



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

January 9, 2020 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Rande Johnson, Supervisor; Joyce Feraco, Clerk; Chrisandra Dezotell, Treasurer; Joseph Cipic, Trustee; Connie Gibson, Trustee; Kraig Dingman, Trustee; Sally Shaw, Trustee.

4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 9, 2020 AGENDA

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, supported by Trustee Cipic, and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the January 9, 2020 agenda, as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 - Yes – Johnson, Feraco, Dezotell, Cipic, Dingman, Gibson, Shaw

0 - No

0 - Absent

Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2019 MINUTES

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, supported by Trustee Dingman, and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the December 12, 2019 minutes, as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 - Yes – Johnson, Feraco, Dezotell, Cipic, Dingman, Gibson, Shaw

0 - No

0 - Absent

Motion carried.

6. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Johnson gave a State of the Township address (see attached).

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – agenda items only

A citizen mentioned that the township has been opting out of Section 4 of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act since 2011 and questioned how it can be in the best interest of the township when it costs the taxpayers more money. Additionally, he stated that it is unheard of anymore to get fully paid health insurance. Supervisor Johnson and Trustee Gibson addressed the citizen to try to provide some clarity.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

DRAFT

9. COMMUNICATIONS – ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- Draft December 12, 2019 minutes
- Check register
- BCPD activity reports
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- Par Plan News
- Battle Creek Area Transportation Study

10. REPORTS

A. FINANCE

RES. 01/09/20/01

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, supported by Trustee Shaw, and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$491,419.16.

ROLL CALL

7 - Yes – Johnson, Feraco, Dezotell, Cipic, Dingman, Gibson, Shaw

0 - No

0 - Absent

Motion carried.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Officer Hopkins reviewed the activity reports and was available for questions from residents.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger gave a summary of the fire and medical runs the department responded to in 2019. He also gave some insight into his budgeting process.

C. BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Kevin Dezotell – no report

D. BUILDING OFFICIAL – Mark Hires – no report

E. BLIGHT OFFICER – Bill Scutt – no report

F. CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION – Barry Beamish – Invited citizens to the Planning Commission meeting on January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

G. LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Special Assistant Attorney General Michelle Richardson was in attendance. She introduced herself and announced she would be running for District Court Judge to replace Judge Line, who is retiring. She said she would stay until the end of the meeting for any citizens who would like to speak with her.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 01/09/20/02

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, supported by Trustee Cipcic, and resolved by the Board of Trustees of The Charter Township of Bedford to opt out of Section 4 of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act.

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, 2011 PA 152 (MCL 15.561, et seq.), was signed into law on September 28, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Act limits the amount that a public employer, such as a Township, may pay for employee and public official healthcare costs, and

WHEREAS, the Act provides that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford may exempt the Township from the requirements of the Act for the next succeeding year, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to exempt the Township from the requirements of the Act,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford that the Township shall be exempt from the requirements of the Act for the year 2020.

ROLL CALL

4 - Yes – Johnson, Cipcic, Gibson, Shaw

2 - No – Feraco, Dingman

1 - Abstain – Dezotell

0 - Absent

Motion carried.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

A citizen stated that the Fire Department should not feel like they are being attacked, but the board should as it has not held the Fire Department accountable for a strategic plan. There was discussion about forming a Citizen's Committee to help with the process. Supervisor Johnson stated that it sounded like a good idea and three residents volunteered.

A resident gave some interesting historical perspective on the Charter Township of Bedford.

A citizen brought up that January is Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. She would like to put on a workshop on this very important topic, perhaps to coincide with the Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast.

A resident asked if we pay for medical supplies that are used on medical calls. Fire Captain Matt Godde responded that the supplies are restocked by the ambulance.

14. TRUSTEES’ PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Gibson reminded everyone that it is an election year and any resident who is a registered voter can run for office. The current board is not perfect but they are always willing to learn.

Trustee Shaw thanked the fire department for running medical calls as they recently responded to a call from a township employee who was in distress.

Trustee Dingman explained why he voted no on RES. 01/09/20/02.

15. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Clerk Feraco stated she voted no on RES. 01/09/20/02 for the same reason as Trustee Dingman.

Supervisor Johnson spoke about how the Area Metropolitan Services Agency (AMSA) charges for calls and that he believes we are being double-charged. He plans to look into it.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. The next Board meeting is February 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Randolph Johnson, Supervisor

Joyce Feraco, Clerk