



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD  
115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037  
OCTOBER 12, 2023 -7:00 PM  
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER 7:04 PM**

• **MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

• **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Motion made by Trustee Beamish, Supported by Trustee Hires to appoint Trustee Beamish to serve as Chair for the duration of the meeting and Trustee Greenwood to take meeting minutes in the absence of Clerk Feraco.

**ROLL CALL**

4-Yes

Excused- Trustee Dingman, Clerk Feraco

Motion Carried

• **ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee.  
Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman, Trustee (Excused)  
Quorum Present.

• **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Trustee Beamish, Supported by Trustee Hires to approve the agenda as proposed.

Friendly amendment by Trustee Beamish, Supported by Treasurer Miller, to add the Treasurer's report to communications and an additional resolution documented as 10/12/23/58 for public record. Formal written clarification to be addressed during proposed additional agenda item. Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the October 12, 2023, agenda, as amended.

**ROLL CALL Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman (Excused).**

**4-Yes**

**2-Excused**

**Motion Carried**

• **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Beamish, Supported by Treasurer Miller: Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes, as submitted.

**ROLL CALL Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman, Trustee (Excused).**

**4-Yes**

**2-Excused**

**Motion Carried**

- **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Agenda items only)
- Two residents spoke of the Master Plan and a lack of attendance. A concern was expressed of the Master Plan being approved without all board members present.
- One resident brought up Superintendent salary not being a designated line item in the budget report and asked the Treasurer to keep this in mind moving forward.
- A request was made for the first public comment to be changed to open public comment and not restricted to agenda items only.

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Draft September 14, 2023, Board Meeting minutes
- September check disbursement report
- September check register
- Budget report through September 30, 2023
- Bedford Fire Department activity reports
- BCPD Reports
- Superintendent Action Plan – Monthly Report
- Treasurer’s Report (added) -Treasurer Miller went over funds in the General Account in order to develop an appropriate plan of action to move forward.

- **REPORTS**

- **FINANCE RES. 10/12/23/56**

Moved by Trustee Hires: Supported by Treasurer Miller. Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$269,321.05.

**ROLL CALL Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman, Trustee (Excused).**

**4-Yes**

**2-Excused**

**Motion Carried**

- **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY**

**POLICE** (Officer LaValley) - Reviewed monthly statistics. 350 noted calls for the month, including but not limited to: 2 arson reports, breaking and entering of a business, with stolen items recovered. Report on file.

**FIRE** (Chief Cochensparger) – Stated the Fire Department has had an influx of medical calls. The Chief also reminded residents of the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 4:00-7:00pm at the Lions Club. Reviewed monthly statistics. Report on file.

- **SUPERINTENDENT** – Dennis McKinley- Asked for reports to be submitted in writing to cut down on meeting time. Superintendent McKinley also spoke of interviewing for Code Enforcement and Building and Zoning in the week coming ahead. He spoke on the budget process

and reiterated the Capital Improvement Plan should be developed at the Board level with various departments included within the plan. He specifically addressed a plan of action needed to address the condemned building at Fire Station One.

- **BUILDING OFFICIAL** – Mark Hires- Stated applications are picking back up again. Permits are in the process of getting caught up with the help of the interim Zoning Administrator.
- **BUILDING & ZONING** – Cody McCarty (Interim)- Went through introductions for residents and discussed efforts to catch up on documentation during the ongoing transition. Recommended better utilization of BS&A software to improve efficiency.
- **BLIGHT OFFICIAL** - James Wolfersberger (Interim)-Absent. No report on file.
- **ASSESSOR** - Michele Story- Absent. Assessor Story documented she is approaching the busiest tax season. Permits will have a status check by the end of the calendar year. Office hours will be made available on Tuesdays from 8:00am-4:00pm. Report submitted on file.
- **PLANNING COMMISSION** – Stacy Greenwood (Planning Commission Liaison)- Discussed the final recommendation of the Master Plan, submitted on behalf of the Planning Commission. Acknowledged final revisions. Discussed the next phase in reviewing the Zoning Ordinance, which will be broken down into four parts to be distributed upon completion to the Township Board for input during the process.
- **ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Mike Staib- Stated the committee is waiting to hear back from the County before final review. Stated an annual report will be submitted with recommendations. Reiterated a 50/50 split with the County would cost roughly \$1.7 m. and include minor improvements such as chip seal for township roads.
- **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Danielle Zoellner- absent. Report submitted for review. Report included information that the Sparks Grant was not approved and DNR Grant is still in process. The Fall Festival was a success with 500 participants.
- **LEGISLATIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS** -

Representative Haadsma discussed ITC, Interstate Transmission Authority, (EV transmission of electricity from Indianapolis potentially moving through Southwest and Northern Michigan. He is seeing significant pushback regarding electrical power moving forward in Michigan. Representative Haadsma also spoke about Ford's announcement for a pause on the Mega-Site production. He believed this was likely due to the UAW strike.

Commissioner Frisbie stated the next scheduled meeting will be discussing tax rates. He addressed eight agreements and significant discussion moving forward to address roads in the County. Commissioner Frisbie also brought up concerns regarding Solar decisions being taken up at the state level and questioned Representative Haadsma on whether this was currently being addressed in the Energy Committee. He stated state initiatives to move forward on this could take zoning authority out of the hands of smaller municipalities.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** No current items for the month

- **PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS**

**RES. 10/12/23/57**

Motion by Trustee Beamish, Supported by Trustee Greenwood. Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Bedford Charter Township to accept the recommendation made by the Planning Commission of the adoption of Master Plan submitted by McKenna. (See full document in packet).

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Staib explained the changes and recommendations sent over for Board approval. Trustee Hires clarified this would not impact current zoning within the Township and is considered a visionary document. It was noted that due to the lack of Board attendance, a unanimous vote would be needed to pass the resolution. It was clarified that the potential to table any action item would be a formality in the decision-making process, as the public hearing has already taken place and would not require additional public comments to be considered for Board recommendation and vote.

Secondary Motion by Treasurer Miller, Supported by Trustee Hires to table the resolution until November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for final review and vote from all board members.

**ROLL CALL Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman, Trustee (Excused).**

**4-Yes**

**2-Excused**

**Motion Carried**

**RES. 10/12/23/58**

Motion by Treasurer Miller, Supported by Trustee Beamish. Resolved by the Board of Trustees to assign Superintendent McKinley as Sam.com Administrator following the resignation of Supervisor Jones.

Discussion ensued.

**ROLL CALL Erica Miller, Treasurer; Barry Beamish, Trustee; Mark Hires, Trustee; Stacy Greenwood, Trustee; Joyce Feraco, Clerk (Excused); Kraig Dingman, Trustee (Excused).**

**4-Yes**

**2-Excused**

**Motion Carried**

**• PUBLIC COMMENT**

- One resident apologized for accusatory comments previously made. He commended the Superintendent for finding ways to cut down on meeting time. Suggestions were made on improving communication via social media and the current website.
- One resident discussed displeasure with board members currently serving. A suggestion was made for livestreaming meetings in the future. Comments were also made regarding being selective regarding disclosure of elected officials' attendance/or lack thereof during office hours.
- One resident accused the board of previous criminal actions and questioned legal counsel. He advised others to "stand up against tyranny."

- **TRUSTEES' PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Trustee Hires discussed the excavator at the gas station on Michigan Avenue. He stated the process has started for demolition; However, a slab can't be removed due to current remediation of gas that has been spilled so it will not be considered a complete green site but is moving forward. He also discussed with the Superintendent the issues of residents abusing recycling outside of office hours. An effort to address a resident's concerns are currently being investigated, suggesting a possible fence to address the issue.

Trustee Greenwood thanked everyone for attending.

Treasurer Miller discussed the current lease on the recycling dumpster and offered insight on possible solutions to ongoing issues. Treasurer Miller also thanked everyone for attending.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Stacy Greenwood

**\*Next Board Meeting – November 9, 2023**