

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

December 6, 2011

7:00 pm

PRESENT:

Walt Wilburn, Supervisor  
Larry O'Dell, Trustee  
James W. Goebel, Trustee

Paul Francis, Trustee  
Sherri S. Meyer, Treasurer  
Gail Hurley, Trustee

EXCUSED: Robert A. Schockman, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Janos, Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith; Steve Heer, Bedford Township Ordinance Officer, Trudy Hershberger, Deputy Clerk

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion was made by Goebel, seconded by Hurley to approve the agenda with the removal of item 4A, Resolution Approving the Lake Erie Transit Local Bus Service Millage Proposal Renewal. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman.

**RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

*Request for Approval of Resolution Adopting the Bedford Township Poverty Exemption Guidelines*

Meyer spoke, stating this resolution is adopted every year and is used by the Township's Board of Review to determine a resident's eligibility for exemption of all or part of their property taxes by reason of poverty. Motion was made by Meyer, seconded by O'Dell to approve the resolution adopting the Bedford Township Poverty Exemption Guidelines, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman.

*Request for Approval of Resolution Exempting Bedford Township Government from Requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011, for 2012*

Francis spoke to this issue, stating approval of this resolution is recommended by the Finance Committee and reading the following rationale for opting out of the requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011: 1. Township employees (including elected officials) have not received any compensation or cost of living increase since July 1, 2009. 2. The Township Board has opted to pay the increased costs of healthcare benefits in lieu of annual wage increases, to help defray or offset the loss of purchasing power due to inflation. 3. Currently, all township employees who are provided healthcare benefits contribute 10% of the monthly insurance premium (the balance being paid by the township). 4. The Finance Committee will be recommending that all new township hires after January 1, 2012 must contribute 20% of the monthly healthcare benefits cost. 5. The Finance Committee is considering a plan whereby all current township employees who are provided healthcare benefits, be phased in, over a specific period of time, to contributing 20% of the monthly healthcare benefits costs, depending on the strength and speed of economic recovery, and its effects on the general fund budget. O'Dell mentioned this resolution is only for the 2012 calendar year, the issue must be revisited annually. Motion was made by Francis, seconded by O'Dell to approve the resolution exempting Bedford Township Government from

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the requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011, for the calendar year 2012, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Motion was made by Goebel, seconded by Hurley to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

*Request for Approval of Bedford Township Loitering and Disorderly Conduct Ordinance*

Ordinance Officer Steve Heer explained to the board the need for this ordinance and the continuing vandalism problems at the library and parks, as well as other venues. Attorney Janos spoke, explaining the reason a conviction for loitering or disorderly conduct carries a misdemeanor level of penalty and stating both the Ordinance Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department will be able to issue these tickets. Several board members asked questions of both Officer Heer and Attorney Janos. Motion was made by O'Dell, seconded by Goebel to approve the Bedford Township Loitering and Disorderly Conduct Ordinance, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

*Request For Approval Of Bills-* Motion was made by Meyer, seconded by Hurley to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$50,754.18, Fire District-\$11,137.74, Police Fund-\$296.16, Park Fund-\$8,373.95, Cemetery Operating Fund-\$6,309.27, Library Operating Fund-\$8,377.68, Water Revenue Fund-\$3,450.00, Rehabilitation Fund-\$5,000.00, Road Capital Improvement Fund-\$90.00, DDA Fund-\$8,167.98, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$374,858.64, & Trust & Agency Fund-\$29,772.01, for a total of \$506,587.61. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Francis, Meyer, O'Dell, Goebel, Hurley, & Wilburn. Nays: None. Excused: Schockman

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance, spoke thanking the board for approving the new loitering and disorderly conduct ordinance and informing the board of the statistics regarding the Adopt-A-Road program. She also wished the board a Merry Christmas.

**REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS**

Hurley – commented on the need for the loitering and disorderly conduct ordinance, and mentioned the Christmas tree lighting at the Bedford Library.

Goebel – mentioned visiting the new Bedford Memorial Gardens Cemetery and thanked the committee that worked on it. He also informed the board of Bedford School's new wrestling coach, Kevin Vogel, thanked former wrestling coach Denny Brighton, and invited the board to the Monroe County Community College Christmas Concert on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

O'Dell – thanked Gail Keane for her remarks regarding the vandalism problems at the parks, and the need for the youth in the community to learn to respect others property.

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Francis - thanked Gail Keane for her remarks regarding the vandalism problems at the parks, and the need for the youth in the community to learn to respect others property.

Meyer – thanked Gail Keane for all of her hard work in the community and reminded residents that tax bills were mailed out on December 1, 2011. If you haven't received one, please contact her office.

Wilburn – thanked Gail Keane for her work in the community, and gave the board and residents an update on Clerk Bob Schockman's condition, asking everyone to continue to pray for him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Robert A. Schockman  
Bedford Township Clerk

Garnet Francis  
Recording Secretary