

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

January 8, 2025 / 7PM

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

Roll Call - Members Present:

Gene Hall, Sandy James, Sandy Greenfield, Marti Mayack, Robin Hawthorne, Brenda Bellmore, Jason Watson

Others Present:

Bob Teunessen, Jane Cybulski, Steve Pachulski, Pat Sharpe, Sue Bender, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Watson to accept the January 8, 2025 agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

Jane Cybulski gives an update from the Library monthly meeting and her report is available on the back table.

Open Comments:

Pat Sharpe wishes everyone a happy new year. He says they should have the contract papers by February or March for the ALCA Fireworks show on July 3rd, 2025. They will be asking for the PLM Prepayment in March. Sharpe believes Attorney Rolfe gave wise legal advice on leaving prayer out of the meetings.

Doug Lectka asks if the agreement with the dump for yard waste will continue. Hawthorne says the contract said it would continue.

Terrick Smith asks if there has been anything new about Meijer possibly coming to RCT. The board says there has been nothing.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Supervisor Mayack explains that they need to appoint Board of Review Members. Motion by Mayack, seconded by Hawthorne to appoint Carl Lickley, Marty Hawthorne, Les Raymond, and Andy Thomas to the Board of Review. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

Clerk:

Board Members have the Clerk's Report Voucher/Payroll and there are no questions. She asks board members to return their insurance form to her as soon as possible.

Treasurer:

Greenfield says her report is in the board member's packets and on the back table. She has also included the closing ARPA statement.

Trustees:

Hall shares there was a Road Commission meeting where they looked at recommendations that are proposed for the next 4 years. Hall also asks if there is anything the board members need to do about the bulletin on PC members. Hawthorne says it only applies to future members and that it is something RCT has tried to do anyways.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Bob Teunessen gives an update from the recent County Commissioners meeting. He says they have reelected existing board members. He also shares that the commissioners are still working on plans for empty buildings. He says the new COA building is working on bids and they are working on a plan for a new jail. They will be touring the new jail in Coldwater next week and are looking for plans to keep taxes down.

Unfinished Business:

Attorney Response to prayer before the pledge at Board meetings

Hall says that he had a discussion with Dave Jackson about this because they pray at one of the commissioner meetings. He reads from Attorney Rolfe's memo and says there could be issues guaranteeing the prayer would be non-denominational. He also points out that the board members were elected to represent the residents of RCT and not to vote their own feelings.

James believes people can pray on their own and it does not have to be in front of people. She would support a moment of silence but does not feel it should be on the monthly agenda.

Greenfield and Hawthorne agree that prayer is personal and not needed in a public forum. They do not want the public to feel pressured into praying. They say that people are welcome to say a silent prayer before standing for the pledge. They do not think it needs to be on the monthly agenda either.

Watson reads from a book about praying at government meetings. He volunteers to say a prayer every month.

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Hawthorne to not add a prayer to the monthly agenda, and people can take a moment of silence before the pledge if they choose. Roll Call Vote: Hall - No, James - No, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - No, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - No, Watson - No. Motion fails.

Motion by Hall, seconded by Mayack to take a moment of silence before the pledge at monthly meetings. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - No, Greenfield - No, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - No, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

Accept Ordinance #2025-196 on minimum lot size in CR to one acre for second reading and adoption

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by James to accept Ordinance #2025-196. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

New Business: None

Open Comments:

Susan Bender is here to represent the Republican party. She shares that they have elected a new board and their next meeting is January 30th at the Jefferson where they will be electing the delegates for the state convention and to name a chairperson.

Pat Sharpe asks how the moment of silence will work. It will be on the agenda as a private moment of silence and anyone is welcome to take the personal moment of silence right before or after the pledge.

Steve Pachulski asks Hall to not forget the east section of Ottawa Trail. He says it has not been paved in 25 years and there is an 18 ft bank built up on both sides. Hall says they have talked about it and are looking for a way to fix it cost effectively. He shares that it will cost 2 million to take it down to the dirt and completely redo it.

Adjournment:

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by Bellmore to adjourn at 7:43pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary