

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182  
September 1, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting held through Microsoft Teams video-conferencing

PRESENT:	TC Clements, Trustee
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor	Craig Montri, Trustee
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk	Rick Steiner, Trustee
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer	Nancy Tienvieri, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Township Attorney; 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, a moment of silence for the passing of Joe Keane and Prayer led by Phil Goldsmith.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Tienvieri added item 8F – Opening the Township Hall. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Montri to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri, Montri, Clements, Steiner, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The August 18, 2020 Township Board Minutes;

Acceptance with regret the resignation of Sally Dunn as a Park Commissioner, effective October 7, 2020;

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTING LANDSCAPING GOALS FOR THE LIBRARY, JOYCE BLANTON – Janelle DeFelice from the Library Advisory Board introduced Joyce Blanton, Master Gardener. Blanton outlined the proposed plan she developed and mentioned ease of maintenance and using some native plants to attract birds and butterflies as two primary goals of the LAB. Blanton will work with the LAB to put specs together which fit the amount budgeted for this project and will contact Hershberger for the general format to bid it out.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cindy Miller, 8037 Wiseman – spoke to the rehiring of a Maintenance worker and the Union grievance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT- Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$87,674.86, Fire District-\$11,472.94, Police Fund-\$542.29, Park Fund-\$32,131.83, Fire Equipment-\$11,885.00, Transit System Fund-\$17,044.00, Library Operating Fund-\$3,495.28, Water Revenue Fund-\$2,500.00, Lewiston Estates SAD-\$275.00, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$872.92, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$57,024.48, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$3,035.75 for a total of \$227,954.35. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Hershberger, Jandasek, Montri, Clements, Steiner, Tienvieri, & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL TO HIRE A FULL-TIME FINANCE MANAGER – Hershberger mentioned Robert Miller impressed the interview team of Steiner, Jandasek and herself and received positive feedback from his references. Tienvieri is concerned with his lack of governmental accounting. Since he has extensive accounting experience and is willing to learn governmental accounting, the interview team felt hiring him with a three-month review and then a six-month review would be beneficial. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Steiner to approve the hire of Robert Miller as Finance Manager with a three-month review with expectations and then a six-month review with expectations which will be brought to the Board, at an annual salary of \$58,000.00 with a start date of September 14, 2020, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Montri, Steiner, Clements, Tienvieri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL TO BRING BACK A FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE – Pirrone addressed the public comment remarks. He then explained that since the Township needs another worker who can dig a grave and since current maintenance worker may be planning to retire soon, he would like to bring Adam Truna back. Goldsmith mentioned that this hire is subject to the collective bargaining agreement and his right to be recalled, so Truna would be recalled at the same wage level with all of his benefits. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Pirrone to hire Adam Truna beginning September 8, 2020 at the same wage and benefits he was receiving when he stopped working. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri, Pirrone, Jandasek, Steiner, Clements, Montri & Hershberger. Nays: none. Absent: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2019 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT – Jim Jacobs Architects evaluated Fire Station 2 and found the building to be sound structurally, and since the cost to rebuild vs. a renovation is 2 to 1, it makes sense to move forward on this improvement. Also, the estimates on installing a sprinkler system fall within the amount of this grant. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Clements to accept the grant award in the amount of \$89,090.91 with a match of \$8,909.09 from the Fire Department Budget for the purpose of renovations at Fire Station 2. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri, Clements, Steiner, Montri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: none.

UPDATE ON THE LEWIS AVENUE WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT UNDER THE RAILROAD TRACKS – Tim Csurgo, Monroe County Drain Commission and Barry Buschmann, Mannik Smith explained the problems encountered running the waterline under the railroad tracks which have resulted in a cost overrun of \$98,487.00. South County Water is willing to contribute half of the shortfall, if the Township would pay the other half in the amount of \$49,243.00. The money would be paid out of the Water Fund. It was mentioned that even though the project was turned over to the MCDC, the Township had made the commitment to run the waterline under the railroad tracks to provide service to the northern part of Bedford. Bridgepoint Church has also signed an agreement and has paid to bring the waterline up to their building. Some Board members were upset with not having any information or time to make this decision prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Hershberger to approve the \$49,243.00 which is half the cost overrun according to the Drain Commission, since it makes no sense to allow this project to fail after considering the money the Township has already spent and also due to the fact that the Clerk and Treasurer have acknowledged that there is enough money in the water fund to cover this. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri, Hershberger, Steiner, Clements, Jandasek & Pirrone. Nays: Montri. Absent: none. Montri stated his nay vote had nothing to do with the project, but everything to do with the blind-sided nature of the request.

OPENING TOWNSHIP HALL – Motion was made by Tienvieri, seconded by Montri for the Board to authorize the opening of the Township Government Center to the public effective Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. for all services including all public meetings, putting in place

social distancing, masks, temperature gauges and any other requirements needed to maintain safety for the public and the employees. Discussion followed whether a full-time attendee needed to monitor the front door and other protocols that needed to be put in place. Tienvieri volunteered to help monitor the front door on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Tienvieri & Montri. Nays: Clements, Steiner, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. The Board members that voted nay all agreed they want to get the building opened up, but first want to get protocols set in place. The three full-time Board members will work with Chief Massingill and bring a plan to the next board meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**

Montri – cited “The Emperor’s New Clothes”, by Hans Christian Anderson in reference to item 8F-opening the Township building; welcomed Mr. Miller to the Finance position; and felt the way item 8E-update on the waterline project was presented was highly unprofessional and completely unacceptable.

Tienvieri – is frustrated as she feels there’s been plenty of time to plan the opening of the Township building.

Steiner – sends his thoughts and prayers to the Keane family as Joe was a dedicated community member; mentioned he was not able to attend the last meeting, but agrees the Board made the correct decision regarding holding off on the roundabout project; and welcomed Mr. Miller and is confident he is going to do well.

Clements – echoed Steiner’s comments regarding Joe Keane as he was truly dedicated to public service and his infectious smile and laugh will be missed; reminded residents that the Bedford school year will be starting soon and mentioned the Superintendent has done as good a job as can be expected with the current circumstances; asked people to take pause during this frustrating time; and encouraged everyone to google the lyrics to “Humble and Kind”, by Tim McGraw.

Jandasek – sends her deepest sympathies to the Keane family – Joe was a wonderful man and will be missed; welcomed Mr. Miller; and reminded residents that tax bills are due September 14<sup>th</sup> and can be paid at the Township hall, at First Merchants Bank in Temperance or at the Fifth Third Bank in Lambertville.

Hershberger – sends her condolences to Joe Keane’s family, she is proud to say he was a friend; is ecstatic to welcome Mr. Miller; her department is still accepting applications for absentee ballots; mentioned many organizations/political parties are sending out their own applications and voters can call her office if they would like to check to make sure they are scheduled to receive a ballot; and shared she has already received close to 7000 absentee ballot request.

Pirrone – congratulated Kevin Vogel on being named 2020 Wrestling Coach of the Year; sends his deepest sympathies to the Keane family; would like to hold another budget meeting now that the amount of the state revenue sharing is known; mentioned some of the rainy day fund balance money has been used to fix the roads over the past few years and now Bedford’s roads are in good shape and just need to be maintained; let the Board know about an emergency project to repair the outside lights at Fire Station 3; and mentioned he is working with Iron Workers 55 to have them volunteer their time and assist the Maintenance department with putting up park equipment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC  
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin  
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary