

Rutland Charter Township

Regular Board Meeting

February 12, 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, Pat Sharpe, Dan Lipstraw, Doug and Rebecca Lectka, Mark Jordan, Todd and Kristina Porritt from Yankee Bills, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by James to accept the February 12, 2025 agenda. All ayes. Motion passes.

Guests:

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

Open Comments:

Pat Sharpe thanks the board for having both Algonquin Lake items on the agenda tonight.

Consent Agenda:

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

Supervisor:

Supervisor Mayack makes a motion, seconded by Watson, to appoint Doug Lectka to the Board of Review. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

Mayack also asks that all board members attend the joint meeting, between the board and the Planning Commission, on March 31st at 7pm. He recommends that all board members review the pertinent ordinances before that meeting.

Clerk:

Board Members have the Clerk's Report Voucher/Payroll and there are no questions. Hawthorne has provided board members with replacement pages for their ordinance books.

Treasurer:

Greenfield says her report is in the board member's packets and on the back table. She shares that tax payments are quickly coming in.

Trustees:

Watson asks the board to review the ordinances allowing or not allowing chickens. He thinks this would be the right time to continue those changes if the Master Plan is going to be worked on.

Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Bob Teunessen gives an update from the recent County Commissioners meeting. He shares that the county has done a study on the gypsy moth infestation and possible need for a plan to spray for them in 2025. He says the study suggested that this winter could have been cold enough to kill off many of them, which did not happen last winter.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Fire Chief Mark Jordan

Chief Jordan shares that the new engine bought in 2024 is working great. He says 4 new trucks have been bought since 2023 and the township and city have been a great help. He has given the board his report and mentions that the calls are higher because the ambulances are down to one truck at night. That has caused fire to respond so the payroll and call logs are higher.

Chief Jordan also asks the board to reconsider requiring lock boxes be installed in all businesses in RCT. He would like there to be an ordinance requiring these in RCT and he has provided a sample ordinance. He says 95% of the businesses in RCT have these already. He explains how important these lock boxes are for the firefighters to enter a building if needed. He says the business would have to pay \$600 to install the lock box but the maintenance would be done by the fire department.

Hawthorne says the lock boxes are not required by the state. Board members support the idea of the lock boxes, but still feel this is up to the business owners, and do not want RCT to mandate them. Mayack thinks it is better for Fire Chief Jordan to approach business owners instead of RCT requiring it. Jordan thinks the best time to approach the subject is during the site plan review, but the fire department is not normally involved at that step.

Chief Jordan also wants RCT to look into a cost recovery ordinance. Greenfield and Hawthorne say they have tried this in the past and the insurance would not pay. Jordan says he has not had problems with insurance payments.

Chief Jordan shares that there will be full medical and fire staff at the concert at the Barry Expo Center in June 2025. Hawthorne says they will need a hold harmless permit for the 2 fireworks shows. And Jordan says he is working with the planners.

Supervisor Mayack asks Chief Jordan to explain the cost recovery ordinance. Jordan says that if a house or business burns, insurance will pay the beneficiary. But they will hold back 15-25% and send that to the city or township. The city or township can then keep those funds until the site has been cleaned up or the work is done. Jordan says this is left to the city or township's discretion.

Todd and his wife, Kristina, are the owners of Yankee Bills that was lost in a fire. They are requesting that RCT not hold those funds from them so that they can complete the work that needs done. Hawthorne explains that RCT has not received any money from the insurance company yet and that RCT did not say they would be keeping that money back. Mayack feels that this is something the board needs to address because he does not like the idea of holding a resident's money. Jordan and Hawthorne warn that this is the only way to assure the work gets done and RCT can release the funds or not based on their discretion.

Algonquin Lake prepaid discount to PLM

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield, to approve the prepay to PLM for Algonquin Lake weed treatment for 2025. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

Algonquin Lake Fireworks permit

Motion by James, seconded by Bellmore, to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement and permit for the fireworks show at Algonquin Lake. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Road Committee 4 Year Plan recommendations for RCT Roads

Gene Hall is on the road commission board and has shared the 2025 roads report with the RCT board. He points out that the road commission would prefer to not do subdivisions without a special assessment. The RCT board has always felt that because subdivision residents pay their taxes and are part of RCT, and deserve their roads worked on as well.

Board members think that the road commission should be spending the funds on roads that are rated lower. They want Hall to go back to the road commission and change where some of the funds are going. They advise to focus the funds on roads rated 4 or 5 and not the roads rated 8. The road commission has requested the final analysis be turned in by March 1st but that is not a hard deadline.

The board asks if the issue on Ottawa Trail will be taken care of with these funds. Hall says Ottawa Trail is being repaired with other funds.

Mayack shares that the road commission believes there will not be the funds to cover all the road needs in the coming years. He says RCT will need to work on a new plan for the future. Mayack says the state has now said that any new roads in new subdivisions will not be maintained by the road commission.

The board thanks Trustee Hall for his service on the road commission board.

Open Comments:

Pat Sharpe says he is on the road commission board as well. He thinks that Greenfield and Hawthorne should go to the road commission meetings as they know the financial and ratings part. He says subdivision residents should be proud of the roads they see every day.

Hawthorne reminds the board and public that RCT gives extra money to the roads every year even though they are not required to do that. James says our road commission is wonderful and she hears many positives from residents. Hawthorne is happy to be able to do dust control in RCT as well.

Adjournment:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Hawthorne to adjourn at 8:12pm, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary