

Rutland Charter Township

# Regular Board Meeting

February 8, 2023 / 7PM

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

## Roll Call - Members Present:

Gene Hall, Sandy James, Sandy Greenfield, Larry Watson, Robin Hawthorne, Doug Lectka

## Members Not Present:

Brenda Bellmore - excused absence

## Others Present:

Jane Cybulski, Steve Pachulski, Bob Teunessen, Pat Sharpe, Justine Hunter, Sarah Nelson, Nickie Haight

## Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Lectka to accept the February 8th agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

## Guests:

Jane Cybulski - Hastings Library Rep gives an overview of the last library board meeting. Her report is available and included.

Sarah Nelson - Representative from The Barry Conservation District Recycling Department is here to speak about services for recycling and waste management. She explains that they received a grant from the EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy), formally called the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) to reach out to local governments. They are asking people to enter their information about waste and materials management. They are collecting data to improve services. A new House bill modified solid waste planning to more recycling, composting, and reuse, instead of disposal. It will be called the Materials Management Plan instead of the former Waste Management Plan.

Commissioner Teunessen comments that Hastings Charter Township is no longer able to offer recycling because Granger will not pick trash and recycling up separately, like Les's did. Nelson comments that she hopes the future will bring more options for residents in the area. She says the Solid Waste Committee will look into this. The board thanks Nelson and are excited for future recycling options.

## Open Comments:

Pat Sharpe asks if there are new crops going in by the airport where the trees have been cut down. Hall says he thinks he read that the FFA did an inspection and found that the trees needed to be trimmed to avoid flight hazards.

Justine Hunter is a resident with a complaint about Bay to Bay Roofing and how they are doing business. She has paid them thousands of dollars with the work not done on her home. She was told by LARA that she needs RCT to look into Bay to Bay and possible code issues. Hawthorne tries to explain that RCT cannot be involved because there were no permits necessary for the work she hired Bay to Bay to do. The board suggests she report them to the Better Business Bureau and possibly seek legal advice.

## Consent Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield to accept the consent agenda with one date correction to the January 11th meeting minutes, seconded by James. All ayes. Motion passes.

### **Supervisor:**

Watson says the board needs to reappoint Steve Pachulski and Robin Hawthorne to the JPC. Motion by Hall, seconded by Lectka, to reappoint Pachulski and Hawthorne to the JPC. All ayes. Motion passes.

### **Clerk:**

Hawthorne says that her Clerk's report and Vouchers/Payroll reports are on board members' desks.

She has also provided them with information about broadband from MEI. She explains that there is a grant RCT could possibly get to help with the cost of spreading broadband through RCT. She explains that WOW is going to cover Algonquin Lake, so they will not be added on the map from MEI. Sharpe asks if prices are comparable between MEI and WOW and that is not known yet. Residents will sign a contract and pay a monthly bill, but would not be required to pay for laying the wires. Hawthorne and the board discuss that once again, they were not included in the meeting where it was decided that WOW would cover Algonquin Lake. Jennifer Huisman from the Economic Development Committee was in charge. RCT has again, expressed their disappointment in being left out of the meetings.

### **Treasurer:**

Greenfield shares that a copy of her Treasurer's Monthly Report is on each board member's desk. She also says that so far 108 residents did not receive their tax bill. She has put an ad in the Reminder and the Banner.

### **Trustees:**

Hall says he is happy with the letter Lectka wrote about the Agaming Drain Project. Watson thinks the drain commission has their mind set on the whole project. James says the letter should be sent to the County Commissioners. James would like to see a cost estimate based on the process laid out in Lectka's suggestions. Unfortunately, RCT would have to pay for those estimates and a second opinion. Greenfield thinks those costs should fall on the drain commission. Commissioner Teunessen will try to find out more.

### **Commissioners Report:**

Bob Tuenessen shares that the commissioners have been making a lot of appointments. He says that they have had discussions about the Mental Health facility at Algonquin Lake. He says there is a possibility of using it for the COA but the location is not ideal and the YMCA may also be interested. Hawthorne suggests selling the mental health building and putting that money towards the original plan for the COA. Teunessen and James agree that the COA is a great benefit and are in dire need of a new facility.

**Unfinished Business:** None

### **New Business:**

#### **Approve Resolution 2023-289 the 2022 Poverty Exemption Policy**

Watson says this is a Board of Review item. Hawthorne says there is a paragraph that has to be removed that talks about the BOR being able to ask about property exemptions. Lectka asks if the RCT Assessor can dispute or appeal the Board of Review Decision, Hall and Hawthorne say yes. Hall wants a date updated from 2019 to 2023, this was a typo and will be corrected. Hall wonders if the poverty percentage levels need to be changed to 3 categories instead of 4. Watson will speak with Assessor McKelvey for more clarification.

Motion by Lectka, seconded by Hawthorne, to approve Resolution 2023-289. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Remove the Penalties and Fees on Property Transfer Affidavits**

This is a recommendation from McKelvey.

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by James, to remove the penalties and fees charged for Property Transfer Affidavits. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **New Building, Zoning, and Electrical Rules for Permit Pickup**

Hawthorne explains that residents are not picking up permits, going ahead with the projects anyways, and then not getting inspections done because they do not have the permits. Pat Sharpe asks if the permits could be mailed to people if they are not picked up within 30 days. Hawthorne says that her Deputy Clerk calls them. Teunessen asks why RCT does not use PCI like other townships. Hawthorne answers that there were problems in the past so RCT does their own now.

Motion by James, seconded by Lectka, to accept the new building, zoning, and electrical permit rules. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Cost Estimate for Finishing the New Roads in the Cemetery Additional**

The board discusses that they cannot get anyone else to quote the project and that the approved budget will cover this cost. Watson says grass seed is not needed unless they are able to fertilize and water it. Hawthorne thinks putting down some grass seed is a good idea.

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by James, to accept the cost estimate for finishing the new roads in the addition at the cemetery. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Algonquin Lake Fourth of July Fireworks Hold Harmless Agreement**

Pat Sharpe explains that the price went up a lot from Wolverine, which is the company they normally use. So they got a quote from a small town company called "Saturday Night Fireworks LLC" and have decided to use them for \$5800.

Motion by Lectka, seconded by James, to accept the hold harmless agreement and permit for the 4th of July Fireworks display at Algonquin Lake on July 3, 2023, with a rain date of July 5th. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Pre-pay Discount for Algonquin Lake Weed Control**

Sharpe explains that they will save \$900 by prepaying and that this is something they do every year.

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Lectka, to accept the Algonquin Lake Prepay plan for 2023. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Absent, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Open Comments:**

Steve Pachulski talks about the Poverty Exemption Guidelines on page 3. They may need to change it to 3 sections instead of 4 to match what the state is using. Hall will work with the Deputy Clerk to refigure.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion by James to adjourn at 8:24pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED