

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
November 20, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Paul Pirrone, Supervisor
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
Paul Francis, Treasurer

TC Clements, Trustee
Craig Montri, Trustee
Rick Steiner, Trustee

ABSENT: Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Township Attorney

The Regular Meeting of the Bedford Township Board was called to order by Pirrone at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer led by Craig Killinen, Bridgepoint Church.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Steiner, Clements, Francis, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

- Approval of the November 13, 2018 Township Board Minutes;
- Acceptance of the General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD Reports from the Treasurer;
- Approval of the Revenue/Expense Report & Balance Sheet for the period ending 10/31/18;
- Approval of the 2019 meeting dates for the Bedford Township Board;

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Clements to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Steiner, Clements, Francis, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – welcomed Montri and spoke against allowing marijuana facilities in Bedford.

Med Barr, 8810 Newcombe Terrace – spoke in favor of an Ordinance to ban establishments for recreational marijuana and to the dangerous results of recreational marijuana use.

David Gaunt, 1251 Brandywine – asked the Board to approve the prohibition of marijuana establishments in Bedford.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – opposes the appointment of Kristen Nusbaum to the Economic Development Committee as she sees it as a conflict of interest and does not feel the Assessing Department's model will fix the problem.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW STAFFING MODEL AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT – Matlow, Lead Assessor answered Board questions. Clements would like to have the department's process evaluated for efficiency and not just look at the staffing and technology. Steiner would like a break-down of how often each individual is in the field. At a previous meeting, Tienvieri mentioned MTA could perform a study of the department and give recommendations at no cost to the Township. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Hershberger to table this issue and have MTA perform a study on the Department. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Montri, Hershberger, Steiner, Clements, Francis & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING INVOICES- Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Clements to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$63,183.69, Fire District-\$8,440.70, Police Fund-\$1,460.80, Park Fund-\$4,563.83, Library Operating Fund-\$441.65, Water Revenue Fund-\$5,000.00, Lewiston Estates SAD-\$13,561.25, Downtown Development Authority-\$5,871.26, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$7,126.00 & Trust and Agency Fund-\$14,610.50 for a total of \$124,259.68. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Clements, Montri, Francis, Steiner & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM ITC FOR \$3,500.00 – Pirrone explained that ITC is the electricity transmission company which is replacing the wooden poles throughout the community with single monopoles and they offer money for community use. He would like the Board to accept the donation and use \$3,000.00 to purchase concrete to build a sidewalk from the Jr. High to the Library and use \$500.00 for a Police monument at the Township Hall. He hopes to get labor donated to complete these projects. Francis suggested the Board start with the sidewalk project, since it is a safety issue, and see if there are any excess funds afterwards before moving on to the Police monument. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Clements to gratefully accept the donation of \$3,500.00 from ITC Corporation and thank them for it. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Clements, Steiner, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

REQUEST TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tim Lake, MCBDC explained that this committee would be strictly a working group trying to fix deficiencies and make properties more marketable and/or shovel ready. The Committee members were strategically chosen with certain skillsets. Board members questioned some of the applicants not chosen and asked questions as to the number of members on the committee and to their term. Pirrone hopes to add Shultz as a representative of Bedford Schools; if he is unable Hershberger asks that Mike Smith be asked. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to add to the list (Paul Knollman, Stacy Harper, Kristen Nusbaum, Christine Ravary, Tom Brokema & Deborah Duke) Arvind Shah and John Kreuchauf as members of the Economic Development Committee for a term of one year and to contact Dr. Shultz to see if he is available to serve as the Bedford School representative. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Steiner, Clements, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROHIBITION OF MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE – Goldsmith spoke about the passing of Proposal 1 – the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. He explained that the Act allows local units of government the ability to completely prohibit or limit the number of marijuana establishments within its boundaries. Discussion followed with Board members mentioning that this vote would have no impact on medical marijuana and that the majority of voters in Bedford voted against this Act. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Steiner to approve and adopt the Bedford Township Prohibition of Marihuana Establishments Ordinance. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Steiner, Clements, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: None. Absent: Tienvieri.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke against the use of marijuana.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke against marijuana and was glad to see the Board included some of its own residents on the Econ. Dev. Committee.

Mark Ellsworth, 1421 Winding Way – mentioned he felt the Hatch Act was broken during the last election when someone used their political office to promote another candidate and that he took offense to the Ordinance Department staff allowing a candidate to break the Township sign rules. He wants to make sure the rules are followed in the next election.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Steiner – sent his thoughts out to the Tienvieri family and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Clements – echoed Steiner’s comments and welcomed Montri to the Board. He also wanted to make residents aware of the potential additional risk of fire that will exist in homes now that recreational marijuana use has been legalized.

Montri – thanked all those who supported him and the welcoming Board members.

Francis – reminded residents that winter tax bills will be sent out the beginning of December and are due on 2/14/2019, after which time the state requires penalties and interest be assessed. Then he shared a Thanksgiving story.

Hershberger – mentioned the Township will be closed on November 22nd and 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving, the Samaria Tree Lighting will be on November 23rd and the Library tree lighting will be held on December 2nd, she welcomed Montri to the Board and she wished everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Pirrone – he recently met with the Bedford Community Foundation, Francis and he met with the Federal Aid Committee and Bedford will be getting a lot of projects through MDOT and SEMCOG this year, mentioned the Blizzard fest group plans to put a big mailbox up at the Township hall for kids to drop off their letters to Santa, the Ordinance Department treats everyone the same, and that he has hired a temporary employee, Rex Crigger to cover the gaps for illegal burns for the next few weeks.

Steiner – added that in the future, it might be a good idea to choose one of our volunteer fire fighters who has knowledge concerning illegal burns and might like to pick up some extra hours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary