

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

December 8, 2021 / 7PM

Greenfield makes a motion, seconded by Hall to have Hawthorne chair this meeting. All ayes and the motion passes.
Meeting called to order by Clerk Hawthorne at 7pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call Members Present:

Gene Hall, Sandy James, Sandy Greenfield, Robin Hawthorne, Stacey Graham

Roll Call Members not Present:

Larry Watson and Brenda Bellmore are excused absences. Board appoints Clerk Hawthorne to chair the meeting in the Supervisor's absence.

Others Present:

Pat Sharpe, Jon Smelker, Audrey Burton, Les Raymond, Rachel Frantz

Approval of Agenda:

Hawthorne adds the approval for the attorney of record, engineer of record, and planner of record for 2022. She also adds that there are two Blight ordinances to discuss. Motion by James, second by Greenfield to approve the agenda with additions. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent
Motion passes.

Guests:

Audrey Burton - RCT Library Board Representative:

Burton highlights a few items from the monthly meeting minutes that the board members have copies of in their packets.

Pat Sharpe - ALCA Board President:

He says Happy Holidays to all the RCT family.

As a resident he would like to urge the board to make sure they have a good grasp of what the residents actually want when it comes to Marihuana and Blight ordinances. He feels that voters did not know what they were voting for or how complicated things have been with marihuana laws. He thinks residents need to be surveyed on both topics.

Open Comments:

None

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Hawthorne says that Watson wanted the board to know that Jane Cybulski was named as the RCT Library Board Representative. She will serve for a 3 year term and can serve another 3 year term after that.

Clerk:

Hawthorne says that her Clerk's report is in the board member's packets.

She shares that there is a Barry County Road Commission Township Meeting happening soon and wants any board members to let her know if they want to attend and she will have a spot reserved for them. Hall says he would like to attend.

Hawthorne asks the board to make sure they have read and understand the letters from Attorney Rolfe that are in their board packets.

Treasurer:

Greenfield shares that her treasurer report is in the board member's packets. She shares that tax bills were mailed out December 1st. She will be in her office the extended hours of 9am-5pm on December 27 collecting taxes.

Trustees:

Graham asks about the sale of the property on the corner of M37 and M43. Raymond and Hawthorne explain that the owner sold and they have not heard what will be going in there. Raymond shares that the Yoders are temporarily located in Ace Hardware and Raymond is looking for somewhere in RCT for them to work out of.

Commissioner Report:

John Smelker shares that there were several new board appointments. He says he will send a recap to Hawthorne for her to share with the board about the meeting on government funds. Hall says he was surprised to see that broadband was not on the list. The board did not get a visit from a representative about the meeting to discuss options for the funds. Board members did not know about the meeting and wish they had a say in how the funds might have been spent in townships. James tells Smelker she appreciates him.

Unfinished Business:

Township Website Decision

Board members discuss the web site research for a new web site for the Township. Hawthorne states that her deputy clerk, Morgan, and herself want to recommend Pixelvine as the web site firm to manage our web site going forward. It was close between LIAA and Pixelvine but feel that a new company that is local would be the way to go forward with the project. Board discussion. Motion by Greenfield Second by James to appoint Pixelvine as our web site management company. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent Motion passes.

Approve Resolution 2021-276 Compensation Resolution

Graham makes a motion, seconded by Hawthorne to approve Resolution #2021-276. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent. Motion passes.

Approve Resolution 2021-277 The 2022 Budget Resolution

James makes a motion, seconded by Hall to approve Resolution #2021-277. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent. Motion passes.

American Relief Plan Act Fund Discussion

Hawthorne says that the board needs to make a plan for these funds to submit by April 2022. James asks if the state is done making changes. Hawthorne says the latest is from July of 2021. Hall feels it will be fluid. He says it has to be spent on something that will benefit residents and something that will not have future costs involved.

Hawthorne says the RCT employees talked about possibly paying back the General Fund for the \$46,000 that was paid to employees during the time they were closed for Covid. She also mentions using some of the funds for the cemetery expansion.

Greenfield says she wishes the county would pool their money for broadband. Smelker says there was an advisory board put together to do just that. He says there were representatives that visited each local recipient of the funds. Hawthorne and Greenfield say that no one visited either the offices or a meeting. Greenfield asks Smelker if the county has a quote for county wide broadband. Smelker does not know of one and explains that the deadline has

passed for the first round of the advisory board plan. He explains there will be a second phase. Hawthorne says the money does not have to be spent by April of 2022; some must be spent by 2024 and all of it by 2026.

Two Blight Ordinance Drafts to Discuss

Hawthorne tells the board that they have two drafts to review. One is from Attorney Rolfe and the other is Rebecca Harvey's overview of the attorney's draft. This ordinance will be on the agenda in January.

New Business:

Approve Resolution 2021-275 The 2022 Board Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule

Greenfield makes a motion, seconded by Graham to approve Resolution #2021-275. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent. Motion passes.

Approve Resolution 2021-278 Township Investment and Depository Resolution

Greenfield explains that different financial institutions are requiring different things. She says this resolution should prepare them for the future. She also clarifies that the treasurer does not need all three signatures to make a withdrawal, deposit, or transfer. Greenfield makes a motion, seconded by James to approve Resolution #2021-278. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent. Motion passes.

Approval of the Attorney of Record, Engineer of Record, and Planner of Record for Rutland Charter Township for 2022

Hawthorne explains that this is something they vote on every year. Hawthorne makes a motion, seconded by Greenfield to approve Craig Rolfe as the RCT Attorney of Record for 2022, Prein & Newhoff (Ken Bosma) as the RCT Engineer of Record for 2022, and McKenna & Associates (Rebecca Harvey) as the RCT Planner of Record for 2022. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Graham – Yes, 2 absent. Motion passes.

Open Comments:

Raymond urges board members to pay close attention to the emails from Attorney Rolfe about the Marihuana and Blight ordinances. He shares that Rolfe is planning to have the public hearings for both issues. Raymond feels that there was too much detail taken out of the Blight ordinance. He thinks it is important to add back some of the definitions so that they are more than clear.

Rachel Frantz introduces herself as the Barry County Recycle Representative. She shares that there are several initiatives coming soon to promote more recycling in Barry County. One is a mini grant opportunity for local governments. She is interested in creating mobile recycling centers and the RCT board is happy to hear that and interested in more information when she has it.

Adjournment:

Motion by Hall to adjourn at 8:05pm, seconded by Greenfield, all ayes, 2 absent. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary