



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD  
115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, Mi 49037  
January 12, 2023 – 7:00 PM  
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

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**1. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM**

**2. MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

Joni Jones, Supervisor; Joyce Feraco, Clerk; Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee;  
Kraig Dingman, Trustee-absent; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee.  
7 Present

**5. APPROVAL OF January 12, 2023 AGENDA**

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Trustee Beamish to approve the January 12, 2023 agenda, as submitted.

**ROLL CALL**

7 Yes  
Motion Carried

**6. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2022 MINUTES**

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Beamish to approve the December 8, 2022 minutes as submitted.

**ROLL CALL**

7 Yes  
Motion Carried

**7. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Trustee Dingman to approve the January 3, 2023 Special Meeting minutes as submitted.

**ROLL CALL**

7 Yes  
Motion Carried

**8. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman to approve the January 3, 2023 Closed Session minutes as submitted.

## **ROLL CALL**

7 Yes

Motion Carried

### **9. PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items only)**

- A resident expressed dissatisfaction with the Board related to two resolutions on the agenda.
- A resident expressed that the Board and Supervisor are “tyrannical.”
- A resident expressed dissatisfaction with the Board related to one resolution on the agenda.

### **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Draft December 8, 2022 Board Meeting minutes
- Draft January 3, 2023 Special Meeting minutes
- December check disbursement reports
- December check register
- Budget report through December 31, 2022 (end of fiscal year)
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- BCPD Reports
- Resolution Authorizing Publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Capital Bonds
- Appreciation Letter – Evolution Grow

### **11. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Randy Ramsey, Senior Engineer from CEI, gave an update on the River Road Water Project including a tentative timeline and answered questions from Board and citizens in attendance.

### **12. REPORTS**

#### **A. FINANCE**

##### **RES. 1/12/23/01**

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Hires to approve payment of expenses totaling \$349,081.48.

## **ROLL CALL**

7 Yes

Motion Carried

#### **B. PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

**POLICE** Officer LaValley provided an update on last month’s arrests and calls for service.

**FIRE** Chief Cochensparger reported that there were 1,082 runs for 2022 and 803 of those were medical calls.

**C. BUILDING OFFICIAL** Trustee Hires reported that things have slowed down for the winter but there has been some new home construction recently due to the warmer than usual weather.

**D. BUILDING & ZONING** No report.

- E. ASSESSOR** No report. (Will speak on Proposal A next month.)
- F. BLIGHT OFFICIAL** Mike Savio reported about a home that was
- G. PLANNING COMMISSION** Trustee Beamish reported that the next meeting is scheduled for January 24 at 6:30 at which time officers will be elected. Solar ordinance is under review.
- H. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** Danielle Zoellner provided an update regarding Parks & Recreation activities and plans. (Report on file.)
- I. LEGISLATIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**  
Representative Haadsma gave a report on the beginning of the 102<sup>nd</sup> State Legislative Session. He will be serving on the following committees: Labor, Administrative Rules and Health Policy. Commissioner Steve Frisbie reported that the County Commission held its organizational meeting on January 5 and Kathy-Sue Vette was elected Chair and he will serve as Vice Chair.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Clerk Feraco and Trustee Hires provided an update on the advertisement and applications received for the Superintendent position. Tentative plan is to hold public interviews in early February.

**14. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS**

**RES. 1/12/23/02**

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Trustee Hires to authorize publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds and Declaring Intent to Reimburse (DWSRF Bonds).

**ROLL CALL**

7 Yes  
Motion Carried

**RES. 1/12/23/03**

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman to reappoint Karren Scullion and Stasia Thorson to the Zoning Board of Appeals with terms expiring on December 31, 2025

**ROLL CALL**

7 Yes  
Motion Carried

**RES. 1/12/23/04**

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Hires to indemnify Trustee Kraig Dingman for criminal defense attorney expenses up to \$6,000.

**ROLL CALL**

5 Yes  
1 No  
1 Abstain  
Motion Carried

## 15. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Three residents expressed displeasure with the Board's approval of indemnification of Trustee Dingman.
- One citizen requested that a sound system be used so that those in the back could hear better.
- A citizen thanked the Board for all of its work in 2022.
- A citizen from Marshall inquired about the process for learning which homes in the township may be available for renovation secondary to blight status.
- A citizen thanked the Board for its vote approving the indemnification of Trustee Dingman and stated that without such representation, there will be few citizens who are willing to serve.
- A citizen spoke in approval of the vote to indemnify and stated that this is a vote for representation, not one about guilt or innocence. He also stated that the Board members are entitled to their feelings about what has been happening.
- A citizen expressed his appreciation to the Board for its work and stated that he understands that it has not been easy but that the Board is doing a good job and to keep it up.

## 16. TRUSTEES' PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

- Trustee Dingman – No comment.
- Trustee Beamish – No comment.
- Trustee Greenwood – Stated that the Assessor will be retiring in December 2023 and the Board will be planning for replacement in the upcoming months.
- Trustee Hires – No comment.

## 17. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON, OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

- Clerk Feraco – No comment.
- Treasurer Miller – No comment.

## 18. SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENT

- Supervisor Jones –
  - Explained that the purpose of the Township Facebook page is to push out announcements and reminders to Bedford residents.
  - Reported that many FOIAs have been received by the Clerk's office by two individuals. The Clerk follows the FOIA policy and provides records in her possession.
  - The City of Battle Creek Clean Water Partners is doing the Annual Rain Barrel Sale. Flyers for ordering the barrels are available on the table in the lobby.

## 19. ADJOURNMENT at 8:36 PM.

**\*Next Board Meeting – February 9, 2023.**

  
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Joni Jones, Supervisor

  
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Joyce Feraco, Clerk