

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

February 9, 2022 / 7PM

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Watson at 7pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call Members Present:

Gene Hall, Sandy Greenfield, Larry Watson, Robin Hawthorne, Brenda Bellmore, Stacey Graham

Members Not Present:

Sandy James - excused

Others Present:

Pat Sharpe, Audrey Burton, Jane Cybulski, Steve Pachulski, Steven Storrs, Jon Smelker, Peggy Hemerling, Fred Saint Amour, Les Raymond

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield, second by Bellmore to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes.

Motion passes.

Guests:

Jane Cybulski gives an update from the recent Library Board meeting.

Audrey Burton and Peggy Hemerling give some information on the windows and HVAC at the library.

Open Comments:

Pat Sharpe speaking as President for ALCA. He shares that they will be going around with a petition to change the weed assessment to 10 years. He also shares that the permit for fireworks on July 3, 2022 will be coming soon.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Bellmore, second by Hawthorne to approve the consent agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Supervisor:

Watson says Mr. Saint Amour did a land split that Attorney Rolfe says is not lawful. He confirms with Mr. Saint Amour and Storrs that they are filing paperwork to correct this error.

Doug Lectka will replace Nickie Haight on the JPC.

Clerk:

Hawthorne says that her Clerk's report is in the board member's packets. And asks if the board has any questions.

She shares that the ARPA Re-allocation Payment came in and was \$851.81.

There is a copy of the dangerous building ordinance on each desk. Raymond would like the board to prepare because there may be hearings coming up.

Treasurer:

Greenfield shares that her treasurer report is in the board member's packets. Tax payments are coming in. Tax payers have until the end of February to pay at RCT.

Trustees:

Graham asks what is going on at Journey Church. Watson says they are disputing their tax payments.

Commissioner Report:

Commissioner Jon Smelker says he will still be a RCT representative until January. He gives his monthly report.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on the two Marihuana Ordinances after the Public Hearing on January 19, 2022

Hall says he thinks the licensing and applications are fine. He would like to see a buffer required between businesses. He would like to know from the attorney if adding a buffer would give RCT any more legal problems than any other decision the board makes. Watson asks how big of a buffer and Hall thinks 1000 feet. Hall feels that A, B, and C growers should not be allowed in MUD. Hall reminds everyone that he has set his personal views aside and worked to represent the majority of the RCT residents that supported this ordinance.

Graham agrees with most of what Hall said. She thinks a lot of time and learning has gone into these ordinances over the last 4 years. She feels it is the board's job to act in the best interest of the voters regardless of what they feel personally. She says her concern about the daycares has been rectified and she is ready to move forward on these ordinances.

Bellmore is pleased with the work that has gone into these ordinances. She thinks that the board may want to give buffers a thought. She says there were residents at the special board meeting that were concerned about not having the buffers. Otherwise she is ready to move forward with these ordinances.

Hawthorne feels that there is not enough land in the MUD to put a 1000 foot buffer. She says there is no reason to buffer these marihuana businesses any more than a liquor or cigarette store.

Hall says his goal with buffers is to spread out the businesses instead of having them all right on top of each other. Hall also mentions that the board may want to consider a buffer between residential homes and marihuana businesses in the MUD. Hawthorne says she is basically the only resident in the MUD and she lives there by choice and so would anyone else living in the MUD. She says the reason MUD was created in the first place was for residents to live and run a businesses in the same place.

Hawthorne feels they have put in a lot of work and she thinks they are great ordinances. She would prefer to allow one Class A grower in MUD - not B or C. She says she would agree to a 500 foot buffer.

Watson thinks that they have finally worked out something fair and he agrees there may be changes needed in the future. He reminds the board that this ordinance belongs to the RCT residents and not to the individual board members. He thinks these two ordinances are as complete as possible. He wishes that they could ask on the application how a marihuana business would be a good neighbor, like Middleville is. Hawthorne says Middleville is already dealing with a license holder trying to sell his license for a higher cost because they are limited and so worth money.

Greenfield feels the licensing ordinance is good. She thinks that all grows (A, B, and C) should be in AG not in MUD. She also thinks that micro businesses should not be in MUD because they are all these businesses combined, even though it's smaller. She says eliminating micro grows totally would take care of the problem. Hall says they visited a micro grower and the only thing visible was the retail store part of it. He thinks they would be fine in the retail area because that is the only thing people would notice.

Raymond says Pinconning is dealing with a grower that now wants to put a retail facility on the same property as the grow operation.

Hawthorne makes a motion to allow micro growers in MUD, seconded by Bellmore. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - No, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes 5-1.

Hall makes a motion to add a 500 foot buffer between all marihuana businesses in the MUD area, seconded by Graham. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - No, Bellmore - No, Graham - Yes. Motion passes 4-2.

Storrs asks why RCT would allow 150 plants for a micro grower but not allow class A growers that can have 100 plants. He thinks that since they would be indoor grows, the building would be all that is seen. Greenfield says that is why she did not want micro growers in MUD.

Hawthorne makes a motion to allow Class "A" Adult Marihuana Recreational Growers in MUD with 100 plants, seconded by Bellmore. The board discusses that these changes will require another public hearing at the PC level. Roll Call Vote: Hall - No, Greenfield - No, Watson - No, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - No. Motion fails 2-4.

First Reading on Ordinance 2022-179 the Blight Ordinance

Hawthorne says all the updates that the board asked for have been done.

Bellmore says she has been driving around RCT thinking about this ordinance. What she noticed is that many residents have boats or RVs or something similar parked in their yards. She just wants to verify that as long as those vehicles are licensed and kept clean, they would still be in compliance.

Motion by Hall, second by Bellmore to accept Ordinance 2022-179 for the first reading. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Bids Ads for the Roof, Landscaping, and Cemetery

This includes the roof and cupola for the township hall. Hall asks if there is a specification written for this. Watson says no they need to put one together. Hall offers to help. Bellmore asks why keep the cupola. Hawthorne says it is part of the history of RCT and it is on all of their business papers as their logo. Greenfield says it makes more sense to replace the roof but the cupola is not a necessity. Hawthorne says it should all go together.

Raymond, speaking as a resident, says that the cupola adds character to the building. Watson agrees there is a sentimental value.

The board discusses that some specs have been mapped out in the past for the cemetery and landscaping.

New Business:

PLM Prepay for Algonquin Lake Weed

Motion by Greenfield, second by Bellmore to accept the prepayment plan from PLM for the Algonquin Lake Weed Control Program. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Graham wants to verify that the discount and price are the same as last year.

Audit Engagement Letter from Siegfried Crandall

Hawthorne says this is done every year. She needs the board to approve them as the RCT auditors before she can send the paperwork back.

Motion by Watson, second by Bellmore to approve Siegfried Crandall as auditors for RCT for 2022. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Open Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Greenfield to adjourn, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary