

RIVES TOWNSHIP *SPECIAL MEETING*  
October 23, 2023  
Lansing Avenue Fire Barn

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Jerald Adams, Clerk Vercilla Hart, Treasurer Carol Schulz,  
Trustee Christine Beecher and Trustee Bryce Hammond.

Purpose of the Special Meeting: approve minutes, Fire Dept request for air packs, pay bills and payroll, renew Region 2 PC membership, Agreement for Jackson County Election Services, approve Sewer RRI funds to pay Lester Brothers for SA #3 work.

**Motion by Hammond, supported by Hart, to accept the Agenda as changed.** All ayes.  
Motion carried. Changes: Fire Dept Air Packs and Actions moved from #7 to #3a.

Public Comment #1 began at 6:01 p.m. and ended at 6:05 p.m.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to approve the August 14, 2023 Minutes as presented.** 4 - ayes, 1 - abstain (Treasurer Schulz because she didn't attend that meeting).

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve the October 10, 2023 Minutes as presented.** All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay payroll check numbers 31698 to 31717.**  
Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay bills check numbers 84020 to 84027 and sewer checks 2186 to 2188.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department

Every fire department in the county will be using Scott air packs. Our fire department needs 20 air packs, with 40 air cylinders and 20 built-in infrared cameras. On January 1st the price will increase. The total cost to the Rives-Tompkins Fire Department is \$170,795.00. Municipal Emergency Services (MES) is the vendor.

**Motion by Adams, supported by Hammond, to pay \$99,061.10 for Scott air packs from MES pending approval from Tompkins Township.** Roll Call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to approve the renewal of the membership for Region 2 Planning Commission for \$1,282.50.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Beecher urged other board members to consider attending Region 2 Planning Commission meetings.

## February 2024 Election

Hart summarized the 9-day voting to take place in February 2024.

- Blackman Township and Summit Township offices will be open for voters countywide during the days to vote.
- The agreement with Jackson County is only for federal and statewide elections.
- Rives Township polls will be open February 27th for Rives Township voters that don't vote in Blackman Township or Summit Township.

Disadvantages for Rives Township *not* allowing 9-day county voting for its residents: reimbursement for the election will be at a lower rate, new tabulators would need to be purchased, and 3 election inspectors will need to be paid for working at the Rives Township polling location each of the 9 days.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to accept the Election Service Agreement with Jackson County for joint early voting Site Agreement through December 31, 2025. Hammond - no, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Schulz - yes, Adams - yes. 1 - no, 4 - yes. Motion carried.**

## Sewer Repairs

Adams reported service has been needed at 7764 Rives Junction Rd due to bad check valves, and the air chambers were over pressurizing the system.

A quote from Lester Brothers for 4 air chambers to be rebuilt is \$1,500 each. The total cost for repair will now be more than \$27,000, which also includes new air chambers.

**Motion by Adams, supported by Hammond, to pay \$7,655.00 for Lester Brothers from the RRI fund to Sewer, invoice 10/13/23. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.**

## Communications

Beecher said tonight's Planning Commission meeting was cancelled. Hart was told the reason was lack of business for the Agenda.

Hart reported Mark Stevenson, Jon Hoffman, and Jim Lindstrom haven't signed the Code of Ethics, and she will send an email reminder to Planning Commission secretary Jan Hayward.

Hammond asked about the posting of Special Board meetings on the website, and Hart said the Agenda that must be posted with the reason for the special meeting is posted on the website at least 18 hours prior to the meeting.

Hart said the website was having issues, but was left up so residents could learn about the proposed Solar Ordinance and Solar Amendment to the Master Plan.

Hammond asked about security at the fire barns, and Adams will address the issue for the Main Street fire barn at the Joint Fire Board Meeting in February 2024.

Hammond asked about changing auditors, and Hart said she should hear back shortly from a local auditor previously used by Rives Township.

Hammond had been told by a previous board member that a list of those hooked up to the sewer couldn't be compiled.

Hammond said legal should be informed about questionable township ordinances, such as Outdoor Furnaces and the Private Road Ordinance, and review acreage of cemeteries and churches. Also, 3 houses on Main Street in the Commercial district are zoned Residential. Beecher said the Planning Commission will be looking at these concerns, and also needs to review the kernel requirements.

Hammond has selected a Parks Committee, but chose not to reveal all the names. Hart said names need to be public for the community to know and can't be hidden.

Schulz found 6 weeks of cash and some old checks dating back to June from the Collection Site reports that hadn't been deposited by former Treasurer Yang.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to reimburse Vercilla Hart for stamps for a total amount of \$414.72. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, for reimbursement for 5x8 index cards for Master Cards from Office Max for \$18.18, and 3 door knobs from Home Depot for \$31.41. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay the IRS \$14.20 for 2021 payroll 3rd quarter 2021 interest charge from the 941. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to pay BS&A Software for the Annual Service for the Building and Special Assessment per contract for coverage November 1, 2023 to November 1, 2024 for a total of \$1,659.00. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.**

Hart reported the bonding agency will be reviewing the bond for former Treasurer Janina Teske. The new Deputy Clerk is Margaret Stevenson. Hart has seen some incorrect information posted on the web and said those giving the community information on Facebook need to make sure the information they post is correct.

Adams said the Jail Committee sent a recommendation of 3/4 of a mill to the County Commissioners, then learned that the sheriff's office and the county commissioners each have their own versions of a millage request.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to cancel the November 9 Regular Board Meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Adams, supported by Hart, to approve paying Ken Swift up to \$3,000.00 for electrical work at the township office and for all fixtures in bays of Fire Station #1. Roll call. Hammond - no, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Schulz - yes, Adams - yes. 1 - no, 4 - yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to get the eavestroughs fixed, not to exceed \$2,000.00. Hammond - no, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Schulz - yes, Adams - yes. 1 - no, 4 - yes. Motion carried.**

Public Comment #2 began at 7:40 p.m. and ended at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Hammond, supported by Beecher, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Vercilla Hart*

Vercilla Hart, Rives Township Clerk