

Welcome, I hope that this get together will be a valuable experience and helps provide you with the information you need from your board members. Please feel free to follow up with myself and anyone in the Township Hall with questions and comments from tonight's session.

I appreciate Nancy and Paul's attempt to reach out to our citizens; however after discussing this event with our Attorney, I feel that we could possibly violate the open meetings act if there should be a quorum present tonight. Even if this meeting would not technically be in violation, the perception of a relatively small group meeting with a majority of the Township Board, in my opinion, violates the intent of the law. Any discussion or deliberation when a majority of the board is present needs to be an open meeting with an agenda.

I am confident that the two board members hosting this forum will help to answer questions and inform those present on issues and concerns that will arise tonight as well as pass along these questions and concerns to the full time staff.

Again thank you for attending, there will be more Community Chats coming, let Nancy and Paul know of topics that you would wish to cover.

Finally, if I may suggest that a great way to influence the course of your Township is to volunteer for positions on our committees and commissions. There will be a number of openings this coming year; I have provided applications for those interested.

Greg

I have seen some of the questions that have been posted and although I cannot speak for others, I will address the questions the best I can:

1. ~~Why isn't there an office located in Bedford Township for Buckeye Cable for residents to pay their bills and pick up and return items? According to the Bedford Township Ordinance # 44 it states: 44.010 - Local office Sec. 10. Buckeye will open an office in Bedford Township within one year of connecting its first customer in the Township. This office will be in the southern one-third (1/3) of the Township. It will offer Buckeye customers the ability to obtain, return, or exchange equipment, and to conduct all financial transactions with Buckeye.~~

This Town Ordinance was overridden by the 2006 Michigan Public Act 480

484.3303 Sec. 3.

- (8) As a condition to obtaining or holding a franchise, a franchising entity shall not require a video service provider to obtain any other franchise, assess any other fee or charge, or impose any other franchise requirement than is allowed under this act. For purposes of this subsection, a franchise requirement includes, but is not limited to, a provision regulating rates charged by video service providers, requiring the video service providers to satisfy any build-out requirements, or a requirement for the deployment of any facilities or equipment.

2006, Act 480, Eff. Jan. 1, 2007.

All subsequent contracts have reflected the changes.

It should be noted that Flick's Carry out does provide some Buckeye Cable services.

2. **How does the Bedford Township Board determine which roads will be repaired or re-built? How do I get my road to the top of the list?**

The State of Michigan has authorized the Monroe County Road Commission to maintain all primary roads; they are further authorized as the entity through which all local governments may maintain local roads.

Bedford Township currently spends over 12% of the General funds on roads, and has a Roads Committee that works with our Township Engineer and the County Road Commission to spend our dollars wisely. There are many factors included in how and when roads are worked on.

Some of these include:

- Your input (on this list Clegg and other East-West roads west of Secor are included and Crabb)
- The Road Commission evaluation (PASER) using evaluation software
- Our Budget
- Federal and State Grants, and other funding that defines project locations
- Traffic, safety issues, and other criteria that must be weighed

As early as next week the Road committee will be meeting with our Engineer and the Road Commission. one initiative that we will bring this year is to physically inspect the roads as a group to best prioritize our efforts. Please understand these projects that will not see fruition until the 2014-2015 budget year.

3. **When will Bedford Township start the live streaming of meetings on the Bedford Township web site? Many of us do not subscribe to Buckeye Cable and are unable to watch the Bedford Township meetings at the present time. When the new web site was set up over a year ago the Township Clerk indicated that live streaming would be added to the web site.**

I cannot answer for the Clerk's office; I can tell you that they have been trying to overcome some technical issues.

4. **When will the Bedford Township officials begin posting the Bedford Township financial statements on the Bedford Township web site? This topic has been discussed at several of the board meetings during the past year.**

I will defer to the Treasurer on this question. I have said in the past that my preference would be what the State is calling a "Dashboard" presentation of the financial numbers. It gives the community more than just raw numbers, so that you can see trends in spending and how much (or little) of your tax dollars go to the Township.

Memorandum

To: Paul Pirrone, Bedford Township Trustee

From: Paul Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2013

Re: **Response to Question No. 4 – When will Township Officials Begin Posting Bedford Township Financial Statements on the Township Website?**

Although township financial statements technically by Michigan statute fall under the jurisdiction of the Township Clerk, Trudy and I have discussed this issue several times, and are working together on it. This is an issue I have been struggling with for months now – namely, how to present on the township website a concise financial statement in a format which will be informative, yet not so detailed that it will be confusing to the average reader. The monthly financial statements the Township Board members receive is a document usually over fifty pages long – way too long and detailed to be published on the website (in my opinion).

Several months ago, the State of Michigan came up with the idea of a “Municipal Financial Summary and “Performance Dashboard” financial statement presentation format, that can be used to compare the financial statements of various municipalities should one so desire. This presentation format reflects amounts from the most recent fiscal year end audit report for all funds under the control of the township. The most recent finalized fiscal year end audit report is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. The fiscal year ended June 30 2013, although closed, has not yet been audited. The June 30, 2012 information has only just recently been uploaded into this format by our BS&A software provider. I have noticed some unusual amounts showing up in some of the accounts, which do not appear to be correct, and am working on resolving these possible discrepancies – before the financial statements are linked to the township website. Once these discrepancies are resolved, a link to these financial statements will be added to the website.

In addition, I am working on a format to report the (condensed) general fund financial statements (the primary operating fund of the township) on a monthly basis on the township website. Obviously, these financial statements are public records, available to anyone upon request.