

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES
8100 JACKMAN ROAD, TEMPERANCE, MI 48182
April 6, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held through Microsoft Teams video-conferencing

PRESENT:

Paul Pirrone, Supervisor
Trudy Hershberger, Clerk
Krista Jandasek, Treasurer

Todd Bruning, Trustee
Craig Montri, Trustee
Rick Steiner, Trustee

ABSENT: Joe Gore, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Goldsmith, Township Attorney; Fire Chief Adam Massingill

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 Michigan State Trooper Herman Brown and Prayer led by Pastor Tim Loewe, Christ the King Lutheran Church.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

The March 16, 2021 Township Board Minutes;

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

PRESENTATIONS

SHERIFF TROY GOODNOUGH & UNDERSHERIFF JEFF PAULI PRESENTATION ON FIRST-QUARTER STATS, SPEED SIGNS, & A VIDEO-SURVEILLANCE CAMERA PROJECT – Sheriff Goodnough compared the first-quarter stats from 2021 against the first-quarter of 2020 to show the increased amount of activity by the deputies and to explain how the department is being more pro-active. He shared that since many complaints the Sheriff department receives are related to speed, he proposed possibly partnering with Bedford Township to purchase speed signs to place at major intersections. Pirrone mentioned the DDA is already considering pursuing them for the Secor/Sterns area. Lastly, Sheriff Goodnough spoke about traffic cameras which could catch information on every vehicle entering and leaving the Bedford jurisdiction to help solve crimes when the criminals are fleeing the area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jared Uckeke, 1424 Windham – spoke against the MCRC road improvement contract for Stonegate.

Cheryl Hill, 1398 Burrwood – asked Board to consider an ordinance regarding the discharge of firearms in certain areas.

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – spoke against the MCRC contracts on the agenda.

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

Ann Karmol, 1433 Tennyson – spoke to the MCRC contracts, Planning Commission appointment, and the Assessing job.

STAFF REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT & UPDATE – Chief Massingill shared that call volume was up for 2020, with Station 3 being the busiest. Approximately 75% of the calls were for EMS incidents and 3% for structure fires. He is proud to report that response time has continued to improve.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT BID FOR NEW ENGINE/TANKER – Massingill explained the three viable bids came in higher than projections and so he would like to negotiate design concessions to bring the cost down. The vehicle would be paid for in cash over two fiscal years. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bruning to accept the proposal from Fire Chief Massingill as he continues to negotiate with Spencer Manufacturing the design concessions to ensure the total cost of the apparatus does not exceed \$705,000.00. On a sidenote, the lowest bid was rejected due to the fact that they did not meet all the requirements of the bid. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Bruning, Montri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT THREE PART-TIME PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS & TO RESERVE TWO OTHER PART-TIME PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS – Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Jandasek to accept the proposal by Fire Chief Massingill to appoint three certified FF/EMTs: Jeremy Zientek, Chad Baughey II and Helen Moore and to hold two other future positions for Hunter Francis and Joshua Niederkohr, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Jandasek, Montri, Bruning, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE FIVE PARATECH LIFTING BAGS FROM APOLLO FIRE EQUIPMENT – Massingill explained the current bags range from 20 to 30 years old and the department has experienced some failures recently. Massingill would like to purchase this brand because then they can use Apollo Fire Equipment Company which provides maintenance on the other Fire Department equipment. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner to approve the purchase of five Paratech lifting bags from Apollo Fire Equipment at a cost of \$6,940.70 plus shipping, as recommended by Chief Massingill. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Jandasek, Montri, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION – Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Montri to appoint Matt Maraugh 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: Bruning, Steiner, Jandasek & Hershberger. Absent: Gore.

NEW BUSINESS

VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT- Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the following vouchers for payment: General Fund-\$289,632.12, Fire District-\$22,689.66, Police Fund-\$2,254.26, Park Fund-\$5,492.55, Fire Equipment-\$144,298.72, Transit System Fund-\$43,055.00, Library Operating Fund-\$12,914.96, Enchanted Forest Fund-\$70,471.00, Canterbury Forest Fund-\$21,514.00, Green Hills & Other Fund-\$132,600.00, Barbara Lee/Harmony-\$36,575.00, Downtown Dev. Authority-\$57,727.32, Sewer Operation & Main. Fund-\$453,669.94, & Trust and Agency Fund-\$563.51 for a total of \$1,293,458.04. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Montri, Steiner, Bruning & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

RECOMMENDED SALARY CHANGES FROM THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE – Bill Zeiler, Chair of the Compensation Commission shared the commission’s unanimous recommendations. After researching other Township’s wages and looking at the current financial climate, they recommended: no raise in salary for Township Park Board members over the next two fiscal years, no raise in salary for the Township Trustees over the next two years, no raise in salary for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer for the next fiscal year, but for the following fiscal year they recommended a 1.5% raise for the Supervisor and a 3.96% raise for the Clerk and Treasurer, as this will bring parity to these three positions. Motion was made by Bruning seconded by Steiner to accept the recommended salary changes from the Compensation Committee. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Montri, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: Pirrone. Absent: Gore. Pirrone voiced his opinion that no one should get a raise.

DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN RESOLUTIONS – Hershberger explained that the Sandywell SAD was accidentally missed at the last meeting, and that the State asked for a revised deficit elimination plan for Stonegate and Mildred Drive showing principal payment as Assessment Revenue versus Fund Balance Appropriated. Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek to approve the Sandywell Drive deficit elimination plan, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Bruning to approve the Stonegate subdivision deficit elimination plan, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Bruning, Jandasek, Montri, Steiner & Pirrone. Nays: none. Absent: Gore.

Motion was made by Hershberger, seconded by Jandasek, to approve the Mildred Avenue deficit elimination plan, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Hershberger, Jandasek, Steiner, Bruning, Montri & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

MONROE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION ROAD IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS – Pirrone explained that a few years ago the Township Board made a decision to do crack fills to help maintain roads which residents had already repaired with their own funding through a special assessment. Questions followed regarding two of the contracts, as the Stonegate subdivision was just done in 2020 and the Heights subdivision’s SAD was for drains. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Hershberger to approve the crack seal for the Chapel Creek subdivision in the amount of \$870.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Hershberger, Montri, Bruning, Steiner & Jandasek. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Steiner to deny the work for Stonegate and the Heights subdivision. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Steiner, Bruning, Montri, Jandasek & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

DISCUSSION ON USING A CONTRACTED HEAD ASSESSOR OR TO HIRE A FULL-TIME, IN-HOUSE HEAD ASSESSOR – Pirrone explained he spoke to Anthony Meyaard, President of Assessing Solutions after the last meeting to let him know he was only opposed to his firm because he was supporting the rehiring of Ms. Eichler. Mr. Meyaard agreed to allow the Board to reconsider his firm’s bid. Discussion followed regarding the different firms which applied. Montri expressed his opinion that using a firm would cost the Township more. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Steiner to enter into an agreement with Assessing Solutions, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Steiner, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: Montri. Absent: Gore.

APPROVAL TO BID OUT A NEW ROOF FOR BANNER OAK SCHOOL – Pirrone would like to bid out for a metal, galvanized roof. Currently, there is \$6,000.00 of grant money available for this project. Hershberger & Jandasek would like to make sure the historical integrity of the building is maintained. Motion was made by Bruning, seconded by Jandasek to table this item until more information can be collected from the Historical Society. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Bruning, Jandasek, Steiner & Hershberger. Nay: Montri & Pirrone. Absent: Gore.

DIRECTION ON WHETHER TO SELL OR KEEP THE 2010 FORD CROWN VICTORIA – This vehicle was used by the Ordinance department and is no longer needed. Motion was made by Steiner, seconded by Bruning to post the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria for bid with a minimum bid of \$2,000.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Steiner, Bruning, Montri, Jandasek, Hershberger & Pirrone. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

DIRECTION ON WHETHER TO SELL OR KEEP THE 2017 FORD EXPLORER – This vehicle is currently unsafe to drive and would cost about \$13,000.00 to repair. Motion was made by Pirrone, seconded by Bruning to sell the 2017 Ford Explorer. Pirrone will work on how much it is worth and bring it to the Clerk and Treasurer to agree on a starting bid. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Aye: Pirrone, Bruning, Jandasek, Steiner, Montri & Hershberger. Nay: none. Absent: Gore.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

LaMar Frederick, 3254 Deer Creek – pleased with Assessing firm the Board contracted with.

Josh Stump, 7136 Wiltshire – spoke to a compromise for the Planning Commission.

Gail Keane, 1056 W. Temperance – spoke to Banner Oak being a historical building and asked the Board to consider restarting a road committee.

REPORT FROM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Bruning – wished everyone a good night.

Steiner – mentioned that he and Mr. Gore met with the owner of Mulch King, the Planning department, the Township building inspector and the architect working with Mulch King and basically the architect mentioned Mulch King will either try to comply with the last site plan or go back to the BZA with the changes they would like see. He also investigated the problems mentioned at the last meeting regarding Unique Tool & Die and facilitated a meeting with them and the Supervisor; spoke to emails he and Gore received from a resident and stated he would never trade his vote for anything in return; and he was disappointed he was not included on an email sent out to the other Board members regarding the union grievance.

Hershberger – reminded voters about the May 4th election and if anyone would like an absentee ballot, they should contact her office; and mentioned that the new website recommended by the Communication Committee and approved by the Board is moving forward and should be ready to launch soon.

Montri – mentioned that he predicted the assessing situation two months ago and feels he was correct; and hopes the Board could meet together in the board room soon.

Goldsmith – Attorney Goldsmith responded. He stated that since the Monroe County Commissioners just implemented an Emergency Resolution for Monroe County for the next 90 days and with the Michigan Department of Health restrictions on indoor gatherings, he recommends the Board continue to meet remotely at this time. He then addressed the situation Steiner referred to with the emails sent by a resident.

Pirrone – questioned Hershberger as to why the Park Board has not been able to take park reservations through the website. Hershberger responded that it is being handled by Chas Mann

of the Park Board and she has not been involved in the process. Pirrone went on to mention that he is working with Unique Tool and Die on the issues with their building; apologized for missing Steiner's name on the email he sent out to Board members; he will try to get more information from the Historical Society for the replacement of the Banner Oak roof; informed residents that anyone over 25 without a degree can apply to attend Monroe Community College for tuition free schooling; mentioned that the DDA bought more banners and lights for decorations and is currently looking at installing speed signals, speed bumps, and street lights; and asked resident to remember to give donations to Animal Control or to the Humane Society.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Trudy L. Hershberger, CMC, CMMC
Bedford Township Clerk

Nancy Gin
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary