

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Zoom Meeting

February 10, 2021 / 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, Matt Spencer

Others Present:

Les Raymond, Dave Jackson, Audrey Burton, Sophie Bates, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield to accept the agenda, second by James. All ayes, motion carried.

Guests:

Audrey Burton - RCT Library Board Representative:

Burton shares that the library reopened February 1st at 30% capacity which is about 30 people. The second floor is still closed except for a couple of groups that meet there regularly. The library was closed for 6 months in 2020. Their year-end request letters brought in about \$14,000. They will use those funds towards repairs to the HVAC system and improvements in the children's area. They have added many digital download options and were proud to hear that a teacher in Israel had used their online escape room in his class.

Open Comments:

None

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Watson has nothing new to share.

Clerk:

Hawthorne says her Clerk Report Vouchers/Payroll were emailed to the board. She shares that at this point there will be no election in May 2021.

Treasurer:

Greenfield shares that her Treasurer's Monthly Report was emailed to the board. She also comments that tax payments are steadily coming in.

Trustees:

James is concerned that the work on a rural retreats definition has been dropped and she was not aware. Hawthorne and Watson tell her that the PC meetings are on Zoom and she is welcome to attend.

Bellmore asks if RCT did anything for Marlin Walters passing away. Greenfield says they are taking up a collection to donate in his name. Bellmore asks if she can still contribute to it.

Commissioners Report:

Dave Jackson gives an update:

The Barry Eaton Health Department are getting an average of 1200 doses of the COVID vaccines. There are more than 20,000 on the waiting list, which means only 4-6% of the population is getting vaccinated. Watson says that most people have had to go to Lansing to get their vaccination. Watson has heard that people from other counties are coming to Barry County for vaccinations. James has heard complaints from people that have not been able to get the vaccination. Greenfield says her husband was able to easily get the vaccine at the Barry County Health Department.

Jackson says the county is still working on plans for the jail and COA. They are also rebooting the Broadband Committee. He says the COVID Pandemic has taught us that Barry County has very poor service. Spencer asks what the plans are going forward with the jail. Jackson says it was tabled until the new Board of Commissioners came on board in November. He says they have learned a lot and plan to make some changes with the jail and COA plans. Bellmore says there will never be a new jail until people get back to work. Bellmore and Jackson discuss the effects of the Governor's orders for Michigan. Jackson says the Health Department has to follow state regulations. Bellmore asks if the Health Department is under the oath of office. Jackson believes that the Board of Directors might be. They were told there would be fines and loss of funding if they do not abide by the state regulations.

Unfinished Business:

Accept Ordinance #2021-176 for Second Reading and Adoption. An Ordinance to amend various sections of Chapter 220 (Zoning) of Rutland Charter Township Code of Ordinances pertaining to temporary use of a recreation vehicle as a dwelling

Raymond asks if there is any more discussion on the ordinance amendment. Bellmore asks what if there is someone in this situation that becomes sick with COVID. Raymond says he can make allowances for that.

Motion by Bellmore, supported by James, to accept Ordinance #2021-176 for second reading and adoption.

Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes,- Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - Yes.

Motion passes.

New Business:

Approve Ordinance #2021-266. Resolution to amend Resolution #2018-237 to update the 2021 poverty exemption income guidelines and asset test

Motion by James, supported by Spencer, to approve Resolution #2021-266.

Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - Yes.

Motion passes.

Approve Ordinance #2021-276. Resolution to allow appeals to the Board of Review in Writing for March 2021

Watson does not want these happening in person yet. James asked if they would be given an option. Watson says only fax, mail, email, phone, but not in person. Greenfield asks if this is just for the month of March. Hall thinks this is a great idea and not just for during a pandemic. Watson says some are already coming my mail. James thinks this is alright but only for this year.

Motion by Greenfield, supported by James, to approve Resolution #2021-267 for one year.

Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - No, Spencer - Yes.

Motion passes.

Prepayment to PLM for Algonquin Lake Weed Treatment

James comments that this is a great idea and RCT has been doing this for years. Bellmore and Greenfield agree. Hall asks how this year's bill compares to past years. Hawthorne says it is the same.

Motion by Hawthorne, supported by Watson, to approve Prepayment to PLM for Algonquin Lake Weed Treatment.
Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - Yes.

Motion passes.

Barry County Road Commission Dust Control

Watson asks if everyone has looked at the report. He met with the Road Commission last week and they need an answer on dust control. Bellmore asks if Ryan Gillons was called for a bid. Watson says Brad Lambert at the Road Commission was in contact with Gillons, and he has not heard from Gillons personally.

Hawthorne breaks down the quote for the board. Watson says they will not do dust control in the State Game Area, and he will make sure the Road Commission is aware of that.

Greenfield and Spencer think that dust control is a waste of money and those funds should go to paved roads.

Hawthorne says 50% of RCT is dirt, and those residents are paying for road improvements too. Hall is in favor of dust control. He says it is only 18% of the total amount. He agrees that people living on dirt roads voted for this millage as well and RCT cannot ignore them. James agrees that they should continue dust control but not on roads that have no homes on them.

Hawthorne makes a motion to approve the dust control plans from the old map that will not include the roads in the State Game Area with no houses, seconded by James.

Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - No, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes,- Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - No.

Motion passes.

Raymond asks if any private subdivisions will be getting dust control. There are only paved subdivisions in RCT.

Open Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion by James to adjourn, seconded by Greenfield, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary