

**RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Watson. Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Members Present:** Robin Hawthorne, Larry Watson, Brenda Bellmore, Sandy James, Gene Hall, Doud Lectka, Sandy Greenfield

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Pat Sharpe, Dave Jackson, Steve Pachulski, Jane Cybulski, Rebecca Lectka, Mark Jordon

**Agenda:** Motion by Greenfield, second by James to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Guests:** Library Representative Jane Cybulski reports that the window project has started and it has made quite a difference already. Revenues are up and were able to donate \$30k to the Library Fund. \$21k raised during the wine pairing dinner in October. Jane introduced Rebecca Lectka, Audrey Burton's replacement beginning January 1, 2024. Mark Jordan, Fire Chief, went over the new procedure for burn permits, beginning January 1, 2024. People will call the fire department directly for permits, 24-48 hours in advance of burning. Residents must obtain permit number before burning.

**Open Comments:** Pat Sharpe wishes the board a Happy Thanksgiving from ALCA.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by James second by Bellmore to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Supervisor** Nothing to report.

**Clerk:** Voucher/payroll reports are on the board member desks and on the back table.

**Treasurer:** Bank statements are on the board members desks and on the back table. Winter tax bills go out December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Trustees:** Hall inquires about the sexton, janitorial or ground bids. Hawthorne responds there has been some interest but nothing turned in so far.

**Commissioners Report:** Dave Jackson reports at this time the new COA building project is \$2million short of their goal. 2024 County Budget passed. \$1.2million in personnel funding was turned down. Solar farm legislation was discussed and whether to pass local ordinances to regulate it in our area. Bellmore inquires about plans for affordable housing on any county owned properties. Hall asks if there are possible plans for future tiny house developments.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Budget Public Hearing:** Letcka mentions typo on budget handout, under insurance and bonds, fund number 101-101-910.000. It shows \$25k and is higher than normal. Hall noticed as well. Board decided it was a typo and changed it to \$9,500. Discussion on 101-101-900.000 printing and publishing, decided that \$15k is correct due to publication and election costs. 101-806-725.000 ZBA per diem, Bellmore inquires on increase, increase is warranted due to rising cost of per diems. 101-191-977.000 Election equipment, Hall inquires if \$8,500 is

for new equipment that may be required going forward. Hawthorne responds yes but it has not been decided where equipment is coming from. 101-276-776.000 Cemetery repairs and maintenance, Hall inquires if the new cemetery project is completed yet and if that is the reason for the \$40k budget. Watson responds the new addition has not yet been completed and there is clean up happening in the rest of the cemetery. Hall inquires if the \$335k fire fund budget is enough to cover our contribution to BIRCH, Greenfield responds yes, between the millage for 2024 and the cashed in CD, will be sufficient and cover all 2024 costs, with enough left over to keep the fire fund solvent. Hawthorne says on page 28, our beginning and ending Fund balance is above \$2mill again, this year, after the budget is prepared. Board sends budget on the be voted on by resolution at the December board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Contingent Marihuana License Approval for Rutland Retailer LLC/Doja Rutland:** Jevin Weyenberg introduced himself to the board representing Rutland Retailer/Doja and that this location will be their fifth store in Michigan, with most being in the Kalamazoo area. He states that will probably employ between 15-20 people, starting wage of \$15 with some benefits. He assures the board that security will be up to state standards. Watson inquires about the landscaping, Bellmore responds that the PC put contingencies on approval of their site plan and SLU, pending a submitted landscaping plan to the zoning administrator. Lectka asks if the PC was happy with what was submitted to them, Bellmore answers both site plan and special land use passed with a couple of contingencies. Hawthorne tells the board, the check for licensing has been received. Weyenberg states they would like to be open 24 hours, as some other stores, but will be open for the maximum allowed hours. Hall inquires if the contingencies requested from the PC have been met, Weyenberg responds they are working on them and will be completed before final license approval. Hall states he covered all eight standards and believes they have been met. Bellmore states that this location was approved before when The Woods applied previously.

**Motion By Lectka    Second by Bellmore to approve the application as submitted and grant the contingent license to operate pending State and Township final approvals.**

**Roll Call Vote: Ayes: James, Greenfield, Watson, Hawthorne, Bellmore, Lectka, Hall  
Nays: none    Absent: none    Motion passes**

**Open Comments:** none

**Motion by Bellmore    second by Hall to adjourn the meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Hawthorne, Clerk