
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

January 11, 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 DECEMBER 14, 2017 MINUTES

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the December 14, 2017 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 talked about the ups and downs, the good and the bad of not following the system of order at the meetings. The importance of following Roberts Rules of Order was stressed. He admitted to sometimes failing in communications, but also focusing on what good has been accomplished. He wanted to let everyone know that there is a lot of good happening in the township everyday. His focus will be on running the meetings properly and staying positive.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

RES. 01/11/18/01

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to adopt Resolution 01/11/18/01:

Whereas, Public Act No. 152 of the Public Acts of 2011 (“ACT”) limits a public employer’s expenditures for employee medical benefit plans, and

Whereas, the Act provides that the Board of Trustees of The Charter Township of Bedford may exempt The Charter Township of Bedford from the requirements of the act for the next succeeding year, and

Whereas The Board of Trustees of The Charter Township of Bedford have determined that it is in the best interests of The Charter Township of Bedford to exempt the township from the requirements of the ACT, now therefore,

It is hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of The Charter Township of Bedford, that it shall be exempt from the requirements of the ACT for the year 2018.

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS - ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- * Draft December 14, 2017 Minutes
- * Check Register
- * Draft ordinance for licensing medical marihuana facilities
- * Draft amendment to ordinance for zoning - medical marihuana facilities

8. REPORTS

{A) FINANCE

RES. 01/11/18/02

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 \$97,142.73.

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

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Chief Blocker, Sgt Hug and Officer Kidney from BCPD were present at the meeting. Jenny Mualhlun, BCPD Community Engagement Coordinator gave a quick synopsis of the 2018 Citizens Police Academy. The program fosters positive police and community interaction. For interested residents (must be a resident of Bedford or Battle Creek), a link is available on the BCPD facebook page. Supervisor Heikkila will be adding a link to our site as well. A brief overview pertaining to calls for service was given by Chief Blocker. There were over 4,700 calls for Bedford Township. Sgt Hug talked about the reports and also the success with the movable flashing speed limit sign. It was suggested that the sign move to Custer Drive next.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger gave an overview of the fires and accidents that the department responded to. He mentioned that the expenses in the department are expensive as well as the cost of repairs and replacement of equipment.

(C) BUILDING AND GROUNDS

(D) BUILDING OFFICIAL, Mark Hires let everyone know that the department was slow at present, but anticipates it will pick up when the weather clears.

(E) CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION Mark Hires was elected Chair of the Planning Commission. The planning commission has been very active lately, with respect to rezoning, the livestock ordinance, and the marihuana ordinance. He encouraged written questions to the commission.

(F) LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

URBAN LIVESTOCK – READ IN ORDINANCE

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

The intent was to read in the Urban Livestock Ordinance to allow for urban livestock, in other than agricultural zones; to include rabbits, miniature goats, bees and chickens, to be voted on next month. Discussion followed, Supervisor Heikkila will be drafting changes to the ordinance.

10. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

A) AUTHORIZE AND REGULATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA - READ IN ORDINANCE

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 was read in by Supervisor Heikkila. The complete copy of the ordinance is available in the Clerks' office.

B) AMEND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD ZONING ORDINANCE - READ IN ORDINANCE

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 was read in by Supervisor Heikkila. The complete copy of the ordinance is available in the Clerks' office.

RES. 01/11/18/03

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve, under the recommendation from the Planning Commission, the rezoning of parcels 13-04-360-028-00 and 13-04-029-01 to C-Commercial from RB-Medium Density Residential and SP- Split Zoned, pending review by the Calhoun County Planning Commission. This is as outlined in the Master Plan.

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

11. TRUSTEES PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

12. CITIZENS TIME

A resident had questions about the Silver Star Phase III progress. At this point we have not heard of any more activity, he recommended participation in the Citizens Police Academy and stressed the

need to have a marihuana dispensary close. The lack of use of the flashing emergency vehicle light on West Michigan was questioned. Chief Cochensparger said he would look into it. Mr. VanGoethem, a new resident of Bedford Township, is dissatisfied with the way his transfer to the township was handled and has requested that a letter be written to the City of Battle Creek, asking for them to allow him to be annexed by the city. Several residents requested more of an open forum for questions and answers.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Trustee Johnson explained to the audience the process of how Mr. VanGoethem became a resident of the township.

Treasurer Dezotell attempted to bring up an issue of concern, in reference to bringing children to the office during business hours. She states the practice is very disruptive and disrespectful to staff and residents. Supervisor Heikkila recommended they talk about it on office time.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw
Voice vote by all members to adjourn the board meeting 8:10 p.m.

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

ADAM HEIKKILA, SUPERVISOR

JOYCE FERACO, CLERK