



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

February 8, 2022 - 7:00 PM

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER- 7:01pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

4. ROLL CALL

William Scutt, Supervisor; Joyce Feraco, Clerk; Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Kraig Dingman, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Joni Jones, Trustee.

5. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2022 AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the February 8, 2022 agenda, as submitted/amended.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 MINUTES

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Beamish and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried.

7. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Scutt spoke of the meeting that Clerk Feraco and he attended with the BCPD. There are services available to people in need. Senator Bizon reached out to us to ask us to support the clean water project bill Senate Bill 565. We need concrete removed from the creek at Skeet Gehrman Park. Supervisor Scutt also reminded everyone to access the free Covid- 19 tests offered by the federal government.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A resident spoke of the fire department action plan for Capital Improvement Plan.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- February 8, 2022 agenda
- Draft January 11, 2022 minutes
- January 2022 check disbursement reports

- January 2022 check register
- Year-to-date budget report
- BCPD activity reports
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- CEI sewer concept reports
- Planning Commission recommendation report for Midwest V LLC.
- Siegfried Crandall Audit Letter

10. REPORTS

A. FINANCE

RES. 2/08/22/08

Moved by Trustee Hires, supported by Treasurer Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$240,263.40

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

CEI- Kevin Hale spoke of the project of water sewer noting problems on River Road and the Romans Drain in the Wellington neighborhood. Pfas testing was noted as a problem in our township. Hale indicated that there are multiple ways of generating revenues for the project.

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Officer LaValley said we are able to call the BCPD lobby and ask for additional drive by from officers if you are going to be away from your home for a long period of time. Certain areas have mailboxes being stolen and that license plates are being removed from cars. There was a homicide in our township. She noted to be mindful of your neighbors and if you see something say something.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger said that there were 88 medical calls in January. 100 calls for the month in total. The Chief gave some details of the most recent fire.

C. BUILDING OFFICIAL – Trustee Mark Hires said that the department has slowed down. It won't pick up until March.

D. BLIGHT OFFICER – Code Inspection Officer Mike Savio reported that he is working on 42 violations and has sent many letters in which to follow up. He also stated that he is enrolled in a certified course for home inspections.

E. PLANNING COMMISSION – Trustee Barry Beamish reported the update of a conditional use permit. The result is a rezoning request from residential property to become commercial. He noted Chairperson Greenwood did a fantastic job aligning the rezoning request with the master plan. Chairperson Greenwood has sent a request for proposal request to 32 firms in order to receive multiple qualified bids for the master plan. He noted that the new members on the planning commission are professional and they, along with Stacy Greenwood, are a huge asset to our community.

F. LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS- Representative Haadsma informed us about the senate appropriation bill to assist police officers and teachers. He promised to review Senate Bill 565 and consider supporting it. Trustee Jones updated Representative Haadsma on the status of the eye sore gas station Logan’s Gas and Deli property on West Michigan. He vowed to make some phone calls to the land bank to help move it along.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 2/08/22/09

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to change the time of the Bedford Charter Township Monthly Board meetings to 6:30pm from the current 7:00pm. meeting time.

Discussion ensued

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Hires to amend **RES. 2/08/22/09** to include a two-month trial period

Motion to vote on resolution as amended.

ROLL CALL

6- Yes- Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Dingman, Hires, Jones

1- No- Beamish

Motion Carried

RES. 2/08/22/10

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Hires and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve rezoning request by Midwest V, LLC from low density residential to commercial as recommended by the Charter Township of Bedford Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried.

RES. 2/08/22/11

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to authorize Supervisor Scutt to accept the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Local Millage Distribution for 2022 in the amount of \$26,960.51. These millage funds, which were approved by the taxpayers on August 4, 2020, will be used for the purpose of maintaining, operating, preserving, acquiring, and developing our parks.

Discussion ensued

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried

RES. 2/08/22/12

Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford Motion to appoint Trustee Joni Jones as the alternate liaison to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals

This motion was removed from the agenda.

RES. 02/08/22/13

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to adopt the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test:

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.7u, states that the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, a Township Board is required by MCL 211.7u to adopt guidelines for the poverty exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that the Charter Township of Bedford, Calhoun County, adopts the following guidelines for the Supervisor and Board of Review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household.

To be eligible for exemption under this section, a person must do all of the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. The person shall affirm this ownership and occupancy status in writing by filing a form prescribed by the state tax commission with the local assessing unit.
- 2) File a claim with the Board of Review on a form prescribed by the state tax commission and provided by the local assessing unit, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this
- 3) section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year, and an affidavit in a form prescribed by the state tax commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return.
- 4) Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.
- 5) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the Supervisor or Board of Review.

- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

Discussion ensued

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes – Scutt, Feraco, Miller, Beamish, Dingman, Hires, Jones

0 – No

Motion carried.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

One resident asked for rewording of re-zoning. He also asked that the addresses be listed and given to the public. Discussion ensued. The packet was on the website for review.

Another citizen asked if qualified veterans were exempt on the property tax. Discussion ensued about the information available on county website.

A resident specified details on the pfas concerns and testing. He was encouraged that water and sewer will be expanded to the township

14. TRUSTEES' PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Hires concurred that pfas was a large public concern and every home in the nation is affected by pfas.

Trustee Jones spoke of the First Responders grant with the firefighters and the developments. Our grant assistant is working hard on exploring more opportunities to pursue.

Trustee Beamish brought up the conditions of specific roads. He also confirmed the changes that the county made regarding their schedule of roads getting repaired this year.

Trustee Dingman detailed the caution of crime in our neighborhoods.

Treasurer Miller added that she has been working on the taxes which are due soon.

Clerk Feraco stated that we have two May elections- both Hastings Schools and Gull Lake schools have requested to be placed on the May ballot. She added that the surveys are coming in and changes are being made and that all suggestions are welcomed.

Supervisor Scutt Read-In the changes of the Recreational Use Marijuana Ordinances that will be voted on at next month's meeting.

15. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

16. ADJOURNMENT 8:03 pm

Next Board meeting is March 8, 2022 at 6:30pm