it's important to appoint a Republican, and the next highest vote getter in the August 2016 Primary would be a good choice. Education isn't necessary, but should choose the "common man".

Francis spoke, stating he does not believe in partisanship at the local level, and that he agrees with the importance of education, experience and the desire to serve.

Pirrone spoke, stating all of the candidates are very good, and the fact that Nyhan ran in the 2016 election bears weight in his view.

Clements spoke, stating it's a tough decision and he wants what's best for the board's current situation, the past is not important.

Hershberger spoke, stating the primary election is a non-issue, what's best for the township is the issue.

Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Tienvieri to appoint James Nyhan to the position of township trustee for a term ending in November of 2018. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Pirrone & Tienvieri. Nays: Steiner, Clements, Francis, & Hershberger. Excused: None.

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Francis to appoint Lamar Frederick to the position of township trustee for a term ending in November of 2018. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Steiner, Francis, Clements, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lamar Frederick – Thanked the board for their vote in his favor and thanked the other candidates.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Tienvieri – stated the board needed to put candidates Jenkins and Rohr to work on committees.

Steiner – thanked everyone who applied for the position.

Francis – stated the board would have been well served by any of the candidates.

Hershberger – stated that hopefully, Jenkins will be back helping the township soon.

Pirrone – stated all of the candidates brought positive attributes to the table.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary