

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
March 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: Tom Graham and then Marty Kamprath, 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 Craig Killinen, Bridgepoint Church.

PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR GJL INVESTMENTS – LASCALA IT SOLUTIONS – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Jandasek to open the public hearing. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Jandasek, Gore, Bruning, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – brought up many questions including what if the applicant does not do all the improvements, what if the new jobs promised doesn't happen, will the applicant still pay taxes on local millages and why the applicant was asking for ten-year exemption when the improvements are scheduled to be done in less than five. He then suggested the Board consider a five-year exemption.

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

Greg LaScala, applicant, gave his family and company history. He plans to use a Pace Program to make his facility a green facility. This will increase the costs of the improvements, which is why he is requesting the exemption. Tim Lake, Monroe County Business & Development Corp. spoke to the impact this will have on the community and how the Township will recoup tax money once the taxes are uncapped due to the new taxable value after the improvements. Discussion continued regarding how the exemption could be revoked if the improvements aren't made and how the exemption only applies to the increase in tax value on the building due to the improvements and not to the land. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Pirrone to approve the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for GLJ Investments/LaScala IT Solutions for 10 years, beginning January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2031. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Pirrone, Bruning, Jandasek, Steiner, Gore & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Montri to approve the agenda with the removal of 4B – the presentation and update by the Fire Chief. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Montri, Steiner, Gore, Bruning, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

- The March 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 February 28, 2021;

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

PRESENTATIONS

AUDIT REPORT FOR 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR – Daniel Clark, Rehmann Robson, LLC explained the audit and answered Board questions. Hershberger thanked Clark for all the work he put into the Audit as it was a difficult year with both covid and the loss of the Finance Director. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner to accept the Audit for fiscal year 2019-2020, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Montri, Gore, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke to the audit, the Teamsters grievance, the Stoneybrook bridge and to the hiring of a new assessor.

Josh Stump, 7136 Wiltshire – had questions about the audit.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to the audit company, appointment to the Planning Commission, maintenance department, Mulch King and the assessing department.

Denise Ellsworth, Treasurer of the Library Advisory Board – praised the Township maintenance workers and spoke to repairs at the Library.

Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – spoke against applying for the grant for the Stoneybrook bridge.

STAFF REPORTS**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO REPAIR THE STONEYBROOK LANE BRIDGE – Pirrone mentioned the Township pays for projects on other Township roads, citing gradall jobs and the chloride and stone added to dirt roads. Discussion ensued as to whether the grant could be accepted contingent on whether the Stoneybrook SAD goes through and whether a Resolution is needed before the Board can approve this. Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Steiner to approve the Township's commitment to the project, if the SAD is passed the local share would be included in the SAD and if the Road Commission requires an official resolution, a special meeting would be called to approve it. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri & Pirrone. Nay: Steiner, Bruning, Gore, Jandasek & Hershberger. Absent: none.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION - Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Gore to appoint Joseph Albring to the Planning Commission for a first term ending 12/31/2023. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Gore & Montri. Nay: Bruning, Steiner, Jandasek & 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-\$162,421.96, Fire District-\$10,861.91, Police Fund-\$707.31, Park Fund-\$447.38, Cemetery Operating Fund-\$19.21, Fire Equipment-\$21,945.25, Library Operating Fund-\$1,849.75, Stonegate SAD-\$247.88, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$76.20, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$1,654.92, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$1,452.25 for a total of \$201,684.02. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN RESOLUTIONS – Hershberger explained the Township self-funds these Special Assessments to save the residents bonding fees. All of these funds will be paid back, but the State requires a Resolution since they are carried on the books as a deficit. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Pirrone to approve the Resolution approving the Indian Acres Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call

vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Pirrone, Montri, Bruning, Steiner, Gore & Jandasek. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Wild Haven Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Steiner, Montri, Gore, Bruning & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Gore to approve the Resolution approving the Chapel Creek Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Gore, Jandasek, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Mohawk Trail Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Steiner, Montri, Bruning, Gore & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Springbrook Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Steiner to approve the Resolution approving the Lewiston Estates Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Steiner, Montri, Bruning, Gore, Jandasek & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Stonegate Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Mildred Avenue Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Montri, Gore, Bruning, Steiner & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Resolution approving the Giant Oaks Subdivision Deficit Elimination Plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Gore, Montri, Steiner, Bruning & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF A WAIVER FROM THE 6:1 RATIO FOR PARCELS 5802-020-117-00 & 5802-020-119-00 – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bruning to approve the 6:1 ratio waiver for parcel 5802-020-117-00 and parcel 5802-020-119-00, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Bruning, Jandasek, Montri, Gore, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF A WAIVER FROM THE 6:1 RATIO FOR PARCEL 5802-019-046-00 – Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to approve a waiver from the 6:1 ratio for parcel 5802-019-046-00 as submitted as it is consistent with the surrounding parcels. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Bruning, Gore, Montri, Steiner, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT FOR THE NEW TEAMSTER'S CONTRACT Township Labor Attorney, Philip Nantz negotiated the contract on behalf of the Township. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Gore to approve the proposed Teamsters contract settlement as presented for a 3-year contract effective February 1, 2021 and terminating February 1, 2024 with a 2% wage increase each year effective the first full pay period beginning on or after February 1st, and with no other changes from what is set forth in the old 2018-2021 union contract. The wage increase is to be paid retroactively from February 2021. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Gore, Bruning, Montri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

APPROVAL OF RAWLINGS QUOTE FOR HOT WATER ACTUATORS AT THE LIBRARY

Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner to approve the Rawlings quote for three hot water actuators in the amount of \$1,507.50 for the Library, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Gore, Jandasek, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

MULCH KING DISCUSSION – Steiner wanted to make sure residents were aware that the Township did not officially shut Mulch King down, the Township currently has no contract with Mulch King, and Mulch King currently has non-compliant site plan issues. He then explained the Township and the Planning Commission’s history with Mulch King. Pirrone mentioned there are many other businesses not in compliance in the Township, but they are allowed to continue to operate and that Mulch King offers a service to the community. Steiner asked which companies were not in compliance and reminded Pirrone that when a complaint is made the Ordinance department needs to investigate and that the Township should not enter into a contract with a non-compliant company. Steiner made a motion to let Mulch King stay open with stipulations, after further discussion the motion was rescinded. Montri does not feel the Mulch King issues are so big that the Township couldn’t work with him.

EXTENSION OF MEETING – Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Jandasek to extend the meeting for ½ hour. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Jandasek, Gore, Steiner, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: none.

MULCH KING DISCUSSION CONTINUED –Andrew Nycz, owner of Mulch King called in to state his case. Steiner and Gore will meet with Nycz to see what can be worked out and bring the issue back to the next Board meeting.

APPROVAL TO HIRE A NEW ASSESSOR –Anthony Meyaard, from Assessing Solutions Inc. called in to answer questions. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Bruning to approve the contract with Assessing Solutions for \$120,000.00 for the first year. Heated discussion occurred over the cost of rehiring Eichler or hiring the company Assessing Solutions, Inc. Meyaard respectfully withdrew his bid as he does not want to subject his company or his employees to the current situation at the Township, unless the Board can collectively get behind his firm. However he is willing to help the Township through this transition if we need it.

EXTENSION OF MEETING – Motion was made by Montri, seconded by Bruning to extend the meeting another 30 minutes. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Montri, Bruning, Gore, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: Steiner. Absent: none.

CONTINUATION OF HIRING A NEW ASSESSOR – Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Montri to rehire Christine Eichler in the amount of \$75,000.00, effective immediately with all accrued benefits accumulated to stay the same. Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone & Montri. Nay: Bruning, Steiner, Gore, Jandasek & Hershberger. Absent: none.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kevin Wexler, 4105 St. Anthony – spoke to businesses and the Township.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to Stoneybrook Bridge, the need for a Road Committee, non-compliant businesses, the behavior at board meetings, treatment of union workers, and the Assessing department.

Haley Montion, 2175 Oak Grove – spoke to Mulch King’s service and Township burning.

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke to Mulch King being non-compliant.

Josh Stump, 7136 Wiltshire – spoke to audit and assessing hiring.

Ken Gonyea, 8311 Lambert – thanked Board for the Stoneybrook Bridge vote and spoke to the behavior of a Board member during the meetings.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Bruning – wished the wrestling team well at districts, and praised the bowling team for doing well.

Gore – he agreed to get together with Steiner and Nycz and wished everyone a great week.

Steiner – will set up the meeting with Gore, Nycz, and the Planning department.

Montri – wishes that Board members would stop pretending to care about taxpayer's money.

Jandasek – wished the Bedford wrestling team good luck this weekend at districts.

Hershberger – explained a bond payment that arose during the audit and let residents know there is a May school election and if a voter would like an absentee ballot, they should contact her office.

Pirrone – mentioned Hazardous Waste and Secure Shredding day will be held at Indian Creek Park on June 16th from 3 – 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a majority vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary