

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
January 8, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

TC Clements, Trustee
Craig Montri, Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ABSENT: Rich Steiner

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 Vinny Pirrone.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The December 18, 2018 Township Board Minutes;

Acceptance with regret the resignation of Janet Sass, Annabelle Myers, Denise Riddle, Jeanie Lutz, Dianne Bernath, Cathy Beville, Joyce Blanton, Judith Zech, Kristina Houstin, Nancy Piechorowski, Carol Reinhardt, Vivian Garber and Patricia Bull from the Beautification Committee, effective immediately;

Reappointment of Amanda Mills, Justin Arnold and Greg Moore to the Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2020;

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

PRESENTATIONS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JASON SHEPPARD – UPDATE ON MICHIGAN’S LEGISLATURE

Sheppard spoke on Senate bill 637 and 894 regarding small cell wireless systems and assured the Board that local municipalities can still collect franchise fees from the cable company and that it will not affect the Township Government channel. He also spoke to road funding and auto insurance issues and answered Board members questions.

CAPTAIN STEINMAN – KEY BOX PRESENTATION

– Fire Inspector Steinman explained the Fire Department’s goal is to be consistent, fair and to increase safety in the community. He explained that the key boxes are part of the International Fire Code adopted by the board and they allow the Fire Department quick access to a building. Discussion followed with Board members asking questions about opting out options. There doesn’t seem to be any way to opt out, but the Fire Department is working through any issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Martin, 8342 Secor Road – is a dentist in Lambertville and is concerned with things he has to protect in his building so he doesn’t feel he should be forced to install a fire key box.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – asked Board questions regarding the Sheriff’s contracted services and is concerned that private residents may be mandated to have key boxes.

Jason Sheppard, 7235 Bentcreek – answered Montri question about a bill which never made it to the committee process due to the many flaws in it.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – hopes the mold cleanup expenses to Fire Station #1 do not come out of the budgeted funds of the Fire Department.

Judy Frankowski, 1115 Ashland – asked board members to try to get to Lansing to make sure Bedford gets its fair share of road monies and doesn't feel the tax benefits of rezoning from R2A to C3 are worth the traffic safety impact it has on the neighborhoods for perhaps services not needed.

Mark Warren, business at 7924 Secor – has a problem with the lock boxes and is concerned with who will have access to the keys.

George Wells, 7297 Hidden Valley – feels the citizens have made it clear at previous planning meetings that they are opposed to this rezoning primarily for safety and traffic reasons and is concerned about backroom deals.

STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE FUNDING FOR THE MOLD REMEDIATION WORK FOR FIRE STATION #1 – Massingill began by assuring Tisdale that the International Fire code does not have any jurisdiction over residential housing, it is for commercial buildings and businesses only and that the Fire Department is trying hard to work with the businesses to help them with their issues, yet still be compliant to the code. He then mentioned that funding for the mold remediation was not in the Fire Department's budget. Questions arose as to the different restoration companies. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Hershberger to accept and approve the bid from AAA Standard Services, Inc. for repairs to Fire Station #1 in the amount of \$16,091.54 as presented, with the funds coming from building and grounds and Goldsmith will work with Massingill to assure it is written that AAA Standard Services, Inc. will perform these services to the standard set by CEC (Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc) and they will deliver a product for the price they quoted to the satisfaction of our building inspector and to the satisfaction of CEC. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Hershberger, Clements, Tienvieri, Montri & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Steiner.

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-\$154,308.03, Fire District-\$20,263.10, Police Fund-\$1,918.51, Park Fund-\$1,828.36, Library Operating Fund-\$5,065.91, Downtown Development Authority-\$779.92, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$66,205.51, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$4,645.75 for a total of \$255,015.09. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Francis, Montri, Clements, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Steiner.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REZONE A PORTION OF PARCEL #5802-032-055-60 (3199 STERNS ROAD) FROM R-2A (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS)

Jim Jacobs, Jacob's Architect, representative for the applicant answered Board questions. Discussion followed regarding traffic issues, connectivity and split-zoned parcels. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Montri to approve the rezoning of a portion of parcel 5802-032-055-60 from R-2A, single-family residential, to C-3, general commercial, located east of Secor Road, otherwise known as 3199 Sterns Road, Lambertville, MI 48144 for the proposed portion of the area of parcels identified as #1 and #2 only, based on the following reasons: the subject portion is adjacent to existing C-3 zoned frontage along Secor and Sterns Roads; it is consistent with the Township's Master Plan goals and policies; it follows the Master Plan future land use designation for mixed uses; it logically

locates commercial land uses in the core business district of the Township; it is supported by adequate utility infrastructure; while development of the property will have some environmental impacts, similar impacts would result from any land development including residential; a transition between the commercial area and the existing single-family homes to the east and south of the property is preserved; and screening between the commercial and the residential uses is required and will alleviate some of the possible negative impacts of potential commercial uses. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri, Montri, Clements, Francis, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Steiner.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A REVISED BEDFORD TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL MANUAL

Hershberger compiled all the suggestions she received from Board members in updating the personnel manual. Tienvieri thanked her for her hard work. Discussion followed regarding performance evaluations. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Tienvieri to approve the Township of Bedford Personnel Manual, as presented except for a change in 5.0 Performance Evaluation from every six months to every 12 months in the month of January. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Tienvieri, Montri, Clements, Francis & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Steiner.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – mentioned maybe developers could possibly help pay for road improvements, asked about the Beautification Committee's budget, and brought up concerns she has of misconduct.

Logan Tisdale, 1308 Brandywine – spoke about traffic tickets and hours worked by the Monroe County Sheriff deputies.

Judy Frankowski, 1115 Ashland - saddened that the residents at Secor and Sterns felt too defeated to come to the meeting and felt poor rezoning decisions had been made at Lewis and Sterns.

Tim McAfee – 9837 Pamela – asked questions to various Board members.

George Wells, 7297 Hidden Valley – feels traffic is a problem at the Secor/Sterns area, that the Board has overstepped its authority with the key boxes, and that the majority of the people affected by the Secor Road variance expressed opposition. Pirrone explained to Wells that quite often business people with ideas will come and meet with Township officials to talk about them, but assured him that no backroom deals are ever made. All decisions come before the entire Board.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Tienvieri – in an attempt to clear up some of the confusion, she let residents know that the Township gets no funding for subdivision roads, that the Board cannot dictate beyond ordinances - they cannot decide by popular decision if it goes against Township ordinances, and that commercial businesses bring in more tax dollars than residential homes so there is an advantage to economic growth. She echoed Tisdale's comments and stated that this Board is responsible for all Township employees except the elected officials and their deputies.

Clements – appreciates the way the Fire Department is handling their inspections. He also understands the people who don't agree, but the Fire Department is doing what this Board has told them to do. Tomorrow is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day so he thanked Tisdale for his time on the road and appreciates all those who protect us in this community. As far as the rezoning is concerned, sometimes the Board has to make tough decisions and they try to do what is in the best interest of all the taxpayers.

Montri – although he realizes the Fire Department is just doing their job, he opposes forcing anyone to have to give a key to their building to the government so he is going to look into a way to opt out or to offer another option to businesses.

Francis – regarding the lock boxes, he believes sometimes people have to be forced to do what’s best for them. He personally resents the comment made about backroom deals, as this board has never operated that way. He hopes the dialog between the citizens and the board can continue and he is unhappy with the seeming lack of trust.

Hershberger – began by addressing public comment/questions by mentioning the Beautification budget is still there and is the same amount it has been over the last few years, went through the many steps involved in the recall process, and echoed her offence to the backroom deals comment. She then reminded residents the Township will be closed on January 21st to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, everyone should have received the Township Newsletter in the Dec issue of the Bedford Press, the insurance claim on the Maintenance building has finally been settled so work on the building should begin soon, and wished her father, Ken Miller, a happy 90th birthday.

Pirrone – thanked Steinman for all his hard work, mentioned that there are confidential files and work being done in the Township offices and citizens should not be allowed to just walk through staff only doors, he rode along with Montri to view the assessing department, is looking for bids to help with the sidewalk connecting the school and the Library, attended the Monroe County Address, and is excited about the Bedford Business Summit which is all about partnering with the schools, local businesses, and the BBA. He then spoke to Tisdale’s comment stating that the Board did a study and looked into the Sheriff’s contract. The Sheriff’s goal is to do Community Policing and be in the neighborhoods and it isn’t to do ticketing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary