
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD

115 S. Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

March 8, 2018 – 7:00 pm

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Heikkila called the regularly scheduled Board meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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 FEBRUARY 8, 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 February 8, 2018 minutes, as submitted.

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

5. SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS

Supervisor Heikkila is working on fixing the broken lines of communication, he appreciates all that come to the meetings. He is aware of the blight situation in the community, which is decades old and can't be corrected in just a few months. The annual Spring Clean -Up is scheduled for June 2, 2018. He has spent a lot of time visiting different churches, engaging them in the effort to help aid in the clean- up. He states that he will continue to focus on the positive.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Jason Orton, from the David Chapman Agency gave an overview of the products and services his company provides. He has provided information to the board about applying for equipment grants. Mr. Orton was available for questions.

7. COMMUNICATIONS - ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- * Draft February 8, 2018 Minutes
- * Check Register
- * Copy of letter from Chief Cochensparger in regard to proposal
- * Urban Livestock permit application
- * Medical Marihuana licensing permit application
- * Office policy – Children at the workplace
- * Code and Blight Enforcement Officer job description
- * Spring Clean Up flyer – June 2, 2018
- * Animal Control Ordinance 06/09/05/19 - updated

8. REPORTS

{A} FINANCE

RES. 03/8/18/16

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 \$45,163.76.

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

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

POLICE: Battle Creek Police Department; Lt. Bagwell and Officer Kidney were available for questions. Officer Kidney reviewed the activity reports with the Board and residents. It was recommended that residents keep their cars locked and garage doors down, with the nicer weather there usually is an increase in dirt bikes on the roads. Officer Kidney will be working to keep them off of the streets. A brief overview was given, in reference to a recent meth house closure on Uldriks Drive.

FIRE: Chief Cochensparger gave a summary of the fires and accidents that the department responded to. He and Assistant Chief Uldriks were available to answer questions in regard to the millage that the department will be requesting on the August ballot. Chief explained the rising costs of equipment and his desire to protect and keep the firefighters safe.

(C) BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Kevin Dezotell has installed new doors on the restrooms in Skeets Gehrman Park (Bedford Park). He will be adding new markers in the cemetery this spring.

(D) BUILDING OFFICIAL- Mark Hires was not present. Sally Shaw shared that the majority of permits are being issued for furnaces and roofs.

(E) CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION- Barry Beamish, encouraged all to attend the Planning Commission meetings. The next one will be on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30pm at the township hall.

(F) LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS – County Commissioner Steve Frisbie reported that they are hiring a Managing Director for the road department, that the county had received a revenue sharing check from Fire Keepers Casino, which had been dispersed; as well as a \$874,000 from the State of Michigan. He addressed questions that had previously been asked about the boom mowing that had taken place in the fall.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RES. 03/8/18/17

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to allow for urban livestock, in other than agricultural zones; to include rabbits, miniature goats, bees and chickens.

ORDINANCE SUMMARY Ordinance No. 03/08/18/17

Bedford Charter Township has adopted an ordinance to amend its Zoning Ordinance with respect to the keeping of urban livestock. Pursuant to MCL 125.3401, a summary of the regulatory effect of the amendments, including the geographic area affected, follows:

1. Permitted Uses-Urban Livestock. In addition to livestock otherwise allowed, urban livestock for non-commercial purposes is permitted on single and two-family residential parcels in the AA-Agricultural, RA-Low Density Residential, and RB-Medium Density Residential Zoning Districts when accessory to a permitted residential use, provided that the livestock is housed at the premises that are residentially occupied by the owner of the livestock. The noncommercial care and keeping of the livestock is subject to the restrictions outlined in the ordinance.
2. Animal Units/Property Size. The number of urban livestock permitted at each property will be determined by calculating the allowable animal units (au) based on parcel size. The number of urban livestock permitted is limited according to the total square footage of a parcel as outlined in the ordinance for each of the above-described zoning districts.
3. Regulations. Regulations are adopted based upon the type of urban livestock being housed on the property. In no event may urban livestock be kept within one hundred (100) feet of any well, spring, or stream. Specific housing requirements are set forth for rabbits, hens, dwarf/miniature goats, and honey bees.
4. Maintenance and Care. The ordinance sets forth rules for the maintenance and care of livestock, as well as for the maintenance of the premises where kept.
5. Permit Required. The keeping of urban livestock is subject to zoning permits and inspections for the construction and placement of any required enclosures and any structures as provided in Section 22.04 of the Bedford Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

6. Violations. Violations of the ordinance are subject to the penalties established by Section 22.06 of the Bedford Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.
7. Definitions. The definition of “accessory building” is amended, and a definition of “principal building” is added.
8. Severability. The ordinance is declared to be severable.
9. Repeal. Ordinances in conflict with the new ordinance are repealed.
10. Savings. Pending prosecutions are saved.
11. Effective Date. Pursuant to Section 401 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3401), the ordinance will take effect seven (7) days after the date of this publication.
12. Area Affected. This ordinance affects property within the AA-Agricultural, RA-Low Density Residential, and RB-Medium Density Residential Zoning Districts.
13. Inspection. A copy of the ordinance is available for purchase or inspection by the public between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Office of the Bedford Charter Township Clerk located at 115 South Uldriks Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037.

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

RES. 03/8/18/18

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Gibson and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve 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.BedfordCharterTownship.com. Mr. Greg Moore, Community Affairs Manager with Consumers Energy was available to answer questions.

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

10. PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS

RES. 03/8/18/19

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 of Chief Cochensparger, the initiation of the process to place a ballot proposal before the voters of the Charter Township of Bedford. This request will be for three (3) mils consisting of one (2) mil for the operation of the Charter Township of Bedford Fire Department and one (1) mil for future apparatus/equipment replacement.

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

RES. 03/8/18/20

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the Urban Livestock permit application.

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

RES. 03/8/18/21

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the Medical Marihuana licensing permit application.

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

RES. 03/8/18/22

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Treasurer Dezotell and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the office policy regarding children in the workplace. The policy states:

The presence of children in the workplace with the employee/parent during the employee's workday is inappropriate and is not allowed. This policy is established to avoid disruptions in job duties of the employee and co-workers, reduce property liability, avoid problems with residents/customers, help maintain the welfare and safety of the employee's children, and maintain a professional work environment. Children are not permitted to be at the worksite as a result of daycare difficulties during normal business hours because of the legal liability of permitting such a practice.

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

Supervisor Heikkila made a motion to table resolution **RES. 03/8/18/23** until the June 14, 2018 Board Meeting, Trustee Gibson seconded the motion.

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

RES. 03/8/18/23

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Cipcic and resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Bedford to approve the hiring of a Code Compliance and Blight Enforcement Officer, this position would support the Township Building and Zoning Department in assuring compliance with Township ordinances both for blight and International Property Maintenance Code. This position will be posted on the website and advertised locally. It will remain open until filled.

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

READ IN ORDINANCE

Original Ordinance No. 06/09/05/19

An ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare within the Charter Township of Bedford by regulating the keeping and treatment of animals and to prescribe penalties for violation of this ordinance; to repeal ordinances inconsistent herewith; and to otherwise protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

RES. 03/8/18/24

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:

Stacy Greenwood 1/01/2018 - 12/31/2018 (finish Haineault 3 year term)

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

11. TRUSTEES PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Trustee Gibson spoke in favor of making sure that the Fire Department has the most current equipment for their job. His number one priority is the safety of the residents. He mentioned that he appreciated everything that former Supervisor Sprau did for the Fire Department and the township. He does not feel that there is effective communication between current board members, as well as the lack of respect for Chief Cochensparger.

Trustee Johnson is not happy with the communications, would like to see information shared, not just at Board meetings, recommended having an attorney present at the meetings, someone that understands fully the Parliamentary role. He also stressed the rights of elected positions, especially in reference to being able to speak without limitations.

12. CITIZENS TIME

Residents having many questions about the day to day running of the township, blight, communications and accountability. They appreciate having their questions answered

14. ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR, CHAIRPERSON OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Treasurer Dezotell is happy that tax season is over!

Clerk Feraco announced that the next election is May 8, 2018. Two school districts; Gull Lake Community Schools and Battle Creek Public Schools will have items on the ballot.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Supervisor Heikkila, supported by Trustee Shaw
Voice vote by all members to adjourn the board meeting 9:11 p.m.

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

ADAM HEIKKILA, SUPERVISOR

JOYCE FERACO, CLERK