

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

May 10, 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, Brenda Bellmore

Not Members Present:

Doug Lectka - excused

Others Present:

Steve Pachulski, Pat Sharpe, Dave Jackson, Jane Cybulski, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by James to accept the May 10th agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

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

Open Comments: None

Consent Agenda:

Motion by James to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Bellmore. All ayes. Motion passes.

Supervisor:

Watson tells the board that there is a quote included in their packets for the water lines at the new cemetery, which will include 4 new faucets. Hall makes a motion, seconded by James to approve the Vanderwood Lawn quote for the cemetery water lines and 4 faucets. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Absent Motion passes.

Watson shares that they will be putting flags out on Veteran's graves on May 22nd at 10am for anyone that would like to help.

Clerk:

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

She says that there will be expenses coming for the new election equipment that the township is required to purchase. She says the state might reimburse some, but that Proposition 2 mandates that it is purchased by Feb 2024. She says the state is also negotiating with the post office about the cost of mailing out all of the AV ballots.

Treasurer:

Greenfield shares that a copy of her Treasurer's Monthly Report is on each board members' desks.

Trustees:

Hall says the board members have a quote from Advantage Electric for replacing some of the exterior lights at the township hall. The quote is about \$2780 and he has not found anyone else willing to give a quote. Board members discuss that there are more lights that need to be fixed in the parking lot, on the flag pole, and at the front entrance. Hall will have those added to the quote.

Motion by Hall, seconded by Greenfield, to accept the quote from Advantage Electric with an additional \$400 for a total of \$3180. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Absent Motion passes. Hall will contact Advantage Electric for the contract to sign.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Jackson shares:

- The Mental Health Building across from Algonquin Lake has been sold to the YMCA and they have expansion plans
- Commissioners are looking into 2 possible sites for a new jail
- County employees will get 5% raises over the next 2 years to catch up to other counties
- The county is looking for youth 14-18 to work summer mentorships, there are several opportunities based on interest
- The county received a \$200,000 Blight Grant and will be using that in Middleville
- They also received a \$500,000 grant for Blight, Rehabilitation, and Development and will be looking at putting that towards housing opportunities
- There are ZBA and Planning & Zoning positions available in the county
- Pam Palmer will hold a meeting on the new voter laws

Pat Sharpe asks how much the YMCA paid for the old mental health building and Jackson says \$750,000, which is what it appraised for.

Sharpe asks how long Airport Road will be closed and Hawthorne says 1-2 months while they work on the bridge. Sharpe says there should have been more communication given to residents, other than just road signs.

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance #2023-187 - Crop Farming in the LI District

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by James, to accept Ordinance 2023-187 for second reading and adoption. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Absent Motion passes.

New Business:

First Reading of Ordinance #2023-188 - Minimum Lot Size in CR for the Keeping of Livestock and Allowing Drive Through Windows for Marihuana Retail Sales

This is a proposed text amendment to the zoning ordinance to change the minimum lot size in CR for the keeping of livestock from 5 acres to 3 acres as a SLU and for allowing drive-through windows in MUD for Marihuana Retailers.

Hawthorne explains that the applicant already paid the fees for this to be done and that RCT already allows this for drug stores, pharmacies, etc. She says this would also include curbside pickup. Hall is concerned about the security and the safety of the workers if curbside pickup is allowed, and other board members agree. They discuss that marihuana

retailers are required by the state to have an anti-theft plan. Hawthorne says that Attorney Rolfe has already advised the board against making special rules based on the type of retailer. The board discusses possible options. Hall says they should find out how other townships are handling this. Watson says he can ask the applicant if they are even planning to do curbside pickup or if they just want the drive through. Hawthorne reminds the board that the PC can put conditions on the SLU and Site Plan.

Hawthorne explains that the change in minimum lot size change for the keeping of livestock is only for CR and would still not be a permitted use, and would need a SLU. She says the regulations for the keeping of chickens' ordinance will be before the PC at their next month's meeting and then come before the board next month.

Motion by Hawthorne, seconded by Bellmore, to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and to accept Ordinance 2023-188 for first reading. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Absent. Motion passes.

Resolution #2023-290 - Reduce SLU Fees for Livestock in CR

This resolution will amend the application fees to reduce SLU Fees for Livestock in CR from \$550 to \$125.

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield, to approve Resolution 2023-290. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Absent. Motion passes.

Contingent Marihuana License Approval for Bud Express, LLC DBA BE Provisioning

Hall asks if all of the contingencies have been met. Hawthorne says this is a contingent license and the PC will not make final approval of their site plan until they have been met. Hall reads through the 8 standards and the board agrees they have all been met.

Motion by Hall, seconded by Bellmore, to approve the application as submitted and grant the contingent license to operate, pending State approval. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectks - Absent. Motion passes.

Gravel Road Report

Watson and Hall went on a gravel road tour with the Barry County Road Commission. Hall has provided some details about how to read the report. He says that the road commission is struggling to find materials and companies to do the work. The board discusses how the standards are set and they would like to know who sets those standards and how they are calculated. Hawthorne and Watson say they have not had complaints in the last year like they have in the past. Hall says the road commission is meeting a reasonable standard at 5800 cubic yards.

Open Comments:

Steve Pachulski wonders why some gravel roads are getting so much more gravel than others. Watson says that Solomon is not getting as much as the others because Haywood owns part of it, so he also puts gravel down.

Pat Sharpe asks when the board plans to revisit the landfill idea. Watson replies that some different ideas are being discussed. Sharpe asks what the Special Board meeting was about. Hawthorne says they needed to complete some paperwork from the Assessment Audit.

Adjournment:

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield to adjourn at 8:12pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary