



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD
115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, Mi 49037
September 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

- 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; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee.

- 5. APPROVAL OF September 8, 2022 AGENDA**

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

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

- 6. APPROVAL OF THE August 18, 2022 MINUTES**

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

- 7. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS**

Supervisor Jones updated the community on current events in the township. The Supervisor has received RFP for IT services from three companies so far. There is one more company that has requested to submit a bid. Residents have been asking for recycling and after receiving a several bids, Republic was selected to provide this service. Also, the Township website will be updated to a more user-friendly format by our currently contracted web design company, Revize. This will be a 6–7-month process. Supervisor Jones reminded attendees about the adopted rules for comments and decorum.

- 8. PUBLIC COMMENT (on agenda items only)**

A resident asked about job requirements for Superintendent or Manager. He also inquired as to the number of residents who have been affected by PFAS water contamination on River Road. He expressed his

approval for the Parks and Rec committee.

Another resident stated that he is not in favor of the Superintendent model of township governance.

Meeting was recessed at 7:12 PM
Meeting resumed at 7:29 PM

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- Draft August 18, 2022 minutes
- August check disbursement reports
- August check register
- Budget report through August 31, 2022
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- BCPD Reports
- Life Care Contract
- 1102 River Rd. W. Conditional Use Permit Application
- Superintendent-Manager Memo from Attorney

10. REPORTS

A. FINANCE

RES. 09/08/22/59

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Greenwood and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$370,716.34.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

B. PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

POLICE Officer Matthews presented the data for calls by count and type. Animal calls are on the rise. There were 393 calls for service in the month of August.

FIRE Chief Cochensparger reported the amount of medical calls vs. fire calls. The department is likely to meet last year's total of 1000 medical calls by year's end.

C. BUILDING OFFICIAL Mark Hires stated that building inspections are up. There are a significant number of commercial and residential builds and improvements.

D. BUILDING & ZONING Kara Daugherty added that there have been a few conditional-use permits lately, and some property variance requests. She also explained the BSA online changes and improvements to the computer systems.

E. ASSESSOR No report.

F. BLIGHT OFFICIAL The Supervisor read Mike Savio's report. A few court-ordered clean ups have been completed. He has closed 19 blight complaints. The neighboring residents are thankful for the improvements.

G. PLANNING COMMISSION Trustee Beamish, liaison to the Planning Commission, reported that the PC is working on a project with Evolution Grow. Also there has been more work on Master Plan with the assistance of McKenna.

H. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tawney Wolters described the planning for the Bedford Fall Festival and Parade which will occur on October 22, 2022. The committee is still reviewing the surveys that were included in the summer tax bills.

I. LEGISLATIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Commissioner Frisbie reported budget planning has begun. He referenced the budget gaps but that departments are all working to trim expenditures where possible. The county is providing a mobile recycling unit that will be rotating in the county. If our township is able to be included in this rotation cycle, this will supplement our own recycling efforts. Commissioner Frisbie discussed Ardmoor Park and the changes in responsibility for maintenance and the desire to work together to find a solution.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board discussed the Superintendent/Manager model for Michigan township governance. Attorney Seth Koches presented the Board with details surrounding the Superintendent or Manager role and answered Board questions.

12. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 09/08/22/60

Moved by Trustee Hires, supported by Trustee Beamish and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to establish millage at .8604 for General Operating on all property within the Charter Township of Bedford. In addition, the Clerk is to notify the Assessor by September 30, 2022, to levy and spread for General Operations. The millage will generate approximately \$187,343.46 for the year 2022.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

RES. 09/08/22/61

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Treasurer Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to establish a Fire Department millage at 1.9450 which was voted on 8/7/2018 for Fire Operating on all property within the Charter Township of Bedford. In addition, the Clerk is to notify the Assessor by September 30, 2022, to levy and spread for Fire Operations. The millage will generate approximately \$423,504.24 for the year 2022.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

RES. 09/08/22/62

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to hire Jason Rhodes for full-time building/grounds maintenance of township properties beginning September 15, 2022 for a salary of \$37,500 plus

benefits. (Performance will be evaluated in 90 days post-hire.)

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

RES. 09/08/22/63

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 1102 River Road W. as a Medical and Recreational Processing Facility. This will allow all operations in one central location.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

RES. 09/08/22/64

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Beamish and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to accept the contract with Life Care Ambulance as attached.

ROLL CALL

7- Yes

Motion Approved

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

A long- term resident noted the need for road maintenance funding. She believes that we need to start considering this now because repairing is much less expensive than replacing.

Commissioner Frisbie expressed support of the comments concerning road funding consideration. He discussed the "Miles for Memories" volunteer organization and its efforts to support individuals and families dealing with dementia in the community.

One citizen outlined his requirements for hiring our own police and rescue staff in the future. He also expressed concern about the River Road Water Project and it's funding.

A resident expressed her displeasure with the BC Police Department.

Another resident asked questions about building permits and special assessments.

A business owner added that she would like to see more businesses move into the township.

One life-long resident approves of consideration of the Superintendent model. He reminded the Board that there have been four Supervisors in six years and it is an elected position with a four-year term. He also stated that the County Road Department needs to spread out the tree trimming over the entire township for safety reasons rather than to be focused so heavily on Meachem Road.

A resident expressed that he believes that the meetings of the Board and committees lack structure. He stated that he made positive changes while he was serving. He also raised concerns over the lack of videotaping the meetings.

14. TRUSTEES' PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Dingman said he is ready to move forward with next steps in the process of growth and development to the Township. He stated that the Board has been considering the Superintendent/Manager Model for years now.

Trustee Beamish presented a timeline and facts related to the former supervisor's retirement.

Trustee Hires stated that this Board wants to move forward and appreciates comments from everyone.

Trustee Greenwood spoke of the marijuana excise tax money and license fees. She addressed the concern expressed by a few present related to transparency and encouraged individuals to offer solutions.

15. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON, OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Clerk Feraco informed the Board and public that the text messages communication for township announcements has been canceled for lack of participation. She discussed the Parks and Rec survey. The vandalism at the parks continues in spite of all of the hard work and efforts. Dead trees are being removed from the Bedford cemetery. The Fire dept Spaghetti dinner is October 15, 2022.

Treasurer Miller stated that the tax payments were at about 80% paid. The last day to pay your taxes without penalty is September 14, 2022.

16. SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor Jones announced that the Township has been informed that the Riverside Road Water Project (water main extension) has been approved for 100% funding via the Emerging Contaminants Fund of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. She also stated that EGLE is being engaged for a pre-application meeting to look at the silt diverters in Skeets Gehrman Park and suggest what would be allowed in terms of their removal in order to stop increasing erosion and loss of park land.

17. ADJOURNMENT 9:06 PM

***Next Board Meeting – October 13, 2022.**

Joni Jones, Supervisor

Joyce Feraco, Clerk