

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

July 14, 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:

Pat Sharpe, Steve Puchulski, Kim Bosma, Carl Algera, Eric Bair, Dave Jackson, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Watson asks to add "Planning Commission Appointments" to the agenda under Supervisor. Motion by Hawthorne to accept the agenda with one addition, second by Greenfield. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - Yes.

Motion passes.

Guests:

Kim Bosma - RCT Library Board Representative:

Reports that the library is back to regular hours and is officially done with any COVID restrictions. She also shares that now all library cards that are purchased can also be used online.

Open Comments:

None

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Board of Review Appointments - Hawthorne makes a motion to reappoint Carl Lickley and Brian Porritt to the Board of Review, seconded by James. All ayes. Motion passes.

Planning Commission Appointments - Bellmore makes a motion to reappoint Larry Haywood and Dan King to the Planning Commission, seconded by Spencer. All ayes. Motion passes.

Clerk:

Hawthorne says a copy of her Clerk Report Vouchers/Payroll is on each of the board member's desks.

She asks the board members to sign the MTA Pledge before they leave so that she can put it in the frame in the hallway.

She also shares that the Hastings School Bond election is August 3rd.

Treasurer:

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

She says tax bills went out July 1st and there was a system glitch that printed 2020 instead of 2021 on all the bills.

Trustees:

Spencer asks if RCT is being investigated for the November 2020 presidential election. Hawthorne says yes and that all clerks are being questioned. Spencer asks if the machines have been updated since that election. Hawthorne says

no. She says some machines are newer than others but there are no modems, no wifi, no connection to the internet in any way. And the machines have not been touched since that election.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Dave Jackson gives an update.

- He says that the commissioners passed a county wide Broadband Comprehensive Assessment to develop a plan for everyone to have WiFi access.
- He reminds the board that they would need to apply for the ARPA funds by July 27th.
- He says the work on the Cloverdale drain project has begun. The cost could be close to 3 million. Sharpe asks if there will be a detour route for the drain project and Jackson says one is not needed.
- He shares that RCT may want to consult with Middleville about the marijuana ordinance because they are working on one too.
- He shares that the Economic Development team met and have decided to go ahead with sidewalks in the area of Aldi east to Dollar Tree. Watson shares that Culver's will be putting in their own sidewalk.
- Jackson also shares that Consumers Energy now has a street light app in order for people to report street light outages.

Unfinished Business:

Accept Ordinance 2021-177 for second reading:

Greenfield makes a motion to accept Ordinance #2021-177 for second reading and adoption, seconded by James.

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

Cemetery Ordinance Discussion:

The board discusses how this ordinance was good in the past but then changed by some past clerks. James and Hall both visited the RCT cemetery and think it needs work. Hall says there is a big difference between RCT and Riverside. Hawthorne says other cemeteries have gone through the needed changes. There are stone borders in the way and the sexton does not clean those so the weeds are left to grow. Hall says the existing ordinance allows a 3 foot area to be decorated. Greenfield says that was in an attempt to let people have their own way to grieve. Greenfield says the township needs to find a happy medium between making the cemetery look good and allowing people to grieve. She suggests maybe giving a certain time allowance for items to stay out. Hawthorne says she now has a database for the cemetery but that she does not have much contact information for deceased's family members. She also says that the stone is at the foot of the grave and not the head where most people think it is. James asks if they can go back to using headstones. Hawthorne says they have to keep it the same in the existing area but could start the next area that way. Hawthorne sent letters and got no response. She says a handful of people may have cleaned up but that was it. Board members suggest an ad in the paper and then give 6-12 months for people to clean up or the township does it for them. Spencer wonders if having a millage for the cemetery would get some attention to the problem. Hawthorne says the cemetery is something that will always have to be dealt with. She says she has been to many meetings about the subject. She wants to start back at step one and get the current situation handled.

Watson would like to see a vision and plan before next Memorial Day. Hall says section 9 of the old ordinance covers what they have been discussing. Bellmore agrees they should revert back to the older ordinance and maybe just update some numbers. James would like to see a communication go out and mark graves that need to be cleaned up with flags then give the family a certain amount of time to clean it up or the township will. Hall says to post the ordinance on the shed at the cemetery. Watson wants to have something ready to publish by next month's meeting.

Marijuana Discussion:

Hall clarifies that this includes medical and adult use. Bellmore wants to go unlimited and says that Rebecca Harvey agrees that is a good idea. Hawthorne says RCT does not limit other types of businesses. She says doing that could open RCT up for lawsuits. Greenfield agrees that competition will weed out alot. Hall says Middleville is limiting theirs but Lowell is unlimited. Hall says Lowell is about the same population as RCT and they have 11 applications. He worries that it is too high of a number for RCT. Hawthorne says there is not enough area to have that many in RCT and that zoning will restrict alot. Hall would like to see retailers limited and not limit the other marijuana businesses. Hawthorne thinks that will cause legal issues. Greenfield worries about Micro Businesses but thinks that

zoning will handle a lot of her worries. James wants to start by limiting to a small number and then increasing in the future if they see a need.

Bellmore makes a motion to issue marijuana licenses for marijuana businesses in an unlimited quantity, seconded by Spencer.

Roll Call Vote: Hall - No, James - No, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Spencer - Yes. Motion passes 5-2.

New Business:

Resolution 2021-270 Township Investment and Depository Resolution:

Greenfield explains that Mercantile has been bought out by Lake Trust Credit Union. She says that townships are now allowed to have deposit accounts at credit unions, so she is leaving RCT's funds there. She also says that Chemical Bank is being bought by Huntington before the end of the year.

Bellmore makes a motion to approve Resolution #2021-270, seconded by James.

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

Open Comments:

Eric Bair is from Hopkins and shares that he is the new owner of the Algonquin Lake Storage. He asks if he is allowed to have outside storage and the answer is yes. He also asks if he would have access to the gate on the lake for his customers and Pat Sharpe says he will not. Hall asks Bair if he plans to expand and Bair says possibly in the future but not now.

Steve Pulchulski asks if the board is still working on the Blight Ordinance and Hawthorne says yes.

Pat Sharpe is happy to see that Blight was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion by Bellmore to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by James, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary