

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182  
December 17, 2013  
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

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 Pirrone to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

Approval of the December 3, 2013 Township Board minutes.

Approval of the General, Savings, Pooled Funds, & CD reports from the Treasurer.

Approval of the Revenue/Expense Report & Balance Sheet for the period ending November 30, 2013.

Approval of the Appointment of Linda Flick Fitzgibbon to the DDA board for a 1<sup>st</sup> term ending 12/31/2018.

Motion was made by Francis, 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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dennis Heams, 9317 Summerfield – spoke to the character of Todd Bruning.

Aaron Yoakam, 7537 Nottingham - spoke to the character of Todd Bruning.

Matt Miller, 8072 Monroe - spoke to the character of Todd Bruning.

Jason Taylor, 6052 N. Chanticleer, Maumee, OH – spoke to the character of Todd Bruning and his status as a disabled veteran.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**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-\$108,862.89, Fire District-\$451,088.02, Police Fund-\$1,974.68, Park Fund-\$1,734.54, Transit System Fund-\$22,735.00, Library Operating Fund-\$2,938.48, EDC Fund-\$431.21, DDA Fund-\$868.08, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$6,756.75, & Trust & Agency Fund-\$1,326.00, for a total of \$598,715.65. 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 SEPARATION DETERMINATION – INTERIM FIRE CHIEF JOE KEANE

Attorney Goldsmith spoke, explaining the issue of the separation determination of volunteer fire fighter Todd Bruning. He recommended that none of the board speak to the issue or respond to

**Page 2**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**December 17, 2013**

comments made by Mr. Bruning. The only action the board needs to take is to either approve or reject the recommendation. Stewart invited Mr. Bruning to speak. Mr. Bruning, 2980 Consear, read a prepared statement. When asked if he wished to go into closed session, Mr. Bruning stated he did not wish to do so. The board then reviewed a handout presented to them by Mr. Bruning. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger that the Bedford Township Board approves interim Fire Chief Anthony Keane's formal recommendation to separate Mr. Todd C. Bruning from the Bedford Township Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to the provisions of the Bedford Township Fire Department Rules and Regulations, which provide that Mr. Bruning is an at will employee.. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Steiner, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: Pirrone, Tienvieri. Excused: None

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR A CULVERT REPLACEMENT FOR FLAT CREEK DRAIN AT MINX ROAD**

Tim Csurgo, Deputy Drain Commissioner, spoke, explaining this bridge has been closed for several years because the Road Commission had determined that it was unsafe for traffic. The State of Michigan allows a drain commission to bid out repairs and finance culvert/bridge projects. If the board approves, Bedford Township and Erie Township will equally share the projected cost of \$56,936.00. Erie Township has already approved their portion of \$28,468.00, at their last board meeting with the request for a 5 year note for repayment. Discussion followed, with questions regarding what the interest rate would be, who the low bidder of the project is, and the possibility of Bedford Township paying their portion in full rather than over a 5 year term. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by O'Dell to approve the agreement for a culvert replacement for Flat Creek Drain at Minx Road, with the cost to be split equally between Erie Township and Bedford Township, the estimated cost per township of \$28,468.00 with complete payment to be made at the time of billing. 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 AN OBJECTION TO THE ACQUISITION OF TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY NO. 5802-476-004-00**

Hershberger spoke, stating she had received a letter from the Monroe County Treasurer, informing her that unless the township board informed their department by letter of objection before December 31, 2013, the township would be deeded parcel no 5802-476-004-00, located off Bernard Drive in Bedford Township, due to foreclosure. According to the township assessor, this property is not buildable, in a flood plain, and he does not recommend the township accept ownership of this parcel. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis that the township board objects to the acquisition of parcel no 5802-476-004-00, located off of Bernard Drive, and send a letter to the Monroe Country Treasurer stating our objection before December 31, 2013. 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 RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH/AMEND THE 2014 SEWER USE CHARGES**

Francis spoke, explaining the township is required to adjust sewer rates annually to keep the fund solvent. Sewage charges are divided into three parts, Operations/Maintenance, Depreciation &

**Page 3**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**December 17, 2013**

Debt Service. The operations/maintenance and debt services charges will not need to be adjusted this year, but the depreciation charges will need to be increased by 5% percent per the Monroe County Drain Commissioner and the township auditor. This recommended increase will amount to approximately \$4.88 per quarter per household. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to adopt the Bedford Township sewage disposal system proposed rate adjustment effective January 1, 2014, 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 FOR THE 2014 SEWER BUDGET FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

Francis spoke, reading the proposed resolution as part of his motion for approval. Board members asked questions for further clarification of the issue. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger to approve the 2014 Sewer Budget for Operation and Maintenance Resolution, which reads: Whereas, the Township has received a Budget from the Monroe County Drain Commission for the operation and maintenance of the Bedford Township Sewer Plant and System for the year 2014, and whereas, it is determined that said Budget is necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Bedford Township Sewer Plant and System, now therefore, be it resolved that the presented Budget for the operation and maintenance of the Bedford Sewer Plant and System for the year 2014 is hereby approved. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BEDFORD TRADE FAIR BOOTH RENTAL COSTS**

Stewart began the discussion, stating that in 2012 the township rented 5 booths for the Bedford Trade Fair, with the Fire Dept paying for two booths, Park Board paying for one booth, Beautification Committee paying for one booth, and the Township Board paying for one booth. He stated he had checked with all boards/departments regarding the rental and Beautification and Park boards wish to continue to rent one booth each, the Fire Dept. will only rent one booth. All of them stated they felt it was important to be at the Trade Fair, for the purpose of being available to the public either to volunteer to help that committee or to listen to comments or concerns from residents. Board members spoke, mostly in support of continuing to be a presence at the Trade Fair, questioning the possibility of renting one booth for all to use, discussing micro-managing boards/commissions budgets, and suggesting this issue be brought up at budget time.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**

Stewart – mentioned the resignation letter from Dr. Peyton from the DDA, gave an update on Personnel Committee issues regarding the Fire Department, and the search for a new Fire Chief, explaining the procedures the committee will use to determine the applicant they will recommend for approval. He also encouraged residents to contact his office if they have issues with snow removal on their roads, and mentioned attending a Roads Asset Management class in Jackson, and noted the attendance of Monroe County Road officials.

**Page 4**  
**Bedford Township Board**  
**December 17, 2013**

Hershberger – explained the status of the gas streetlight special assessment issue, stated she is working on a resolution to the problem, and will bring a recommendation to the board next month. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, stating the township offices would be closed for the holiday on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tienvieri – thanked Bruning for his service on the fire department and congratulated Deputy Chief Brooks on winning the Home Town Hero award. She commented on the excellent job the Road Commission did on snow removal last weekend, and thanked Hershberger for her report on the gas streetlight issue.

Pirrone – informed the board of recent Planning Commission decisions.

Steiner – commented on the road commission's snow removal from last week's storm, and mentioned looking at providing additional snow removal at the township lever. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

O'Dell – commented on the good snow removal job done by the road commission during last week's storm.

Francis – commented on the good snow removal job done by the road commission during last week's storm. Reminded resident to pay their winter tax bill by 12/31/2013 to receive a tax deduction on their income taxes for 2013. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk