

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
April 21, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
MEETING HELD THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING:

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

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

UNABLE TO CONFERENCE INTO THE MEETING: Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Kamprath & Tom Graham Township Attorneys; Adam Massingill, Fire Chief

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 Garnet Francis.

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: Ayes: Steiner, Clements, Montri, Francis, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

- The March 3, 2020 regular Township Board minutes;
- The March 16, 2020 special Township Board minutes;
- The February General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD reports from the Treasurer;
- The March General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD reports from the Treasurer;
- The Revenue/Expense report and Balance sheet for the period ending March 31, 2020;
- Accept with regret the resignation of Justin Arnold from the Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee, effective immediately;
- Reappointment of Mike Sprott to the Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee for a 2nd term ending 12/31/2021;
- Appointment of Joan Branham to the Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee for a 1st term ending 12/31/2021;
- Appointment of Bob Potter as a 2nd alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 1st term ending 12/31/2022;

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

STAFF REPORTS

APPROVAL OF THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT – Massingill explained that radios were secured through a County grant and this agreement basically is to accept the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of these radios. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Francis to accept the Monroe County 800MHz Public Safety Radio System Subscriber Agreement as submitted and agreed to by Chief Massingill. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Steiner, Francis, Clements, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CAPABLE AMBULANCE FOR THE BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT – Massingill recommended the Board accept a demo

ambulance unit in lieu of the ambulance in the bid. The demo unit matches the specifications of the ambulance which was bid out and would result in a savings to the Township. It would also allow the Fire Department to take possession of the truck sooner which would result in further savings as it replaces a unit which would otherwise need repairs. The monies for this purchase are already in the fire fund from the apparatus and equipment millage. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to approve the purchase of the 2019 ambulance from R&R Fire Truck Repair to come equipped as recommended by Chief Massingill for a total price of \$243,326.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Clements, Steiner, Francis, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

NEW BUSINESS

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT THROUGH MARCH 24, 2020 - Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$363,823.76, Fire District-\$43,630.01, Police Fund-\$1,208.61, Park Fund-\$18,648.63, Fire Equipment-\$15,853.53, Transit System Fund-\$36,144.00, Library Operating Fund-\$4,502.12, Water Revenue Fund-\$250.00, Enchanted Forest SAD-\$92,835.00, Springbrook SAD-\$651.92, Stonegate SAD-\$4,064.51, Green Hills and other SAD-\$5,200.00, Barbara Lee/Harmony/etc-\$39,725.00, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$4,816.31, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$438,445.39, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$6,029.38 for a total of \$1,075,828.17. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Francis, Montri, Steiner, Clements & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT THROUGH APRIL 7, 2020 - Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$28,632.52, Fire District-\$14,682.23, Police Fund-\$2,780.98, Park Fund-\$1,319.04, Library Operating Fund-\$3,608.40, Indian Acres SAD-\$1,739.75, Lewiston Estates SAD-\$1,719.44, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$212.91, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$1,309,104.71, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$2,560.00 for a total of \$1,366,359.98. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Francis, Steiner, Montri, Clements & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT THROUGH APRIL 21, 2020 - Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Francis to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$52,228.34, Fire District-\$191,849.16, Park Fund-\$712.29, Library Operating Fund-\$25,604.51, Water Revenue Fund-\$164,148.00, Stonegate SAD-\$474.00, Wanda Estates SAD-\$628.50, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$157.01, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$144.00 for a total of \$435,945.81. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Francis, Clements, Steiner, Montri & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

REZONE PARCEL NUMBERS 5802-665-005-00 (LEWIS & VALETTA) & 5802-665-006-00 (LEWIS & BORG) FROM C-1, LOCAL COMMERCIAL TO R-2A, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL – Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to approve the request to rezone two parcels 5802-665-005-00 and 5802-665-006-00 from C-1 to R-2A, as these properties are vacant; a residential land use is consistent with the Township Master Plan; the properties are located in an area of predominantly residential land uses; unless rezoned, single-family homes cannot be built on the subject properties; and the properties have access to the Township's sanitary sewer and public water systems. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Clements, Steiner, Francis, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

REZONE PARCEL NUMBER 5802-034-001-10 (CORNER OF FIRECREEK & LEWIS) FROM C-1, LOCAL COMMERCIAL TO RT, TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL – Kamprath explained that this parcel is on the small size to put a commercial structure with parking, commercial setbacks, and other requirements of our Ordinance. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by

Clements to approve the rezoning request for parcel 5802-034-001-10 located on the south side of Firecreek Drive at Lewis Avenue as the Planning Commission made the recommendation to rezone from C-1 to RT because it is consistent with the Township Master Plan goals and policies; it follows the mixed-use future land use designation; it provides for a suitable transitional use between the adjacent single-family residential uses on the west side of the Lewis Avenue corridor and the commercial and high intensity residential land uses along the east side of the corridor (such as senior housing); it is supported by adequate utility and road infrastructure; and there is adequate room within the property for buffering and/or screening to alleviate some of the potential negative impacts of the adjacent higher intensity land uses. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Steiner, Clements, Montri, Francis, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

APPROVAL OF THE BID TO SEAL AND FIX SIX TOWNSHIP PARKING LOTS (All three Fire Stations, both Carr and Samaria Park and the Library parking lots) – Only one bid was received. Pirrone explained payment for this would be split between the various funds. Discussion followed as to the timing of when the work needed to be completed due to the Governor’s Executive Order. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Montri to approve the bid from Monroe Asphalt Co., Matzinger Road, Toledo for the various projects listed for a grand total of \$42,800.00, as presented with work to be done within 30-45 days of the Governor releasing these businesses and allowing them to get back to work. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Montri, Steiner, Clements, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH MULCH KING FOR \$16,000.00 – The Attorneys have made some changes to this agreement due to some issues with Mulch King bringing the site into compliance with Township Ordinances. Discussion followed regarding the Township’s recourse if Mulch King did not move towards compliance or if Mulch King did not honor the number of hours it agrees to be open to Bedford residents. The Attorneys mentioned there is a termination clause in the agreement and payment to Mulch King has been set up in four installments. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Clements to approve the contract with Mulch King for \$16,000.00 with service running from March 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020 and a review of their progress is to be on a Board agenda in 60 days. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Montri, Clements, Steiner, Francis, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH THE MONROE COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR \$10,000.00 – Pirrone mentioned many of the projects Mr. Lake and his team have assisted Bedford businesses with. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Steiner to approve the contract as presented in the amount of \$10,000.00 per year to be paid to the Monroe County Business Development Corporation. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Clements, Steiner, Francis, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT OF BEDFORD’S INTEREST IN THE LEWIS AVENUE MUNICIPAL WATER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT TO THE MONROE COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION – Graham explained that two separate projects were bid out. One by the Township to run the waterline under the railroad tracks and one by Bridgepoint church to run the waterline to their building. Both parties have paid their part. The Township has paid for their project out of the water fund. This is a non-financial agreement to transfer the responsibilities of the projects over to the Drain Commission. Motion was made by Clements, seconded by Montri to approve the contract which would take the Township’s assignments and responsibilities related to this waterline and assign them to the Monroe County Drain Commission for management of the project and future use maintenance. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Clements, Montri, Francis, Steiner, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

EMPLOYEES LEAVE AND WAGES – Pirrone mentioned all the non-essential, part-time and seasonal workers have been laid off. Much discussion ensued regarding how to handle wages/employees during the current closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Graham defined a furlough as a time when an employee is temporarily on leave, they are not fired, their benefits would be protected and they could collect unemployment. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by Clements that if a department head determines there is not enough work to bring a full-time employee back to the office or to work from home, they would be given the choice to either use their sick/vacation time or to go on furlough. If at some time they run out of sick/vacation time they would automatically be transferred to furlough unless there is work to bring them back. The employee also has the option to go to furlough even though they have a balance of sick/vacation time. This is effective as of today, April 21, 2020. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Francis, Clements, Montri, Steiner, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Tienvieri.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dale Track, 2842 Sanibel Lane – spoke to employee wages and mentioned the MCOP Food drive being held on April 26th.

Elizabeth Gray, 7531 Monroe Road – feels a department head should decide when an employee is needed back in their department.

Art Rios, 8149 Bay Court – appreciates the work the Board is doing.

Tienvieri – (Called in via telephone to make a public statement since she was not able to connect via video conferencing) was upset as she felt she was prevented from participating in this meeting.

Francis – resents the implication that Tienvieri may have thought someone had purposely tried to prevent her from entering the meeting

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Montri – opposes the Governor's current excessive quarantines and feels it is wrong for an elected official to deem whether one person's livelihood is essential or nonessential.

Clements – agrees with many calls he has received from residents that there are many illogical quarantine restrictions and feels the narrative should be what is safe vs. what is not safe and he is optimistic about the future.

Francis – mentioned he has had the privilege of serving on the Township Board for almost 16 years and he sincerely appreciates the opportunity to be of service to his community. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurers and Clerks office are specifically spelled out by Michigan statutes and procedures and requires an experienced staff to be precisely followed. Due to some recent health issues, he has decided not to seek reelection. His Deputy Treasurer, Krista Jandasek has filed for candidacy and has worked for the Township for almost 18 years. In his opinion, she would make an excellent Township Treasurer and he fully supports her candidacy. She certainly knows the job and with her knowledge, experience and integrity, she can handle the position well.

Steiner – believes the Governor may have over stepped her boundaries, but believes something needed to be done to protect the citizens. He asked the public to be patient and mindful of others, to stay safe, and to keep everyone in their prayers.

Hershberger – reminded voters that Bedford Township has no May election this year and that our next election will be August 4th. Applications for an absentee ballot will be sent out mid to late May. If a voter has a question or would like to be put on the permanent absentee list, they should contact the Clerk's department.

Pirrone – believes it is going to be a difficult year for the Township Board as there may be major cuts to the State revenue quarterly payments; disappointed Tienvieri was not able to get on the virtual meeting tonight; appreciates the Board trying to keep the employees safe and working; would like to move forward on the budget; asked Francis to come to the Board with options on

how to fund the Fire Station repairs/renovation; waiting to hear back from Whiteford Township regarding Adler Road; hopes Tienvieri and the CIP Committee can keep moving forward; unsure if the planned festivals will be able to proceed; with regard to the Governors Executive Order, he mentioned this Board didn't make the decision on what people can or can't do and this Board doesn't regulate the actions of it's residents; thanked the community for supporting each other; appreciates the great job the Fire Department is doing; and mentioned he is going to miss Mr. Francis.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary