

Rutland Charter Township

# Regular Board Meeting

August 13, 2025 / 7PM

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

## Roll Call - Members Present:

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

## Others Present:

Ed and Nora Hickey, Steve Pachulski, Pat Sharpe, Sue Bender, Doug and Rebecca Lectka, Bob Teunessen, Mark Jordan, Dan Lipstraw, Nickie Haight

## Approval of Agenda:

The board has an updated agenda and there are copies on the back table. Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield to accept the amended August 13, 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:

Steve Pachulski wants the board to reconsider paving the east end of Ottawa Trail. He says that at the board meeting in February, it was addressed on the Road Commission report. In June, the Road Commission added a culvert and scraped down the road. The water is being redirected and the sand is no longer washing out the road. However, it still looks horrendous and has not been paved in at least 32 years. Pachulski was under the impression, it would be paved but Jake at the BCRC said they never planned to pave it.

## Consent Agenda:

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

## Supervisor:

Mayack says he can no longer be on the JPC. He makes a motion to appoint Inis Straube to the JPC to replace him, Hall seconds the motion. Mayack explains that Straube lives in RCT and is a business owner in Hastings. All ayes. Motion passes.

Mayack shares that the RCT Attorney has sent a response to the City attorney on the 425 Agreement on July 3rd and July 27th and has not heard back from the City attorney. Supervisor Mayack also says he will have more information about the BIRCH Ambulance after their next meeting on August 14th.

## Clerk:

Board Members have the Clerk's Report Voucher/Payroll and there are no questions. Hawthorne shares that there will be a special election for the Barry and Kent ISD millage.

## Treasurer:

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

**Trustees:** None

## **Planning Commission Liaison Report:**

Trustee Gene Hall shares his report, board members have copies and there are more available on the back table.

## **Commissioners Report:**

Commissioner Bob Teunessen shares that the construction on the new COA building is moving along and on track to open the summer of 2026.

He says conversations about a new jail are ongoing. The county hired a company to figure out the best plan. Board members ask about other property the county could use for the jail or could sell to help fund a new jail. Teunessen says the jail was built around 1967 and has been added to 3-4 times. Board members also state that more mental health resources are needed instead of sending everyone to jail. Teunessen says if the jail fails, inmates would have to be sent to other jails and Barry county would have to pay them.

Teunessen also shares that the Health Department now has reduced services due to federal funding cuts.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **Accept Ordinance #2025-197 Construction Code Ordinance for a second reading**

Motion by James, seconded by Greenfield, to accept Ordinance #2025-197 for second reading and adoption. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

## **New Business:**

### **Budget Amendment for road millage and library millage Fund**

Hawthorne explains that both bills came in higher than the original estimate. RCT has the funds, they just did not budget enough on paper. She explains some budget regulations and needs for adjustments and amendments.

Motion by Greenfield, seconded by James, to approve the two budget amendments. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Township Table and Chairs Rental Agreement**

Hawthorne and Greenfield explain that there has never been an agreement before but residents and staff have borrowed before. They both believe that if the staff can use them, the residents should be able to as well. James does not recommend renting them out at all. The board explains only the old set of tables and chairs will be available. There are 61 chairs and 6 tables. The RCT staff will handle the transactions, pickup and drop off, as well as damages to the property. The borrower will load and unload. Pat Sharpe says ALCA and St Rose do not rent out their tables and chairs because they end up missing or ruined. He does not recommend RCT renting them out. Hawthorne says it is already happening but right now it is happening without a rental agreement and therefore there is no protection for RCT.

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Mayack, to approve the tables and chairs rental agreement. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - No, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Quotes for Front ADA Ramp Repairs**

The board has quotes to review. Hawthorne explains that the front ADA ramp is out of compliance with present day code. There is a possible grant of up to \$10,000 to help pay for it. She says the drop box cannot be obstructed for elections or tax payments, so they would

prefer to have this done after the November 2025 election and before the tax bills go out in December 2025. However, Oosterhouse says they could do the work in September. Either way, the work has to be scheduled between taxes and elections. Hawthorne and Greenfield want to also take out the 2 unused ADA ramps that go to nowhere and turn them into parking spots.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Bellmore, to approve the proposal to replace the ADA ramp using TFC Concrete and pending our timeline. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Quotes for Parking Lot Repairs**

The board has 2 quotes (Murray's and A-1) to review to repair the RCT parking lot. Staff explain that the parking lot is in horrible condition. Greenfield says they have only done patches and bandaids in the entire time she has worked at RCT. She says now is the time to have the whole thing redone since the ADA sidewalks are being done. The staff would prefer to have the work done before elections next year. Greenfield says the money would come from the General Fund.

The quotes come down to 3 options - 1. Patch and Paint 2. Build up the cracks, Patch, and Paint 3. Complete tearout and redo. Jake at BCRC does not think the RCT parking lot is bad enough for #3 and he suggests #2. Murray's quote says a complete redo would last 15-20 years. James asks if the companies will fix the grass if they mess it up since one quote does not include that.

Motion by Mayack, seconded by Bellmore, to approve the 3rd option by Murray's Asphalt and to include that they clean up or replace anything they mess up. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Accept Ordinance #2025-198 for First Reading - Chickens in CR on Minimum 1 Acre**

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by Hall, to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission and to accept Ordinance #2025-198 for first reading. Roll Call Vote: Hall - Yes, James - Yes, Greenfield - No, Mayack - Yes, Hawthorne - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Watson - Yes. Motion passes.

### **Open Comments:**

Pat Sharpe asks if the chicken ordinance will come back up for another reading, Hawthorne says yes but only in CR.

Sharpe also asks that RCT put the Meijer issue up for election. Hawthorne says it is not an issue for an election. Meijer has as much right to build here as any other business.

Sharpe asks what comes next with the private part of Ottawa Trail and Mayack says he will follow up with the Road Commission. Hall says Ottawa trail was discussed at the Road Commission meeting in the spring. However, the work that was planned and executed was not adequate. He says it will always wash out until the road is paved further up. The road further up is private and some residents do not want it paved and are not concerned about the washout further down. Hall says the BCRC does not want to set neighbor against neighbor by requiring the road be paved.

Sharpe asks if the Family Fare in Hastings is being bought out by Piggly Wiggly. The board has not heard, but other audience members have heard that the Piggly Wiggly company is buying out all Spartan Nash stores. Hawthorne shares that the Family Fare in Hastings has already sold their extra liquor license to Meijer.

Sharpe asks why the budget was short. Greenfield says that the budget is only a proposed budget estimated by the taxable values. When unexpected costs come up during the year, an amendment is needed. RCT has the funds, they just need to adjust the proposed budget.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion by James, seconded by Watson to adjourn at 8:20pm. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED