
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

June 14, 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.

3. INVOCATION – Pastor Randy Stewart, Bethel Baptist

4. ROLL CALL

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

5. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2018 AGENDA

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Clerk Feraco and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the June 14, 2018 minutes, as submitted.

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

6. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2018 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 May 10, 2018 minutes, as submitted.

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

7. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Heikkila talked about the difference between governance and politics.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

9. COMMUNICATIONS - ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- * Draft May 10, 2018 Minutes
- * Check Register
- * Michigan Township Participating Plan – dividend distribution letter
- * 2017 Audit report

{A} FINANCE

RES. 06/14/18/35

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve payment of expenses totaling \$174,769.70.

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

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Officer Kidney talked about the road and traffic reports; he offered to move the flashing speed signs upon request.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger reported that the pancake breakfast was a success. He thanked all the residents for their continued support. He also commented regarding five firefighters that will be testing for state certification.

(C) BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Kevin Dezotell said they are busy with regular mowing and property maintenance.

(D) BUILDING OFFICIAL

Mark Hires talked about the two new homes and that activity with permits is picking up.

(E) CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION

Barry Beamish reported on the Planning Commission activities with Parks and Recreation and the desire to complete the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in effort to get the full benefit of the work started by Fleis & Vandenbrink.

(F) LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

No reports

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 06/14/18/36

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipcic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the extension of the existing METRO Act Permit issued by the Bedford Charter Township/Calhoun County to Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Michigan (“AT&T”) which expires on December 31, 2018. The extension is for a term to end on December 31, 2023.

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

RES. 06/14/18/37

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission for a rezone from AG-Agricultural to RB- Medium Density Residential of parcel 13-04-620-011-00. Owner asked for the parcel to be rezoned to match that of surrounding property in the same area. Parcel is located on Bauman Road and owned by Frank Hodges.

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

Supervisor Heikkila moved to open discussion on the hiring of a new Blight Enforcement Officer, supported by Trustee Gibson. Discussion followed. Supervisor Heikkila was against hiring for the position due to perceived budget constraints. Discussion addressed legitimate resident concerns regarding clean up of several blighted areas. A motion was put forward to continue with Supervisor Heikkila as the Blight Official and Trustee Shaw handling clerical support. Motion was not supported and failed.

We moved forward with the motion. Supervisor Heikkila refused to read the resolution.

RES. 06/14/18/38

Moved by Trustee Shaw, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the hiring of William Scutt as the new Blight and Code Compliance Officer for the Township. This is the recommendation of the interview committee to the Board for approval. Position will start immediately at the rate of \$20 per hour. All supplies will be provided and William Scutt will work directly with the Building and Zoning Administrator for complaints and correspondence.

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

RES. 06/14/18/39

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Clerk Feraco and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to accept and place on file the 2017 SiegfriedCrandall audit report.

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

14. CITIZENS TIME

Multiple citizens requested the agenda contain two citizen comment times as done previously. Several residents do not appreciate being taught a civics lesson at the beginning of the meeting. It was suggested that the convocation be alternated between different denominations rather than the same every month. Residents spoke out about the discord on the Board. There is continued problems due to lack of information for our new resident on Linwood Drive.

15. TRUSTEES PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Shaw talked about the PFAS and the water contamination in the city, as well as, the upcoming road repairs.

Trustee Gibson talked about the upcoming millage on the ballot for the Fire Department. He apologized to the residents for the discord on the Board.

Trustee Cipic had questions regarding the Deputy Supervisor.

Trustee Johnson spoke about everyone's position on the board. He talked about Bedford being a great community to live, including modest taxes, great residents/neighbors.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Treasurer Dezotell spoke about tax bills being mailed July 1, 2018.

Supervisor Heikkila mentioned that he had attended the press conference for the recently discovered manganese contamination in the city water; and arranged for bottled water to be available for those residents effected, on the municipal water supply. This supply is for children under one year of age and elderly with health issues.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported Trustee Cipic.

Voice vote by all members to adjourn the board meeting at 8:38pm.

Next Board meeting is July 12, 2018 at 7:00pm.

ADAM HEIKKILA, SUPERVISOR

JOYCE FERACO, CLERK