

RIVES TOWNSHIP BOARD
BUDGET HEARING
March 28, 2024 at 6 p.m.
Lansing Avenue Fire Station

The Budget Hearing began at 6 p.m.

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

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve the Agenda as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

Questions on the Budget began at 6:02 p.m.:

- Mary Miller - asked if the \$7,000 estimate on the Collection Site roof was close, and if the cost will come from dump site funds. Adams said a solid estimate hasn't been established yet, and the expense will be a Collection Site line-item expense.
- Jobeth Carlton - believes the amount of revenue listed for FOIA fees is not correct. Adams said a deposit for FOIA was found by the current Treasurer and hasn't been entered in the books. Hart will check the revenue amount for FOIA fees.
- Mary Miller - asked if \$2,000 is left in Parks and Recs after subtracting the playground equipment to be purchased. Hart said funds were moved between departments to balance expense amounts in other areas of the budget. Adams said \$13,246.00 is still available in this year's budget, and the board is requesting \$10,000.00 for Parks and Recs for next fiscal year.
- Jobeth Carlton - asked about the Building Dept legal fees and Zoning legal fees, and gave Adams a copy of an invoice she had that she thought wasn't included. Adams said the current budget has old account numbers showing, and some legal fees may be in the Township Board department. Hart will review.
- Jobeth Carlton - asked Adams how much he's paying for his phone. Adams said about \$200/month, which includes cell phone, internet and long-distance service.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

Vercilla Hart
Rives Township Clerk

RIVES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
March 28, 2024
Lansing Avenue Fire Station

The meeting began at 6:13 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Comment began at 6:14 p.m. and ended at 6:23 p.m.

Lawn Mowing/Snowplowing Contract

Clerk Hart received 2 sealed bids for lawn mowing/snowplowing. Bids were posted on the township website. The amounts for the various tasks were compared.

Motion by Adams, supported by Hammond, for Cambri Snowplowing and Mowing be approved for 2 years with (3) 1-year extensions for the price on the bid and the contract is to be signed. All ayes. Motion carried.

Conditional Use - Stuart Bridgewater

Planning Commission Township Board liaison Christine Beecher said the Planning Commission had a public hearing for Stuart Bridgewater's request #90-2024 for a Conditional Use for a 11101 Cooper Road for gunsmith firearm coating.

Trustee Beecher read a statement from Planning Commission Chair Jim Lindstrom the Planning Commission recommends the Township approve this CUP with the condition to be in compliance with State and Federal Regulatory agencies. The February 26th Public Hearing had been posted on MLive February 15th.

Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, to approve the Conditional Use for Stuart Bridgewater with the PC conditions that it be in compliance with all State and Federal regulatory agencies. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Township Board liaison Christine Beecher said the Planning Commission had a public hearing for Christopher Watson /Tammy Sims request #91-2024 for a Conditional Use for 9075 State Road for a Contractor yard with sales of equipment with a 5,000 square foot building. The March 25, 2024 Public Hearing had been posted on MLive March 14, 2024.

Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, to approve the Conditional Use for Christopher Watson & Tammy Sims with no conditions. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes

Adams asked that his motion under "Committees" that wasn't supported be struck from the minutes. Hart said a motion was made. No other discussion about this.

Hammond said "Chandler" Rd needs to be changed to "Chanter" Rd when referring to the jail.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to approve the minutes as changed for March 7th. Beecher - yes, Schulz - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond - abstain, Adams - yes. 4 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to approve the March 20th minutes as written. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart reported the actual number of stamps changed, but the purchase amount did not.

Bills and Payroll

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve payroll check numbers 31819-31825, then check numbers 31827-31863, and there is a voided check #31826; then to approve EFT 247 - EFT 249. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried. Hart reported an additional State W/H amount had to be paid in February to balance with the State.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve bills 84103-84144. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Roads

Adams wanted to add \$80,000.00 to Roads in the 2024-2025 budget, and discussion ensued, with Hart not approving.

Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to amend the motion from the March 7th meeting to state ARPA funds are to be used for the 2024-2025 road budget instead of the 2023-2024 budget. Roll call. Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond - yes, Adams - no. Motion carried.

Discussion on the FY 2024-25 Budget

- Hart believes \$300.00/month for the Sewer Manager wage is too high - \$3,600/year is too much.
- It was decided to add \$1,000.00 to Deputy Treasurer wages and \$1,000.00 to Staff wages from the Sewer line item.
- Discussion about monthly payments to the Supervisor for phone use: Hart offered \$50/month instead or a new phone purchased for the Supervisor from Verizon. Adams accepted the latter.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to purchase a new phone from Verizon for the Supervisor to use for calling, not to exceed \$125/month. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried. \$1,500.00 will be moved from Supervisor - Telephone to Township Board.

- Hart proposed that Electrical Inspector Ken Swift be paid \$70.00/month, the same as the other inspectors.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to remove all educational and training reimbursements for Ken Swift the Electrical Inspector, and make him a per diem rate of \$70.00. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to adopt the General Appropriation Act Resolution 2024-08. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to adopt the 2024-25 F/Y Sewer and Operational Budget as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Revenues: \$40,100.00, Balance negative \$34,000.00 to cover repairs.

Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to approve Resolution 2024-09 Poverty Exemption Resolution. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve Tax Millage Resolution 2024-10 as written. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to approve Credit Card Policy Resolution 2024-04 as written. Roll call. Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Schulz - yes, Adams - yes, Hammond - no. 4 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Hammond had asked for a \$5,000.00 limit for the Supervisor instead of the \$10,000.00 limit.

Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to Waive the 3% Late Penalty Charge - Resolution #2024-05. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to approve Resolution 2024-06 Property Tax Administration Fee of 1%. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to approve Resolution 2024-07 - Consult with Auditor, Attorney, and Insurance Agency. Roll call. Hart - yes, Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Adams - yes, Hammond - no. 4 - yes, 1 -no. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve Resolution 2024-11 FOIA Procedures and Guidelines. Roll call. Beecher - yes, Schulz - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond -no, Adams - yes. 4 - yes, 1 - no. Motion carried.

It was decided there was no set term for the FOIA Coordinator in the resolution. Hart and Adams said the position is an at-will employee.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve Public Summary of FOIA Procedures and Guidelines Resolution 2024-12. Roll call. Hammond - no, Hart - yes, Beecher -yes, Schulz - yes, Adams - yes. 4 - yes, 1 - no. Motion carried.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to approve the Board Meeting Dates as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to honor the \$2,500.00 each to cemeteries. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to approve \$20,000.00 for Mid States Recreation. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.
Adams will call All American Portable Toilets tomorrow to get a price on a new porta potty.

Marihuana Discussion

Adams would not like retail marihuana sales in the township. It would open up possibilities for every commercial property in the township.

Hart wondering how much legal money it would cost for the research of retail marihuana sales allowed in the township.

Hammond wants the township legal team to look into this.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to consider lifting the prohibition against commercial marihuana sales for further discussion regarding the possible ordinance.

Roll call. Schulz - yes, Hammond - yes, Beecher -yes, Adams - no, Hart - no. 3 -yes, 2 -no. Motion carried.

Communications

Clerk

Hart presented a bill from Affordable Doors. She said the rollers on the door at Fire Station #1 were fixed in November, and now there's a bill for replacement in February.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to pay Affordable Doors \$1,000.00 for FS #1 repair. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart said the shipping for the election stands is more than anticipated.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay an additional \$300.00 to cover shipping of the Franklin election stands. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Adams, supported by Beecher, to take \$1,500.00 out of Roads 101-451-800 into 101-410-826 ZBA, and move \$1,000.00 Clerk Education/Training to Website. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Beecher said the township auditor needs to be changed.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher to pay Willis & Jurasek for the payroll correction of the 2022 W-2s. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart stated W-2's for 2021 and 2022 were not submitted. Now corrected.

Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, for the Clerk to execute for Clark, Schafer, Hackett, the new auditors, to replace the current auditors. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart wanted to make it clear that the Risk Manager that had come to the township office from Decker Agency didn't do a risk assessment as previously stated.

Hammond contacted MTA about disposal of playground equipment, and said the board needed to get a fair price for the playground equipment being disposed of. The board was concerned about liability issues, and said the remaining equipment would be best sold for scrap.

Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to remove Trustee Hammond from the Parks and Recs Committee, effective immediately. Roll call. Schulz - yes, Beecher - abstain, Hart - yes, Hammond - abstain, Adams - yes. 3 - yes, 2 - abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Adams, supported by Hart, for the board to appoint Christine Beecher to the Parks and Recs Committee, and for the Clerk to do all the postings. Roll call. Schulz - yes, Hart - yes, Adams - yes, Beecher - abstain, Hammond - abstain. 3 - yes, 2 - abstain. Motion carried.

Public Comment #2 began at 8:38 p.m. and ended at 8:48 p.m.

Motion by Schulz, supported by Beecher, to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Vercilla Hart
Rives Township Clerk