

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

June 12, 2024 / 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, Doug Lectka

Others Present:

Pat Sharpe, Cheryl Lewis-Blake, Sally S, Dave Jackson, Bob Foster, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Hawthorne asks to add "Updated Site Plan Permit Process" to the agenda under New Business. Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield to accept the June 12, 2024 agenda with one addition. All ayes. Motion passes.

Open Comments:

Cheryl Lewis-Blake is a RCT resident and a COA Board Member. She shares statistics of older adults using COA services that can help them remain in their home longer. She has provided flyers for information about the August vote and explains that it is a renewal. She says they are also asking for a slight increase back to the original rate. She says it will be an increase of \$3 or less each month per household. She also shares that she has used these services for her own family and personal needs. And she asks the board members to please support the vote.

Sally S. is also a RCT resident and a COA Board Member. She wants it to be clear that this millage is not for the COA building or for a new building. This millage is only for the activities and admin costs. Sally also shares some statistics to support the needed funding.

Sandy James also wants to emphasize that this vote is not for the building. She is thankful to have been able to use the COA services personally. James is happy there are people in our community that care and do this work.

Pat Sharpe, from ALCA, wishes the board a safe and happy 4th of July holiday. Algonquin Lake fireworks will be on July 3rd. He asks about the voided voucher checks on the clerk's report and Hawthorne explains there was an issue with check numbers being out of sequence so they had to void and adjust some.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Watson wants to discuss the Urban Services areas. He shares that someone wants to buy the hospital property and wants city water and sewer. That means RCT would have to create a new section of Urban Services from the hospital property all the way to the meet up with the existing Urban Services areas.

Hawthorne, Greenfield, and James feel that RCT has given enough land and given up enough property taxes to the City. They say RCT has been the one to make sacrifices and it is someone else's turn. Most board members agree that the Hotel and Hastings Fiberglass have benefited the community, but not necessarily the RCT residents. James says RCT welcomes new businesses. Lectka says they can put in a well if they want to be located in RCT.

Hall wants to know who wants to buy the property, if it would bring jobs to the community, and how much RCT would actually lose in tax income. Hawthorne says the numbers have not been run and they cannot disclose who the potential buyer is yet, but this would cause RCT to lose their entire commercial district. Greenfield says this would take $\frac{1}{3}$ of taxable income from RCT forever. Which means the road commission, the county, and others will get a lot less from RCT annually. Lectka says it is obvious RCT will lose out and the benefits will not make up for that.

Bellmore wants to know what the JPC thinks and points out that the JPC was created to help RCT work with the city. Hawthorne says this has not been brought to the JPC yet.

Watson asks for a voice vote so he can have an idea of how to proceed. Most board members agree they do not want to add more RCT property to the Urban Services agreement with the City. Hall is undecided until he has more information.

Pat Sharpe agrees with the board and says to please stop giving RCT land away.

Clerk:

Hawthorne shares that her reports are on the board members desks. There are no questions. She says RCT is ready for the elections this summer and the process has already started for the August 6th election.

Treasurer:

Greenfield has provided the board with her treasure's report. There are no questions. She says summer tax bills will go out by July 1.

Trustees:

Bellmore asks about the Gypsy (Spongy) moth invasion. Commissioner Jackson says the county is doing a survey about aerial spraying. It is too late this year, so the survey will be for following years. He says each following year should not be as bad. Watson wants to know who would pay and if it would come from property taxes. Jackson says based on some other townships that have gotten quotes, it would be about \$8.6 million to spray all of Barry County. Jackson says there is a presentation from a spray company to the county commissioners next week and he will get details to the board.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Jackson wants to make sure it is clarified that the COA millage is not for a new building or old building and only for the services they offer. He says the solar ordinance was on his list but will be covered under New Business.

Jackson shares that Michael Brown has resigned and will be done 8/31/24. He says there is a national search for his replacement and he will be a hard person to replace. He says they expect 20-40 candidates.

Unfinished Business:

MEI Contract

Hawthorne says MEI has started their work in RCT and should be complete in August or September. James is happy to be using a local company. Hawthorne says there may be an opportunity for MEI to do another phase in RCT.

New Business:

Draft of the Solar Ordinance from the County for Consideration

Hawthorne says the board has seen the ordinance from the county and was just given the notes from Attorney Rolfe. She says at this time, it is just for informational purposes for the board and will go to the PC first.

Commissioner Jackson reads a list of concerns that Steve Pachulski emailed to him. Jackson says the county is compiling information from the local parties. He says the county ordinance is not the same as the state one. He says most projects in Barry County will be under 50 megawatts so will be subject to county ordinance. Whereas, the state ordinance will cover projects over 50 megawatts. A solar farm using 50 megawatts requires 400-450 acres. There is no land available in RCT for that. Watson asks if there were experts involved in this decision making. Jackson says it was a group of residents currently near existing solar farms.

Hawthorne says RCT can mirror the county ordinance or make their own. But since RCT has its own zoning and planning, it must have its own ordinance. Other townships use the county for zoning and so can just use the county ordinance. Lectka wants to clarify that there are different ordinances for residential vs. commercial and Jackson says they are written in different sections.

Updated Site Plan Permit Process

Hawthorne explains that they would like to add a Zoning Packet to go to residents along with applications for permits. This will include zoning, rezoning, site plan review, and the SLU requirements, as well as an idea of how the process will work.

Greenfield makes a motion, supported by James, to approve the Zoning Packet to be handed out with permit applications. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Lectka - Yes. Motion passes.

Open Comments: None

Adjournment:

Motion by James, seconded by Hall to adjourn at 8:06pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary