

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

May 8, 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, Doug Lectka, (Gene Hall - excused absence)

Others Present:

Rebecca Lectka, Jason Watson, Bob Teunessen, Steve Pachulski, Rick Brown, Pat Sharpe, Jim Dull, Lou Gibbons, Randy and Lois Frantz, Jim Hoyt, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield to accept the May 8, 2024 agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

Rebecca Lectka is the RCT Library Board Representative. She gives an update and has provided the board with her report.

Open Comments:

Rick Brown asks if the township has checked into options connectivity and offers his help if needed. Hawthorne says that the big companies are not interested in coming to RCT because there are just not enough homes to make it worth it to them. She shares that the township has worked with MEI and WOW. She says WOW just did Algonquin Lake and is moving into phase 2. The board hopes WOW will continue to work with them and keep expanding their coverage areas. Supervisor Watson encourages residents to reach out to WOW.

Jason Watson is curious about the open burn issue and he is told that will be covered under new business.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor: None

Clerk:

Hawthorne shares that her reports are on the board members desks and there are no questions. She says the Township Audit is finished and they passed with flying colors.

She says the TK school election went fine. They had 6 in person voters and 112 mail in votes, with a possible 868 voters.

She also tells the board that the Green Planet License Renewal will be for 1 more year.

Treasurer:

Greenfield has provided the board with her treasury report and there are no questions.

Trustees:

Bellmore asks if either of the marijuana dispensaries have reached out since their preliminary site plan reviews. Hawthorne says she has not heard from them again and shares that their contingency permit is only good for 1 year.

James is happy with the audit results.

Commissioners Report:

Bob Teunessen shares that commissioners have been working on a piece of land that Battle Creek sold to Barry County for Parks & Rec, the COA milage and plans, as well as hiring a company to help find a replacement for Michael Brown.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Podunk Lake Dam Discussion

Drain Commissioner Jim Dull hands out copies of the Natural Resource & Environmental Protection Act. He reads from the act that someone has to be delegated to schedule and pay for dam inspections every 3 years. He has followed the act and did not do an inspection at Podunk Lake in 2021 when it was due, because the order was not signed. The last inspection was by Chad from the consulting firm in 2018. He says dams are well maintained and looked over by residents during the 3 years. But a dam can still fail after passing an inspection.

The township can pay for the inspections or they can do a special assessment for the residents with lake front or deeded access.

Lois Frantz asks why residents would have to be responsible for paying for inspections when they have never had to in the past. Podunk does not have a community association to handle these things.

Dull says the county has probably always gotten the bill and paid it. Dull has always handled the inspections. But he needs the RCT board to decide if they want to approve to continue doing that or approve a different option.

Watson asks the residents who they would like to be in charge. Jim Hoyt and Rick Brown do not feel the Podunk residents should be responsible to pay the inspections. Brown says the residents just wanted to understand what is going on. Brown asks Teunessen if he thinks the commissioners will make the Podunk residents pay and Teunessen says he does not think so but he would have to talk to them. Teunessen asks how many properties would be in the special assessment and Hawthorne says about 65.

Greenfield, Dull, and Hawthorne explain that having a Special Assessment already set up will save time if the dam fails. If they have to wait to have a Special Assessment done after a dam fails, it will increase the time it takes to repair.

Sharpe tells the Podunk residents that it cost about \$500,000 to fix the Algonquin Lake dam when it failed. Randy Frantz asked if it can be fixed now before it fails. Dull explains that they can spend \$10,000 to maintain and repair ahead of time. Lois asks if the culvert is county or state where it goes under a state highway, Dull says yes. Dull says the Podunk creek is not a part of this.

Quote to Replace 2 Doors at the RCT Hall

The front door and one of the doors into the conference room are rusty and failing. The board has the lowest quote.

Motion by Lectka, seconded by James to accept the quote to replace 2 doors at the township hall. Roll Call Vote: James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

Draft Documents on Lockboxes and Open Burning

Board members do not feel that lockboxes should be required. They feel the business owner should decide.

Hawthorne and Greenfield say a burn permit is already required. This ordinance would just make it a civil infraction if a resident does not get a permit. The board says trash burning is already not allowed and wonders how this would be enforced.

Open Comments:

Jason Watson asks if the RCT Blight ordinance includes cutting grass. Hawthorne says it does not.

Adjournment:

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

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary