



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

March 8, 2022 – 6:30 PM

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:30 pm

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
(absent).

5. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2022 AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL

6 Yes

1- Absent -Jones

Motion Carried

6. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2022 MINUTES

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Treasurer Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes, as submitted.

ROLL CALL

6 Yes

1- Absent -Jones

Motion Carried

7. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Scutt addressed the situation over a “snow day” last month. The Supervisor commended Mike Savio on a job well done in regards to blight success, and the Planning Commission and Parks and Recs committees for their hard work. He updated us on the proposed property acquisition in the area of the Bedford Mill and assistance from Brian Wensauer of the county. He brought us up to speed on the progress of the gas station at Custer Rd and West Michigan. The county weight load enforcement is back on for the springtime and there is no enforcement currently. He also spoke of the cost of repairs for county roads and the amended repair schedules and matching funds for projects.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2022 MNRTF GRANT APPLICATION AND THE 2022 PASSPORT GRANT APPLICATION.

Open public hearing at 6:38 pm

Discussion ensued.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2022 MNRTF GRANT APPLICATION AND THE 2022 PASSPORT GRANT APPLICATION ONLY- none

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2022 MNTRF GRANT APPLICATION AND THE 2022 PASSPORT GRANT APPLICATION.

Closed public hearing at 6:39 pm

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A resident expressed concern regarding the blight officer and code enforcement process. Another citizen reiterated the first resident’s blight concerns. He also added that he would like to see notices of open positions for employment/ and committees within the township.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- Draft February 8, 2022 minutes
- February check disbursement reports
- February check register
- Year-to-date budget report
- BCPD activity reports
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports

11. REPORTS

A. FINANCE

RES. 3/8/22/14

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Treasurer Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$869,899.10.

ROLL CALL

6- Yes

1- Absent -Jones

Motion Carried

B. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Officer LaValley spoke about crimes of breaking and entering. Thefts and property damages have occurred in our area. Fraud events have decreased. Domestic occurrences and well checks/ suicides are on the rise.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger added that medicals are still accounting for the majority of the calls that his department is receiving. Chief warned of springtime burns getting out of hand due to the wind. He also spoke of upcoming events- Spring cleanup May 7th, 2022 8a- noon. The key speaker for Coffee and Conversation Michael Delaware will be here on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 9 am. Lastly, the Annual Fire Department Pancake Breakfast will be held in May.

C. BUILDING OFFICIAL – Trustee Mark Hires detailed the follow-up with final inspections that are being followed now. Closing out permits is what the department is working on now before the season gets busy.

D. BLIGHT OFFICER – Code Inspection Officer Mike Savio presented to us the blight process of the letter, citation, and court date follow-up that he has implemented. He adds that there are volunteer groups available to assist in some cases.

E. PLANNING COMMISSION – Chairperson Stacy Greenwood was not present. Trustee Beamish outlined some new updates of by-laws, the adoption of Roberts Rules of Order, and a new attendance policy that the Planning Commission will adopt. Ms. Greenwood will present at the next Township Board Meeting in April.

F. LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Commissioner Steve Frisbee spoke of the county-wide implementation of the messaging system called RAVE. Rave can provide real-time weather updates.

Frisbee also educated us on the Specialty Courts. This court system has had positive effects on its graduates and our community as a whole.

He then spoke of road improvements, crosswalks- sidewalks, and the high costs of road repairs.

Prosecutor Dave Gilbert was available to update us on the county prosecutor’s office. The court system is back to performing jury trials. There was a slow down during Covid- 19 so the backlog remains. The office is busy but catching up. He also mentioned specialty courts and the advantages it provides to our citizens. Violent crimes increased and property crimes decreased.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 3/8/22/15

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Supervisor Scutt and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to appoint Tyler Phares to the Parks and Recreation committee.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes

Motion Carried

RES. 3/8/22/16

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Trustee Beamish and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve amending section 9 of ordinance number 10/14/21/65 which was read in on 2.8.2022.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes

Motion Carried

RES. 3/8/22/17

Moved by Trustee Beamish, supported by Trustee Hires and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve amending section 6 of ordinance number 2/08/18/06 which was read in on 2.8.2022.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes
Motion Carried

RES. 3/8/22/18

Moved by Trustee Dingman, supported by Treasurer Miller and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township to appoint Anthony Roller to the Zoning Board of Appeals committee.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes
Motion Carried

RES 3/8/22/19

Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to authorize submission of a Michigan Passport Grant Program Application for \$50,500.00, and further resolved to make available its financial obligation amount of \$17,000.00 of a total \$67,500.00 project cost, during the 2022-2024 fiscal year.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes
Motion Carried

RES 3/8/22/20

Moved by Treasurer Miller, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to authorize submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Program Application for \$150,000.00 and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$60,000.00 of a total \$210,000.00 project cost, during the 2022-2024 fiscal year.

VOICE VOTE

6- Ayes
Motion Carried

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

15. TRUSTEES' PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Hires asked for prayers for Ukraine.

Trustee Dingman reiterated prayers for Ukraine. He thanked Prosecutor Gilbert for being present in his office every day during Covid-19. The Prosecutor was still working on cases throughout the time frame when face-to-face contact was prohibited.

Trustee Beamish asked for a posterboard in the Township Office so that the public could see what positions and committees are open and available. He also asked if any fire trucks have been listed for sale or sold.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Clerk Feraco informed the voters in the Gull Lake school district will have an election on May 3, 2022. The Township cleanup will be Saturday, May 7, 2022. The pancake breakfast is Saturday, May 14, 2022. Mike Delaware will be speaking at Coffee and Conversation on March 16, 2022. Kevin Dezotell is retiring after 45 years as the Cemetery Sexton. His retirement party is being held April 6, 2022. She also showed us our new logo.

Treasurer Miller addressed the snow day issue. She said that the majority of the Township residents paid their taxes and the remaining ones are being sent to the county.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

The next Board meeting is April 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.