
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

February 8, 2018 – 7:00 pm

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Heikkila called the regularly scheduled Board meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The audience and Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A prayer was said.

3. ROLL CALL

Adam Heikkila, Supervisor; Joyce Feraco, Clerk; Chrisandra Dezotell, Treasurer; Joseph Cipic, Trustee; Connie Gibson, Trustee; Randolph Johnson, Trustee; Sally Shaw, Trustee.

4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 11, 2018 MINUTES

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Treasurer Dezotell and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes, as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Johnson –yes, Heikkila-yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

5. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Heikkila addressed the audience as well as the board. He reiterated the rules for public comment. He is working on ways for all of the board members to come together. Presented the idea of attending a Leadership Seminar Course, in hopes of learning to work together and be in the same frame of mind.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Jason Orton, from the David Chapman Agency will attend the March 8, 2018 board meeting.

7. COMMUNICATIONS - ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- Draft January 11, 2018 Minutes
- Check Register
- Consumers Energy Electric Franchise Ordinance
- Ordinance Summary – Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance with respect to the keeping of urban livestock
- Copy of union contract
- Accela, Inc. proposal

8. REPORTS

{A} FINANCE

RES. 02/8/18/04

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Treasurer Dezotell and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$605,873.62.

ROLL CALL: Heikkila -yes; Feraco -yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson -yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Department; Sgt. Hug briefed the audience and board on the reports, commented on the continuation of using the flashing speed sign within the township. It was mentioned that the mail theft that was happening is now under control. He also shared that he will be taking a new position as a training Officer and therefore will not be working in Bedford. Officer Kidney encouraged everyone to sign up for the Next door Neighbor app; he will be reading it, as well as posting to it as another way to communicate with residents.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger gave an overview of the fires and accidents that the department responded to. The department has been assisting with mutual aid with both the City of Battle Creek and Pennfield Township for structure fires. Wood burning stoves seem to create opportunities for fires, he encouraged everyone to pay close attention to the proper use. The Chief warns that with the snow fall we are experiencing, we should anticipate slippery conditions.

RES. 02/8/18/05

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to hire the following individuals, two of which are certified firefighters, under the recommendation of Chief Cochensparger, Garth Stoltz, Preston Rizer and Maxwell George, each must pass a physical examination and there will be a one (1) year probation period with the Fire Department.

ROLL CALL: Feraco -yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson -yes; Heikkila -yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

(C) BUILDING AND GROUNDS – None

(D) BUILDING OFFICIAL- Mark Hires stated that this is the slowest time of the year, it will pick up in the spring. He is hopeful for even more construction this year.

(E) CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION- Barry Beamish, Vice Chair thanked Mark Hires for his almost 20 years of service on the Planning Commission. Mark Hires has resigned as a member of the Planning Commission due to his recent assumption of the Board Chairman for the Mi Dept of Health and

Human Services. Mr. Beamish looks forward to the new Parks and Recreation plan that is being developed. He encouraged all to attend the public meetings. Resident input is vital to the success of the project.

(F) LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RES. 02/8/18/15

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to refer the animal ordinance back to the planning commission for further review. Review of the requirements for the inspection of a building size that does not currently require an inspection, restrictions to bees and rabbits that that are not currently restricted, non- commercial use needs to have clarification for those that want to sell some of their products, adult supervision for animals outside of their coop or pen, zoning permits and building inspection requirements, we would like to have this reviewed at their March meeting.

ROLL CALL: Dezotell-no; Cipicic-no; Shaw-no; Gibson-yes; Johnson -no; Heikkila -yes;
Feraco -no;
2 yes, 5 no; Motion defeated.

URBAN LIVESTOCK – READ IN ORDINANCE

Ordinance to allow for urban livestock, in other than agricultural zones; to include rabbits, miniature goats, bees and chickens.

RES. 02/8/18/06

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford, to adopt an ordinance to authorize and regulate the establishment of medical marihuana facilities; to provide for local licensing; to establish penalties for violation hereof; and to otherwise protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

ROLL CALL: Dezotell-yes; Cipicic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson -yes; Heikkila -yes;
Feraco -yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

RES. 02/8/18/07

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Clerk Feraco and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford, to adopt an ordinance under the authority of the medical marihuana facilities licensing act, MCLA 333.27101, et seq., to amend the Charter Township of Bedford Zoning Ordinance in order to designate locations for medical marihuana facilities within the township; to place conditions on the

operation of such facilities within the township; to place conditions on the operation of such facilities and to otherwise protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

ROLL CALL: Cipcic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson –yes; Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

10. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

READ IN ORDINANCE - CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

An Ordinance, granting to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines consisting of towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, braces, feeders, transmission and distribution wires, transformers and other electrical appliances on, under, along and across the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to do a local electric business in the Charter Township of Bedford, Calhoun County, Michigan for a period of thirty years. The complete copy of the ordinance is available in the Clerks’ office and on the township website: www.BedfordCharterTwp.com

Mr. Greg Moore, Community Affairs Manager with Consumers Energy was available to answer questions.

RES. 02/8/18/08

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipcic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve a monthly contract with Accela, Inc. This contract would provide the agenda and minutes platform, offering the township citizens and departments a more uniform, concise set of documents. The monthly amount is \$498.33.

ROLL CALL: Shaw-no; Gibson-no; Johnson –no; Heikkila -no; Feraco –no; Dezotell-no; Cipcic-no;
0yes, 7 no; Motion defeated.

RES. 02/8/18/09

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to appoint the following individuals to the Board of Appeals:

Floyd Holmes	1/01/2018 - 12/31/2020	3 year term
Gary Hammond	1/01/2018 - 12/31/2020	3 year term

ROLL CALL: Gibson-yes; Johnson –yes; Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipcic-yes;
Shaw-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

RES. 02/8/18/10

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to appoint the following individuals to the Planning Commission:

Justin Shotts	1/01/2018 - 12/31/2020	3 year term
Barb Jones	1/01/2018 - 12/31/2020	3 year term

ROLL CALL: Johnson –yes; Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipcic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

RES. 02/8/18/11

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve signage and limitations for “NO THROUGH TRUCKS OVER 10,000 POUNDS” to prevent damage to roads and power lines being pulled down on the following additional roads: Halbert, Kirby, Yawger

ROLL CALL: Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipcic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson –yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

RES. 02/8/18/12

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the ordering of 10 signs (“NO THROUGH TRUCKS OVER 10,000 POUNDS”) at \$179.40 each for a total of \$1,794.00 as a start to the project eventually posting on Halbert, Kirby, Yawger, Newburn, Duane, Markham, Hamilton and Baseline. Price includes installation by the Calhoun County Road Department.

ROLL CALL: Cipcic-yes; Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson –yes; Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

RES. 02/8/18/13

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipcic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the union contract between the Charter Township of Bedford and Operating Engineers 324.

ROLL CALL: Shaw-yes; Gibson-yes; Johnson –yes; Heikkila -yes; Feraco –yes; Dezotell-abstained; Cipcic-yes;
6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstained; Motion carried.

Trustee Gibson introduced the resolution to approve the purchasing of 20 Deltair packs and 10 additional face masks. Captain Godde from the fire department gave a presentation on the apparatus, in December. Discussions ensued with points of interest being identified by Captain Woodward ; the 2018 NFPA standards require 2 updates in arrears before we would qualify for a grant. The new masks are a vast safety improvement and make it possible to hear firefighters when inside the building, also the ability to offer inter- operability with other departments. Supervisor Heikkila stated concerns over the amount of money potentially coming out of the general fund. Chief Cochensparger stressed the importance of being MIOSHA compliant.

RES. 02/8/18/14

Moved by Trustee Gibson supported by Trustee Cipcic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the purchase of 20 Deltair packs and 10 additional face masks for the Fire Department, at a grand total of \$62,650.00 plus shipping. Upon passing of this resolution, I would like the Supervisor to contact the debt services representatives at his earliest convenience next week to begin the process for this application. We would like the Supervisor to keep the Board and Chief Cochensparger updated on a weekly basis. If for some unknown reason we don't qualify for financing, the purchase should be made using township general funds.

ROLL CALL: Gibson-yes; Johnson -yes; Heikkila-yes; Feraco -yes; Dezotell-yes; Cipcic-yes; Shaw-yes;
7 yes, 0 no; Motion carried.

11. TRUSTEES PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rande Johnson spoke on the importance of doing your best job, regardless of your party affiliation. He stressed the point that we are not giving to the Fire Department, we are making our township safer. He also thanked Mark Hires for all of his work and Sgt. Hug for everything he has done, and for treating us like family.

Joe Cipcic thanked Mark Hires as well. He invited the Board and residents to attend the Planning Commission meetings so that we are aware of what is being discussed.

Connie Gibson feels like our fire department needs to be protected.

12. CITIZENS TIME

Residents have asked that when they bring forward questions, can they please get answers at the next meeting, they want to feel that their questions are addressed. It was also asked if any resolution had come about regarding child care.

There were questions about the property at W. Michigan and Collier and what is being done to get it cleaned up. The Supervisor has indicated that he has heard there has been some interest by outside parties in purchasing the property.

One resident stated that we should stop talking about the fire millage increase and get busy and do something about it, also very happy that medical marijuana has been approved, and will be available in Calhoun County.

Questions about the signs for the truck weight limits and statement that they are not working, wanted to know where to go to get blight enforced.

Thank you for the great job on the roads, not happy with the way that the tree trimming was left
A resident had a recall petition and was looking for help in filling it out.

Resident on Linwood again addressed his concern and frustration about the process with the annexation.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Treasurer Dezotell stated that taxes are due February 14, 2018.

Supervisor Heikkila invited residents to the next two parks and recreation meetings, both will be held at the township hall . February 13 and 20, 2018, 6:30pm.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw
Voice vote by all members to adjourn the board meeting 8:40 p.m.

Next Board meeting is March 8, 2018 at 7:00pm.

ADAM HEIKKILA, SUPERVISOR

JOYCE FERACO, CLERK