

**RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – December 13, 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, Gene Hall, Doug Lectka, Sandy Greenfield

Members Absent: Sandy James-excused

Others Present: Pat Sharpe, Bob Teunessen, Steve Pachulski, Audrey Burton, Jeff & Ester Lambert, Paul & Amber Vandermeer, Dave Bellmore, Paul Miller, Levi Trick, Carla & Ron Walker, Amy Jeffery-Hallifax, Gabriel Trick, Roger Trick, Anita Mennell, Steve Sensiba

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

Guests: Library Representative Audrey Burton thanked the Board for allowing her to serve her term as Library Board Representative and she welcomed Rebecca Lectka as her replacement on the Board. Painting of the library is progressing well.

Open Comments: Pat Sharpe wishes the board a safe and joyous holiday from ALCA. John Baker-Irving Twp spoke to the board about the Resolutions provided concerning making the township a Second Amendment Sanctuary Township. Sandy Twitchel-Barry County resident, also encouraged the board to adopt the presented Resolutions. Ron Walker-Rutland resident, also encourages the board to adopt the presented Resolutions.

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

Supervisor: Watson addresses the board to bring back mechanical and plumbing permitting to the building department. Hall and Lectka ask to have a proposal prepared by AGS to present to the board. Supervisor states it will be on the agenda for January 2024.

Clerk: Voucher/payroll reports are on the board member desks and on the back table. Early voting equipment has started to arrive and the new tabulator was tested upon arrival and passed.

Treasurer: Bank statements are on the board members desks and on the back table. Tax Bills went out December 1st.

Trustees: Hall reported the road commission meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 8:30am at the road commission office. Bellmore wants the 2nd amendment resolutions to be on the January board meeting agenda.

Commissioners Report: Bob Teunessen reports that the \$3 million has been deposited for the new COA building project. The 911 proposal will be on the presidential primary ballot and COA and Barry County Transit will be on the August primary ballot. The county put the remaining ARPA funds in escrow to be intended for a possible new jail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-299: 2024 Township Budget, Pachulski points out typos in the Budget Resolution, Hawthorne will fix them. Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Bellmore to approve Resolution 2023-299. Roll Call Vote-all ayes, one absent. Motion carries.

Award contracts for Sexton, Janitorial and Township Grounds Maintenance:

Sexton Contract: Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Hawthorne to approve Hallifax Services. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Greenfield, Watson and Hawthorne Nays: Bellmore, Lectka and Hall Absent: James Motion fails.

Motion by Bellmore, second by Hall to approve Paul Vandermeer for sexton contract. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bellmore and Hall Nays: Greenfield, Hawthorne, Watson and Lectka Absent: James Motion fails.

Motion by Bellmore, second by Lectka to approve Jeff Lambert for the sexton contract. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bellmore Nays: Greenfield, Hawthorne, Watson, Hall and Lectka Absent: James Motion fails.

Motion by Lectka, second by Bellmore to approve Josh Wickam for the sexton contract. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bellmore and Lectka Nays: Greenfield, Hawthorne, Watson, Hall Absent: James Motion fails.

Watson says bid packet will be run in the paper and put on next months agenda to award the sexton contract. Hawthorne states that due to the present contract expiring December 31, 2023, it should be extended by 3-6 months until a decision is made. Motion by Greenfield, second by Hall to extend the sexton contract.

Lawncare Contract: Motion by Hall, second by Bellmore to award the lawncare contract to Ulrich Lawn Maintenance. Roll Call Vote-all ayes, one absent. Motion carries.

Janitorial Contract: Motion by Greenfield, second by Hall to award the janitorial contract to Hallifax Services. Roll Call Vote-all ayes, one absent. Motion carries.

Agaming Drain District: Hawthorne states the Rutland township share of the Agaming drain district special assessment is \$33,125 over 10 years with the option to pay one lump sum to avoid interest fees. Hawthorne states it has been paid in full. Hall comments that this has raised his property taxes by %15 and will for the next ten years.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-297 Board Meeting dates and holiday schedule:

Motion by Greenfield, second by Lectka to approve the board meeting dates and holiday schedule for 2024. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Greenfield, Watson, Hawthorne, Bellmore, Lectka, Hall Nays: none Absent: James Motion carries.

Resolution 2023-298 2024 Township Board Compensation:

Motion by Bellmore, second by Hall to approve the 2024 township board compensation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bellmore, Greenfield, Watson, Hawthorne and Hall Nays: Lectka Absent: James Motion carries.

Appoint the auditors, attorney, planner and engineer of record for 2024:

Board discussion. Motion by Lectka, second by Bellmore to appoint Siegfried & Crandall as auditors, Craig Rolfe as twp attorney, Rebecca Harvey as twp planner, and Ken Bosma as twp engineer. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Greenfield, Hall, Hawthorne, Bellmore, Watson and Lectka Nays: none Absent: James Motion carries.

Open Comments: Two representatives of the BCRG addressed the board concerning becoming a Second Amendment Sanctuary Township.

Motion by Bellmore, second by Hall to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Hawthorne, Clerk

PROPOSED