

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

July 10, 2024 / 7PM

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

Roll Call - Members Present:

Gene Hall, Sandy James, Larry Watson, Robin Hawthorne, Brenda Bellmore

Members Not Present:

Sandy Greenfield, Doug Lectka

Others Present:

Pat Sharpe, Jason Watson, Jane Cybulski, Mike Jones, Susan Bender, Bob Teunessen, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by James, seconded by Bellmore to accept the July 2, 2024 agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

Jane Cybulski is a RCT representative on the Library Board. She has provided her report to the board and public. James thanks her and is appreciative of the hard work and dedication from the staff and representative.

Open Comments:

Heather Wing is the clerk for Assyria Township and is running for County Treasurer. She has many years of experience, would like to reinstate monthly treasurer meetings, and hopes to improve technology and make better use of the MSNA system. She says all 3 candidates running for County Treasurer are Republicans, so the winner will be determined in the August election. James reminds Wing that early voting starts July 27th.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Watson wants to reappoint Larry Haywood and Dan King to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term.

Hawthorne makes a motion, supported by Hall, to reappoint Larry Haywood and Dan King to the Planning Commission for a 3 year term. All ayes. Motion passes.

Clerk:

Board Members have the Clerk's Report Voucher/Payroll and there are no questions. Hawthorne shares that they will be testing the tabulators on Monday at 10:30am if anyone wants to watch.

Trustees:

James says the July 3rd fireworks at Algonquin Lake had a great turn out and it was a great show.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Teunessen shares that there will be a Public Hearing on the County Solar Ordinance on July 22nd at 7pm at the Tydon Center. Updates were made to the ordinance pertaining to set backs, fencing, and burms.

Teunessen says the COA has hired a construction company to start the building project. He says the goal is to raise \$6 million and they have raised \$4.5 million already. He says there has been such great cooperation between the COA Directors and Thornapple Manor. The cost benefits of being able to expand on and use facilities or amenities that are already there are huge.

Commissioner Tuenessen wants to make sure voters understand that the renewal the COA is asking for is not for building updates or the new building. The August vote is to fund the COA programs and services only. Tuenessen and Board members discuss the rumors and negative remarks being made by someone running for county commissioner. Bellmore says all they can do is continue to spread the truth and get the word out that taxes will not be raised to fund the new COA building.

The county approved a \$15,000 study to determine how bad the spongy moths will be next year. Interviews for County Administrator are starting and Micheal Brown is leaving at the end of August. The County IT Department is looking for a new employee because they are so busy. The recent audit found the county in perfect standing.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

2024 Tax Rate Request (L-4029)

Hawthorne asks if there are questions from the board. Bellmore says this was discussed when the Fire Chief was there, and they knew this was needed. Hawthorne says there is enough in the BIRCH account to cover the extra. James is happy that Greenfield and Hawthorne have left the extra funds in that account for situations like this. Hawthorne explains that they have to leave it there. Hall says that cost could continue to go up in coming years. Hawthorne says that is why she does not think RCT should roll back the fire millage rate this year. It has been rolled back as long as she has been clerk, but with the current high costs, the extra funds will likely be needed.

Bellmore makes a motion, supported by Hall, to set the millage to be levied on the 2024 Winter Taxes (L-4029). Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Watson - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes. Motion passes.

Open Comments:

Rick Moore lives on Podunk Lake and wants to inform the board that he has changed the lock combo at the boat access because there are many people using and abusing the access. He has been crucial in trying to link the Thornapple Bike Trail from Grand Rapids to Eaton Rapids. He is happy to share that there is only one property blocking the trail between Caledonia and Middleville, and only one property blocking the trail between Middleville and Hastings. He has new trail magazines to hand out. Moore also comments how important and needed the COA is.

Susan Bender introduces herself and shares that she is on the ballot for a delegate for precinct 1 for RCT. She has lived in the township for 15 years. She also invites the board and public to a meet and greet with Sheriff Dar Leaf at Mooville. There will be other delegates there as well. Hot dogs, chips, bottled water and ice cream for guests to enjoy. Food will be served 5-6pm, then the representatives will speak, and Sheriff Leaf will speak at about 7pm. The Sheriff will share details about his investigation and accept questions.

Adjournment:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by James to adjourn, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary