

Rutland Charter Township

# Regular Board Meeting

April 10, 2024 / 7PM

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

## Roll Call - Members Present:

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

## Others Present:

Cory Robinett and neighbor Chad, Jane Cybulski, Dan Lipstraw, Jason Watson, Dave Jackson, Shelly Lake, Steve Pachulski, Pat Sharpe, Mark Jordan, Nickie Haight

## Approval of Agenda:

Hawthorne adds Road Milage as an agenda item under New Business. Motion by James, seconded by Lectka to accept the April 10, 2024 agenda with one addition. All ayes. Motion passes.

## Guests:

Jane Cybulski is the RCT Library Board Representative. She gives an update and has provided the board with her report. James tells Cybulski that she is happy with her reports and all of the wonderful library programs.

## Open Comments:

Jason Watson is a RCT resident. He is very unhappy that the RCT Board did not pass a 2nd Amendment resolutions like many other townships did. He reads statistics in support. He says the RCT board did not do their jobs as elected officials by not supporting the 2nd Amendment. He says many of the RCT board members ran as Republicans and these 2nd amendment resolutions are based on being Republican. Supervisor Watson thanks him.

Cory Robinett lives on Pondview Dr and says he is being harassed by RCT Zoning Administrator Stacey Graham. He claims Graham has been harassing him since 2017, before she was Zoning Administrator and is using her position to harass them currently. He says his other neighbors that are closer to him have not had any problems with him. Supervisor Watson thanks him and says he will follow up.

## Consent Agenda:

Hawthorne amends the Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2024 to correct a name and going into closed session. Motion by Greenfield to accept the consent agenda with two amendments, seconded by Bellmore. All ayes. Motion passes.

**Supervisor:** None

## Clerk:

Hawthorne shares that she has been working with Bryant from WOW on expanding WOW service to more of RCT. She says that if they use part of the ARPA money towards this project, WOW is going to expand the coverage area that RCT is requesting by 25%, at no additional charge. Board members are happy to hear this and pleased that the plan for the ARPA money is coming to fruition.

Hawthorne also shares that stamp prices will go up to \$.75 on July 15, 2024.

### **Treasurer:**

Greenfield has provided the board with her treasury report. She says half of the ARPA money is planned to be used for this next phase of WOW and the other half might get spent on another phase later. She shares that the ARPA money has to be spent by 2026. Hall wonders how many new WOW customers there are in RCT and the board is not sure.

### **Trustees:**

James asks if RCT has been compensated for the purchases needed for the new voting laws. Hawthorne says the state is paying for the equipment and some other things but she has not received payment yet.

Hall asks the board to fill out the Road Commission Survey and get it to him.

Bellmore says she would like the board to look at the 2nd Amendment ordinance again. Hawthorne says it was not that the RCT Board does not support the 2nd Amendment, but they did not like some of the wording in the ordinance. Attorney Rolph advised the RCT Board that this was a piece of paper that does not mean anything. Some board members do not feel they need to put it in writing that they support the 2nd Amendment since it is in the Constitution and they were elected to support the Constitution and do so at all times.

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Hall, to look at the new resolutions and 2nd Amendment ordinances from the County. Roll Call Vote: James - No, Greenfield - No, Watson - No, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Hall - Yes, Lectka - No. Motion fails 3-4.

### **Commissioners Report:**

Dave Jackson gives a report from the latest Commissioners meeting. He says solar farming continues to be a big issue. The county wants to be proactive and develop their own ordinance before the state tries to enforce theirs in November 2024. Hall asks what would give the state control vs. the local governments. Commissioner Jackson says 50 megawatts and under remains under local control. Over 50 megawatts, the state can bypass the county controls. He shares that the Commissioners see too many holes in the state ordinance and feel they need their own. Hawthorne asks for a copy of sample solar ordinances. Jackson says he will also provide the RCT Board with a copy of the 2nd Amendment ordinance in case they want to sign it.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Accept Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-192 Zoning Ordinance Amendments**

Motion by James, seconded by Bellmore to accept Ordinance 2024-192 for second reading and adoption. Roll Call Vote: James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Hall - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **New Business:**

#### **Resolution 2024-301 Use of the Hastings City Compost Facility for Algonquin Lake Residents**

Board Members feel this is a great option and should be expanded to all of RCT and not just Algonquin Lake. Some feel they should approve this and then ask for expansion. Others think it should be all or nothing. Watson says it has happened this way because Algonquin Lake asked him to pursue this for them. Greenfield does not think the board should wait for each neighborhood to ask for this on their own.

Motion by James, seconded by Bellmore, to approve Resolution 2024-301. Roll Call Vote: James - Yes, Greenfield - No, Watson - No, Hawthorne - No, Bellmore - Yes, Hall - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes 4-3.

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield, for the RCT Board to petition the City of Hastings to consider, with payment, expanding the use of the compost facility to all RCT residents. Roll Call Vote: James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - No, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - No, Hall - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes 5-2.

### **Road Commission Millage**

Hawthorne explains that this approval would put the 5 year Road Millage Proposal on the August 2024 Ballot. She explains that the millage will expire at the end of 2024. Hall shares that odd years are for gravel roads and even years are for paved roads. Jason Watson asks why the millage is for 5 years and Hawthorne explains that the vote happens in an even year and the renewal starts in an odd year. Lectka verifies that this renewal is needed to keep the extra work going and Hall says yes.

Motion by James, seconded by Hall to approve Resolution #2024-302. Roll Call Vote: James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Hall - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Open Comments:**

Steve Pachulski says the east end of Ottawa Trail has not been paved in 25 years and is a mess. He says he spoke with BJ from the Road Commission, who told him that they recommended it but the RCT board did not want it done. Supervisor Watson says someone was misled or there was a misunderstanding because the RCT board approved the plan exactly as the Road Commission presented it. Hall says the road commission did not add the east end of Ottawa Trail this last time but he can recommend it. He says RCT cannot tell the Road Commission what to do or not do. Pachulski says the bulk of the problem is people grading and adding dirt to it on their own. Bellmore says some of those neighbors would prefer that part of the road not be a public road.

Sharpe asks if Hastings city residents use the compost facility for free, Hawthorne says yes but they pay for it in their taxes. Sharpe thanks the board for the road millage and says he supports the paving of the east end of Ottawa Trail.

Fire Chief Mark Jordan would like to start talking about and considering Knox boxes for RCT and a burn ordinance for RCT. Hawthorne asks him to provide copies of sample ordinances for the RCT Board to consider. James is happy to see Chief Jordan here and working on important issues.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion by Hall, seconded by James to adjourn at 8:03pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary