

Regular Board Meeting

May 11, 2022 / 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, Stacey Graham

Others Present:

Ken Putman, Ben & Vicky Eye, Ron Holley, George Hubka, Audrey Buehler, Rod Ritsema, Joel Ibbotson, Audrey Burton, Michael Jones, Ted Robbins, Dale Herminett, Jim Field, Pat Walton, Linda Watson, Nathan Peterson, Charles Heuthler, Steve Pachulski, Les Raymond, Rick Argo, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Hawthorne adds the following items under Unfinished Business: ARPA Funds Discussion, Township Hall office computers, and the sale of Township Property on Heath Rd. Motion by Hawthorne, seconded by Greenfield to accept the agenda with the additions. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

Audrey Burton – RCT Library Board Representative:

Burton shares highlights from her monthly report.

Michael Jones – Scattering Gardens for the Cemetery:

Jones thinks a scattering gardens would be a nice addition to the RCT Cemetery. He says it only requires a small area and he asks that the board look into maintenance and options for adding one.

Open Comments:

Steve Pachulski says that he received an email from Great Lakes Energy saying that they would be starting to lay fiber optic cables for their customers in RCT.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

None

Clerk:

Hawthorne says her clerk report is available and board members have it. She says RCT had a very successful election on May 3rd and the vote did pass in RCT.

Treasurer:

Greenfield shares that a copy of her Treasurer's Monthly Report is on each board member's desk. She shares that she received a letter from the TK School System saying that they need to close their library to the public and only keep it open for high school students. They are asking local governments to donate to stop this from happening. Greenfield feels that since the RCT residents that are in the TK school district already pay taxes towards the Hastings Library, and can use it for free. Greenfield feels that Middleville can support and create their own public library. The board agrees with Greenfield.

Trustees:

Graham asks about a timeline for subdivision road paving and Watson says it is still on track to begin soon.

Hall brings up a letter the board got about waste water from marihuana growers. Hawthorne says it is referring to drain fields and septics. Watson says they recycle all of their water.

Commissioners Report:

None

Unfinished Business:

ARPA Funds:

Motion by Hawthorne, seconded by Greenfield, to sign and accept the ARPA agreement. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - No, Graham - Yes. Motion passes 6-1.

Township Property Sale:

Motion by Hawthorne, seconded by Bellmore, to accept the sale agreement for the sale of the Heath Rd property. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Township Office Computers:

Hawthorne explains that some of the office computers are outdated and not strong enough. She says they have looked into updating them and it is more cost effective to purchase new ones. She explains that RCT has a tax exempt account with Dell and she will look into pricing. The board agrees to set an amount for approval tonight so that the computers can be purchased and set up before the August election. Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Hall, to approve up to \$5000 for purchase of new township computers. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-181 Rezone of Property in Land Section 14:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by James, to accept Ordinance 2022-181 for second reading and adoption. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-182 Anti-Blight Ordinance:

Many residents voice their opinions about the Blight Ordinance. Some believe it is overreaching, some believe the updates are appropriate and support the ordinance. Some residents are worried how complaints and enforcement will work. The board and township employees explain that there is already an ordinance in place that allows the township to handle Blight situations. The point of updating the ordinance is to help residents understand the ordinance and the requirements. Several members of the public ask “what-if” questions that are not relevant to the Blight ordinance. The board advises concerned citizens to get involved at the beginning of the process instead of at the last vote. The board shares that a lot of time and hard work has gone into this ordinance and it is never going to please everyone.

Motion by James, seconded by Graham, to accept Ordinance 2022-182 for second reading and adoption. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Marihuana Licenses Review:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Graham, to accept the attached application as the form that RCT will use for marihuana license applications. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

May 23rd is technically the first day applications will be accepted, but since it is a Saturday, the first business day that follows.

New Business:

First Reading to Accept Recommendation from the Planning Commission Public Hearing and to Accept Ordinance # 2022-183 for First Reading:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by James, to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and to accept Ordinance #2022-183 for first reading. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Graham - Yes. Motion passes.

Open Comments:

Joel Ibottson wants the public to understand that the RCT board has listened to his suggestions and made the Blight ordinance better than the existing one.

Charles Heuthler apologizes for getting upset at last month's meeting. Watson says he appreciates his passion but asks that he voice his opinions in a constructive way.

Ron Holley from Patton's Monument tells the board that there are a lot of accidents on the corner of Green St and Cook Rd. Watson says RCT has tried to get the Road Commission to do something but have had no luck. Holley says there is not even a Stop sign warning sign. Watson says they should be able to get one put there.

Bellmore asks about a line item on the treasury report and Hawthorne says that the city is objecting to the tax assessment from RCT.

Adjournment:

Motion by James to adjourn at 8:07pm, seconded by Greenfield, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary