

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
February 16, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held through Microsoft Teams video-conferencing

PRESENT:	Todd Bruning, Trustee
Paul Pirrone, Supervisor	Joe Gore, Trustee
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk	Craig Montri, Trustee
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer	Rick Steiner, 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 Nate Elarton, Compelled Church.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Gore to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Gore, Jandasek, Steiner, Bruning, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The February 2, 2021 Township Board Minutes;

The General, Savings, Pooled Funds and CD reports from the Treasurer;

The Revenue/Expense report and Balance sheet for the period ending January 31, 2021;

Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Jandasek to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Jandasek, Bruning, Montri, Gore, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Sitter, 6948 Deer Ridge – spoke to allowing amplified sound on patios.

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – questioned enforcement and regulation of an amended noise ordinance.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to numerous items on the agenda.

Gene Stock, 8322 Twin Creek Circle – spoke to communication with residents.

Jerry Goodridge, P.O. Box 103, Lambertville – spoke to point of contact for the fire chief.

Josh Niederkohr, 7948 Wiseman – asked why his street wasn't plowed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION – Pirrone recommended Mike Keane and mentioned his application hadn't been included with the other applicants. Hershberger stated that according to Michigan Law once an applicant is appointed to a Board, their application is moved to our personnel files and Mr. Keane is already on a Board. Gore mentioned that Dennis Jenkins, who has worked in both the Planning department and has served on the Planning Commission sent in his recommendation for Mr. Covrett and that is the direction many Board members would like to go. Pirrone reminded the Board that statutorily he gets to make the appointment which then comes before the Board for approval. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Montri to appoint William Mike Keane to the Planning Commission for a first term ending 12/31/2023. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone & Montri. Nay: Hershberger, Bruning, Steiner, Gore & Jandasek. Absent: none.

NEW BUSINESS

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT - Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$46,431.40, Fire District-\$16,857.49, Park Fund-\$779.90, Cemetery Operating Fund-\$19.28, Fire Equipment-\$10,294.95, Library Operating Fund-\$1,899.22, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$496.22, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$169.03, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$855.00 for a total of \$77,802.49. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Montri, Bruning, Steiner, & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND REFURBISHING OF FURNISHINGS AT THE BEDFORD BRANCH LIBRARY – Jodi Russ, Community Librarian at the Bedford Branch presented the Library Advisory Boards recommendations for adding and refurbishing furnishings at the Library. She then shared how the Library millage money has been spent and the fact that they are currently underbudget. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Bruning to approve the purchase of 12 chairs from the Library Store in the amount of \$1,007.40 plus shipping and to approve up to \$8,000.00 for furniture fabric work from Al’s Upholstery, Inc. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Bruning, Gore, Steiner, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none. Russ then mentioned the Library will be opening back up by appointment or walk-in with limited capacity.

PRESENTATION

MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – UNDERSHERIFF JEFF PAULI – Pauli explained a new staffing proposal the Sheriff department would like to try on a trial basis which is based on 12-hour shifts which would give Bedford Township more overall consistent coverage. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Gore to move forward with an increase in the 2021 fiscal year for \$35,820.30 and to move to the 12-hour shift model that the Sheriff’s department is proposing. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Gore, Steiner, Montri, Jandasek, Bruning & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVE MCRC CONTRACT FOR DUST CONTROL – Pirrone explained this is done for health reasons. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to approve the dust control contract for \$40,530.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Bruning, Jandasek, Steiner, Gore, Montri & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT – According to the Township organizational chart, the Fire Chief reports to the entire Board. Bruning suggested it might be more efficient to have him report to just one Board member. Motion was made by Bruning to be appointed as liaison for Chief Massingill to report to. Motion failed due to lack of support.

REINSTATE THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN THREE QUOTES FOR A JOB – Discussion followed over whether to have certain work contracts or require bids/quotes for all jobs.

APPROVAL OF A BOARDS & COMMITTEES APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE – Steiner presented a proposed procedure he developed for future appointments to Boards and Committees. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to table this item until the next meeting. In the meantime, Board members were asked to email Steiner their suggestions this week so he could update his procedure and have it to the Clerk’s department in time for the next meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Bruning, Montri, Steiner, Gore, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

DISCUSSION OF NOISE ORDINANCE – Pirrone would like to amend the ordinance to allow for soft background music on patios with a timeframe attached to it. Goldsmith spoke on competing land uses, and how the Board needs to be sensitive to both business owners and residential homeowners. Goldsmith feels the ordinance should require an amended site plan, take into consideration the physical character of the outdoor dining area and its proximity to residential uses, and implement certain buffering. There will be an enforcement issue and each site will need to be measured and evaluated. Board members were concerned with enforcement and would like the ordinance to be very detailed. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Gore to move forward to allow Lennard, Graham & Goldsmith to work in conjunction with the Planning department and draft some new language for this Board to take a look at. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Gore, Montri, Steiner, Bruning, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

DISCUSSION ON IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS CONCERNING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR BZA & PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS – In an attempt to get the citizens more involved, Montri would like to include more information on social media, the Township website and to publish public hearings in the Bedford Press. Hershberger mentioned that Michigan Law governs which newspaper public hearing notices can be published in, therefore, they need to be published in the Monroe News. If the Board wanted to also publish in the Bedford Press, that would be at an additional cost. Discussion continued regarding adding more information to the official Township Facebook page which the Supervisor department oversees. Montri will come back with more information on what he would like the Board to consider.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke to the Official Township Facebook page and Planning Commission appointment.

Josh Stump, 7136 Wiltshire – spoke to communication.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to Facebook page and Planning Commission.

Amy South, 390 W. Vienna – spoke to Ordinance department.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Bruning – wished everyone a good night, thought a good job was done today with the plowing, and mentioned he was permitted to burn as he lives in ag zoning.

Montri – mentioned the Board needs to set up the budget meetings; thought lower traffic roads would probably be plowed last but will get plowed eventually; stated his comments referred to the official Facebook page; and mentioned the Library’s next job is to replace the carpeting, however he would like them to fix the chiller first.

Gore – reminded residents to check on their neighbors and help them out during these wintery days, and commented that Krista did mention often when tax bills were due and sometimes no matter how often you put information out there, it never seems to be enough.

Steiner – mentioned how the Township Newsletters contain information regarding taxes; stated he is not a huge fan of posting everything on Facebook and feels the Official Township Facebook page needs to be strictly informational based; and encouraged residents to stay safe.

Jandasek – mentioned taxes were due today and as of last Friday the Treasurer’s department had collected over 80% of the total taxes; and hoped residents could stay safe and warm.

Hershberger – informed Board members about a window which was cracked by a bullet in the front of the Township building and that it was covered 100% by insurance; mentioned that the Sheriff's car which was in a recent accident will also be run through the Township insurance; mentioned she is working on a social media policy with the attorneys; and let voters know that her department will be mailing out absentee ballot applications next week for a May election which will include an ISD School Technology millage and a Monroe County Museum millage.

Pirrone – mentioned there are no political posts on the Official Township Facebook page; he is looking for new faces for the Planning Commission; applauded the Maintenance department for not only doing plowing today, but also the digging of a grave; mentioned that StoneCo plows west of Jackman and the Maintenance department and seasonal workers plow east of Jackman; stated the Township can not plow private roads; is excited the Library will be opening back up; asked Trudy to arrange the budget meetings; and also suggested residents check on their neighbors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary