

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

May 14, 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

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Lennard Graham & Goldsmith, David Manning, Finance Director

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS**

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY AS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Stewart read the proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness month. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the proclamation designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2012 – 13 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Francis to approve the resolution amending the 2012-13 General Fund Budget, 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 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2012 - 13 SPECIAL FUNDS BUDGET

David Manning, Finance Director spoke, asking the board if they had any questions regarding the amendment request. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Hershberger to approve the resolution amending the 2012-13 Special Funds Budget, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The approval of the April 16, 2013 Township Board minutes.

The resignation of Tammy Lamb from the Grant and Loan Committee.

The resignation of John Kwapich from the Grant and Loan Committee.

The appointment of Krista Jandasek to the Grant and Loan Committee for a term ending 12/31/2013.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF JAMES NEORR TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM FIRE CHIEF*

Stewart spoke, explaining the memo written regarding the issue. Several board members spoke to the issue, asking for details of his job description and compensation. Discussion followed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO HIRE A PART TIME ASSISTANT IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT*

Stewart spoke, informing the board the position had been posted on the website and in the paper, six applications were received and he interviewed three applicants before selecting Linda Willing for the position. He also mentioned her pay rate and the hours and times she would be working.

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TWO P.A. 116 FARMLAND AGREEMENTS ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON RAUCH ROAD (58-02-004-008-10) AND SAMARIA ROAD (58-02-004-024-40)*

Hershberger spoke informing the board that Thomas & Gloria Adler are requesting a P.A. 116 on two parcels they own in Bedford Township. The Samaria Road parcel consists of 47.1 acres and is on Samaria between Douglas and Jackman. The second parcel is 103.7 acres and is on Rauch Road between Jackman and Douglas. Both parcels were approved for the P.A. 116 designation by Monroe County Planning and the Monroe Conservation District, as required by the state. This agreement will be for a 10 year period and can be extended up to a 90 year maximum.

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 400.1918 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE REGULATION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWERS*

Attorney Goldsmith spoke, stating recent federal and state law changes necessitated this zoning amendment request. He further explained in detail what the changes are and how it will affect board approvals of cell towers in Bedford Township. Several board members asked questions regarding the issue.

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS ARTICLES OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE WITH REGARD TO CHURCHES, TO BRING SAID ORDINANCE INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT OF 2000*

Attorney Goldsmith spoke, again explaining the reason this zoning amendment change is before the board is to bring our ordinance into compliance with the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, then further explained what those changes entailed. He also mentioned a church is looking at purchasing the old NorthTowne Chevrolet building, which is zoned C-3, and this zoning change would allow them to do so and use the building for religious purposes. He then answered questions from board members.

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AWARD THE NOXIOUS WEEDS/GRASS CONTRACT FOR 2013*

Stewart spoke, stating this contract was bid out twice and he had received only two bids, both times, and from the same bidders. After looking over the information received in the bid, he recommended the board approve awarding the contract to Yes Deere Lawn and Landscaping, at a bid of \$40.00 per hour to handle blight and noxious weed issues in the township. Board members asked questions and a short discussion followed.

*DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MCRC CONTRACT FOR TWO APPLICATIONS OF MINERAL WELL BRINE ON LOCAL ROADS*

Stewart spoke, stating this is an annual contract with the Monroe County Road Commission to apply a mineral well brine to local unpaved roads to control dust in the summer. The contract will be for two applications and the estimated cost will be \$21,562.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Janet Sass, 6789 Brentrige, member of Beautification Committee – spoke, introducing other Beautification Committee members and stating their opposition to holding a Farmer’s Market on township hall property.

Harold Williams, 2923 W. Rauch – spoke explaining an issue he has with the township building dept. regarding bulding a barn and using it for business purposes.

Garnett Frobish, 1387 Winding Way – spoke in opposition to having a Farmer’s Market on township hall property.

Todd Brunning, 3818 Consear – spoke regarding the acting fire chief appointment, and firemen issues in the fire department.

**PROPOSED BOARD ACTIONS**

*REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES-* Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$278,349.47, Fire District-\$50,005.52, Police Fund-\$103,788.83, Park Fund-\$37,365.04, Transit System Fund-\$51,627.00, Library Operating Fund-\$11,266.38, EDC Fund-\$6.94, Water Revenue Fund-\$4,620.00, Rehab Fund-\$75.00, Enchanted Forest Debt Fund-\$7,573.80, Canterbury Forest Debt Fund-\$2,136.20, DDA Fund-\$37.87, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$30,068.68, & Trust & Agency Fund-\$1,001.90, for a total of \$577,922.90. 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 FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF JAMES NEORR TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM FIRE CHIEF*

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O’Dell to approve the appointment of Acting Fire Chief James Neorr to the position of Interim Fire Chief at the compensation level stated in the memo. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O’Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: Tienvieri. Excused: None

*REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO HIRE A PART TIME ASSISTANT IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT*

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger to approve hiring Linda Willing to the position of part time assistant in the Building Department at a pay rate of \$13.00 per hour.

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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 P.A. 116 FARMLAND AGREEMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON RAUCH ROAD (58-02-004-008-10)*

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by O'Dell to grant approval of a P.A. 116 Farmland Agreement on parcel no. 58-02-004-008-10 located on Rauch Road, for a period of 10 years, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

*REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A P.A. 116 FARMLAND AGREEMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON SAMARIA ROAD (58-02-004-024-40)*

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by O'Dell to grant approval of a P.A. 116 Farmland Agreement on parcel no. 58-02-004-024-40 located on Samaria Road, for a period of 10 years, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

*REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 400.1918 OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE REGULATION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWERS*

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve the amendment to Article XIX, section 400.1918 of the Township Zoning Ordinance for the regulation of wireless communication towers, 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 AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS ARTICLES OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE WITH REGARD TO CHURCHES, TO BRING SAID ORDINANCE INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT OF 2000*

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by O'Dell to approve the amendments to various articles of the Township Zoning Ordinance with regard to churches, to bring said ordinance into compliance with the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, 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 TO AWARD THE NOXIOUS WEEDS/GRASS CONTRACT FOR 2013*

Motion was made by O'Dell, seconded by Steiner to approve the mowing company called Yes Deare Lawn & Landscaping Service at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, 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 MCRC CONTRACT FOR TWO APPLICATIONS OF BRINE ON LOCAL ROADS*

Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to approve the MCRC contract for two applications of mineral well brine on local roads at a cost of \$21,562.00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, O'Dell, Pirrone, Steiner, Tienvieri, Hershberger & Stewart. Nays: None. Excused: None

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**

Tienvieri – informed the board of recent EDC news, and commented on the information the board receives from the MTA, and the availability of a scholarship for students majoring in local government.

Pirrone – commented on the Farmer’s Market.

Steiner – informed the board the Policy Committee is finished and will present their report at the next Comm. of the Whole meeting. He also requested the supervisor look into changing the format of the agenda to make it easier for board members to follow.

O’Dell – commented on the hard work the Policy Committee had done & mentioned several items the Park Commission is working on.

Hershberger – mentioned the website is still being worked on and we are in contact with the webmaster regarding the streaming video issue. Mentioned township maps and cemetery info are now on the website as well. She also mentioned registering almost 300 high school seniors to vote and apologized for being late, she was at the Bedford Awards night program, where her daughter was awarded a scholarship.

Stewart – mentioned the items listed under Information in the board agenda, one of them being a letter from the DNR stating the township cannot put any ordinances in place to regulate shooting in Bedford, a full copy of the report is on file at the township. He further mentioned helping to organize an EDC Summit, consisting of 3 counties to encourage economic development in the area. He also commented on the Farmer’s Market issue and the MTA Dinner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger  
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis  
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary