

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
March 2, 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; Bob Miller, Finance Manager

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 Steve Hobbins, Lewis Avenue Baptist Church.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The February 16, 2021 Township Board Minutes;

Acceptance with regret, the resignation of Ken Schumacher from the Green Initiatives Committee, effective immediately;

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashley Libstorff, LAB member, 917 Santa Fe Court – urged the Board to bid out the chiller project and to allow the Library to move forward on carpet replacement.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – asked for more information on the Farmers market and spoke to Planning Commission appointment.

Denise Ellsworth, LAB Treasurer, 1421 Winding Way – spoke to the purchase and installation of both the chiller and carpeting.

STAFF REPORTS

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020/2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET – Bob Miller explained each adjustment and answered questions. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution amending the 2020/2021 General Fund budget, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: Bruning. Absent: none.

APPROVE CHANGE ORDER AND INVOICE FOR AUDITOR Overage CHARGES – Hershberger explained that due to Covid-19, the change of staff in the Finance department and the audit starting late, there is an overage charge by the auditors. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Bruning to accept the billing for 2020 audit overage in the amount of \$11,900.00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Bruning, Montri, Steiner, Gore, Jandasek & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF A BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE – Steiner explained any changes which were submitted to him. Discussion continued over which department should notify the new appointees, how it would need to be done in a timely manner, and how it would be common courtesy to also notify those who applied and did not get appointed. Montri and Steiner debated changes to section 6.6. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bruning to approve the Boards & Committee Appointment procedure as written with a change suggested by Township attorney Goldsmith, where the Supervisor’s department would notify the person that was approved by the Township Board by sending a congratulative email welcoming them to the Board or Committee and then the Clerk’s department would follow by swearing the appointee in. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Bruning, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: Montri, Gore & Pirrone. Absent: none. Montri voted nay because he felt the policy was misleading.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION – Jandasek & Bruning would like the Supervisor to consider applicants who have already submitted applications instead of going out and reaching for new candidates. Montri feels it is inappropriate for the Board to strong arm their personal candidate rather than approving or disapproving a particular candidate being presented. Hershberger is disappointed because a good candidate who is qualified, experience, and has a background in Planning has applied for this position, yet the Supervisor will not appoint him. Gore stated that no one is strong-arming anyone and is wondering why the Supervisor is not bringing Mr. Covrett to the Board for appointment, especially after being recommended by the former Planning Commission member the applicant is replacing. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Montri to appoint Arnold Jennings 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: Jandasek, Steiner, Bruning, Gore & Hershberger. Absent: none.

NEW BUSINESS

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT- Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$38,344.52, Fire District-\$40,561.98, Police Fund-\$200.43, Park Fund-\$3,597.94, Fire Equipment-\$2,298.74, Library Operating Fund-\$3,040.12, Springbrook SAD-\$319.00, Lewiston Estates SAD-\$292.13, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$1,778.67, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$297,019.65, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$4,720.26 for a total of \$392,173.44. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Montri, Gore, Bruning, Steiner & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY TO CONVERT & REPLACE CENTER SUSPENSION STREETLIGHTS – Hershberger explained this request is from Consumers Energy and the 1:1 conversion would be at no cost to the Township. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Montri to approve 1:1 conversion of center suspension to bracketed LED streetlights for the lighting at eight intersections, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Montri, Bruning, Steiner, Gore, Jandasek & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A BZA FEE WAIVER FOR THE FARMERS MARKET – Bob Potter, Board member of the Farmers Market mentioned this has to be done every two years. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Pirrone to approve the request from United Methodist Church for a BZA fee waiver for the Farmers Market. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Pirrone, Jandasek, Bruning, Steiner, Gore & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

BOARD OF REVIEW RESOLUTION FOR MAIL-IN APPEALS – This Resolution allows for resident taxpayers to file a letter of protest to the March Board of Review without making a personal appearance. This Resolution is an AMAR requirement. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to approve the Resolution for the Board of Review to allow for mail-in appeals. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Bruning, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Montri & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

PURCHASE OF TWO TORO Z MASTER 5000 LAWNMOWERS – Pirrone stated this is to replace two 14-year-old mowers and is included in the budget. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Steiner to approve the purchase of two Toro Z Master 5000 lawnmowers from Doug’s Repair, trading in the two current units for \$1,000.00 at a total cost of \$18,297.44, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Steiner, Bruning, Gore, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION MAKING DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTIONS GRANTED UNTIL REVOKED OR RESCINDED – Bob Queen, Exeter Township Supervisor called in to express his support. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution requesting adoption of legislature making disabled veterans exemptions granted until revoked or rescinded. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Steiner, Montri, Bruning, Gore & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO REPAIR THE STONEYBROOK LANE BRIDGE – The Monroe County Road Commission is asking the Township to approve submitting an application for an MDOT grant to repair the Stoneybrook Lane Bridge. The grant would cover 95 % of the construction costs and the Township would be responsible for design, oversight, inspection, testing & 5% of construction. Since this project would not be until the 2024 construction season, discussion followed regarding possible price increases. Board members were also concerned about setting a precedent by repairing a subdivision bridge. Since there is currently a SAD petition pending for Stoneybrook roads, conversation continued as to whether the cost could be added to their SAD if the SAD is approved. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Gore to table this item until the next Board meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Gore, Montri, Steiner, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

DIRECTION ON HOW TO PROCEED REGARDING REPLACING THE CHILLER AT THE LIBRARY – Montri, as Library Advisory Board liaison, would like direction from the Board on how to proceed. If the Township policy is followed, sealed bids would be required. However, there was discussion on whether this project would fall under the Rawlings maintenance and repair contract. Montri suggested buying the chiller direct and having Rawlings install it. Harry Lambers, LAB Chair called in and requested sealed bids. Discussion continued as to who would prepare the specs. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner granting the Library Advisory Board permission to go out and seek specifications for a chiller to be fully replaced and to turn these specifications into the Clerk for the bidding process to start for sealed bids. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Gore, Montri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek Dr – commented on Montri and Pirrone’s stance on the Planning Commission appointment and to the creation of the Farmers market.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance, commented on the Planning Commission appointment, the Bedford farmers market and treatment of the LAB members.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Bruning – had a question from a resident for Massingill regarding whether the fire department runs lift assists for establishments that charge residents to live there? And if they do can the Fire department charge back the facility or the resident’s insurance company? Massingill will look into this.

Steiner – cautioned residents to not let youths ride on the roadways with power vehicles as it is very dangerous.

Gore – mentioned he attended the Lewis Avenue Redevelopment Committee meeting which went well and he is looking forward to working with them. He asked if Bedford had a current liquor license available. Pirrone let him know that no, not at this time, but there is one he is trying to get back from Fireside Grille.

Jandasek – let residents and the Board know that the winter tax collection is complete and her department has collected 96% of the winter taxes.

Hershberger – reminded voters that there is an election on May 4th and if a voter would like an absentee ballot, they should contact her office. Anyone already on the permanent absentee list should already have received their application and they need to sign it by both of the “x’s”.

Pirrone – mentioned that TAC had created the Bedford farmers market, but it had laid dormant for two years before another group got it started back up again; let residents know that Mulch King will not be open for Bedford residents to drop off yard waste anymore; and listed some projects he is involved with: analyzing park costs for maintenance department, emergency plan for township hall, police monument, Banner Oak roof repair, and Lake Erie Transit budget. He mentioned South County Water is closing small loops, the DDA is looking to increase security in the area and have a Fall festive on Halloween night, he had a meeting to discuss a possibly partnering with the school and the Park Board for Community Ed, and SEMCOG is discussing charging stations for the area.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary