



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD
115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037
May 18, 2023 – 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; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee.

7 – Present

5. APPROVAL OF MAY 18, 2023 AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Dingman supported by Trustee Hires to approve the May 18, 2023 agenda as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes

Motion carried

6. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Trustee Greenwood supported by Trustee Beamish to approve the April 13, 2023 Board Meeting minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes

Motion carried

7. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2023 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Minutes distributed by Clerk Feraco and reviewed by members. Moved by Trustee Greenwood supported by Trustee Dingman to approve the April 13, 2023 closed session minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes

Motion carried

8. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 19, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (FOIA Appeal)

Moved by Trustee Beamish supported by Treasurer Miller to approve the April 19, 2023 Special Meeting minutes as submitted.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes

Motion carried

9. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

- Environmental work is being done at the condemned gas station on W. Michigan Ave. and bids are out for demolition per the Calhoun County Land Bank. Funding is provided through grant dollars awarded to the CCLB via the State Blight Elimination Grant.
- River Road Water Project continues to be on track. The required EGLE Part 1 & 2 application forms were submitted on May 15. (Part 3 is due by July 5.)
- We will be receiving a letter of agreement from Maner Costerisan for a financial process review of the Township's current practices and recommendations for necessary changes.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Two citizens spoke about published minutes and their dissatisfaction with what is and is not recorded in them.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- Draft April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Draft April 19, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- April check disbursement reports
- April check register
- Budget report through April 30, 2023
- Budget Expenditure & Revenue report through April 30, 2023
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- BCPD Reports
- Bedford Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Documents

12. REPORTS

A. FINANCE RES. 05/18/23/21

Moved by Trustee Hires, supported by Trustee Greenwood and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$191,870.91.

ROLL CALL

7 – Yes

Motion carried

B. PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

POLICE - Officer LaValley provided an overview of monthly activity. (Report on file.)

FIRE Chief Cochensparger provided an overview of calls for the month. (Report on file.)

Pancake Breakfast will be in June, specific date to be determined.

C. SUPERINTENDENT (Excused absence)

D. BUILDING OFFICIAL Mark Hires reported that permits continue to be slower than usual for this time of year. There were 41 total permits and 15 building permits for the month. Provided an overview on the purpose of AMSA and announced that the City of BC has withdrawn from this association.

E. BUILDING & ZONING Supervisor Jones provided a report for Jason Ughetti (absent) stating that \$2,765.00 was received for 15 building permits in April.

F. BLIGHT OFFICIAL No report.

G. ASSESSOR No report.

H. PLANNING COMMISSION Chair Mike Staib reported that the next meeting will be Tuesday, May 23 during which a public hearing for revisions of the solar ordinance will take place. Final changes to the Master Plan are being drafted. The Master Plan should be presented to the Board in June and then the 63 day review period will begin. The revised solar ordinance should be to the Board in July, after review by the County. Chair Staib stated that McKenna will be doing a training session for PC and ZBA members in the future and will let the Board know when the date is established. (Board members may also choose to attend.)

I. PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Chair Danielle Zoellner presented an overview of planning and conceptual designs for our parks. She discussed the Sparks grant application that is due in mid-June. Three bids for picnic tables and trash receptacles for Skeets Gehrman Park were presented and discussed.

J. LEGISLATIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS Commissioner Steve Frisbie was not in attendance, however, sent a report stating that pothole patching is in full swing and the parks allocation have been made.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Rental Ordinance Amendment:** Will be presented for “read in” at June meeting. Trustee Greenwood stated that there are revisions being made related to enforcement and mechanisms for updating landlord contact information.
- **County-Wide Transit Authority:** Supervisor Jones reported that this proposal has been put on hold by the County at this time.

14. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

- **DISCUSSION** - Development of policy for deputies’ duties.

Discussed the need for the offices of Clerk and Treasurer to be open when the elected official is gone and clarified that this is intended to be the primary purpose of the deputy. Other duties for deputy clerk and deputy treasurer, outside of the statutory duties of the elected official are subject to approval by the Board in conjunction with the elected official. Attorney Koches suggested that a listing of these responsibilities should be compiled for each office. Supervisor Jones requested that Clerk Feraco and Treasurer Miller provide these to the Board prior to the next regular meeting.

RES. 05/18/23/22

Moved by Trustee Greenwood, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to appoint the following individuals to the Roads Advisory Committee: Mike Staib (liaison from Planning Commission), Mark Hires (liaison from Board), Scott Carr, Kevin Davis, and Tim Kuker.

ROLL CALL

7– Yes

Motion carried

RES. 05/18/23/23

Moved by Trustee Dingman supported by Trustee Beamish and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to appoint Joe Zima to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

ROLL CALL

7– Yes

Motion carried

RES. 05/18/23/24

Moved by Trustee Hires, supported by Trustee Greenwood and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the expenditure of up to \$16,000 for picnic tables and trash bins for Skeets Gehrman Park using a portion of the Parks & Rec County Millage allocation.

***DISCUSSION** - Clerk Feraco stated that having so few tables under the pavilion could be a problem for those who are renting the park for parties, etc. Stated that she would like to see some tables set out at various places throughout the park. Suggestion made to purchase three additional tables. Clerk Feraco offered amendment to original motion for expenditure to be changed to “up to \$20,000” for the addition of the extra tables. Second by Trustee Greenwood.

ROLL CALL

5 – Yes (Jones, Feraco, Greenwood, Miller, Hires)

2 – No (Beamish, Dingman)

Motion carried

AMENDED MOTION: Moved by Treasurer Miller, supported by Trustee Greenwood to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for picnic tables and trash bins for Skeets Gehrman Park using a portion of the Parks & Rec County Millage allocation.

ROLL CALL

7– Yes

Motion carried

RES. 05/18/23/25

Moved by Trustee Hires, supported by Trustee Dingman and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to begin advertising for the Assessor position in preparation for the retirement of current Assessor Foondle.

7 – Yes

Motion carried

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A resident stated that the meeting was too long and the P & R presentation should have been shorter. He stated that the change in meeting date was not properly announced. Suggested using a parliamentarian.
- A resident stated that the debris on adjacent property remains and that he has not been taken seriously. He also stated that a bomb had been placed in his yard. (Supervisor Jones informed him that the property owner contacted her and that he is having a dumpster delivered next week and the area will be cleaned up by the end of the month.)
- A resident spoke about the centralized control of AMSA and that it is all about control. Expressed belief that costs are higher due to AMSA. Stated that the Supervisor and Board lies.
- A resident hopes the Board will follow the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- Parks Committee Chair thanked the Board for approval of expenditure and apologized for length of presentation, stating that she had been asked to limit the presentation to 15 minutes.
- A resident stated that plans other than just the City of BC should have been acquired for the water project. Believes that the Township is doing a no-bid contract. Expressed overall displeasure with the Board.

16. TRUSTEES’ PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

- Trustee Beamish - No comment.
- Trustee Dingman – Thanked the Parks & Rec Chair for the presentation and expressed his appreciation.
- Trustee Hires – Expressed appreciation to the Parks & Rec Chair.
- Trustee Greenwood – Also thanked P & R Chair for the presentation. Reminded those in attendance that the Township has always had police presence at meetings and this is not new, nor are the rules for public comment. Reminded residents who have chickens that they must be kept in pens.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON, OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

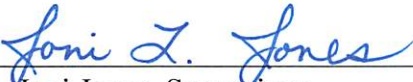
- Clerk Feraco - Reminded citizens about the upcoming Spring Clean-up this Saturday, the Lion's Club Chicken Dinner on May 20 and the August 8 election for Gull Lake Schools.
- Treasurer Miller - Presented treasury report to the Board. (Report on file.) Thanked P & R Chair for the presentation.

18. SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Jones stated that the CEI contract for consulting work was signed years ago by a previous Supervisor and they have worked as our consultants on water and sewer since then. As such, CEI drafted the grant application for the Township for the DWSRF, for which we received 100% loan forgiveness (including interest). She reminded individuals of the timeline of the DWSRF and that the publication of bid advertisement would be done next week . She reminded residents that the minutes are primarily intended to be a record of Board actions. She also stated that the rules for public comment are intended to maintain order at the meetings so that all individuals feel free to speak.

19. ADJOURNMENT at 9:07 PM

**Next Board Meeting .- June 8, 2023.*



Joni Jones, Supervisor



Joyce Feraco, Clerk