

RIVES TOWNSHIP *SPECIAL* BOARD MEETING  
March 7, 2024  
Lansing Avenue Fire Station

The meeting began at 6 p.m.

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

Purpose: The purpose of the Special board meeting was to approve the balance of ARPA funds to be spent on roads, review with possible action Parks and Recs, approve paperwork to be sent to Decker Agency regarding the surety bond and liability of the previous Clerk, purchase voting booths, approve additional financial institutions for township funds, restrict access to Decker Agency and the auditor.

Public Comment #1 began at 6:02 p.m. and ended at 6:47 p.m.

Jackson County Sheriff Gary Schuette spoke and answered questions about the jail millage from 6:12 p.m. to 6:42 p.m.

- The revised millage rate of .9 mills would result in an extra \$45/yr for houses with a taxable value of \$100,000.
- All 185 jail beds are multi-classification, and assaults on deputies are double compared to other nearby counties.
- Some of the "Covid" funds did go to the jail, but there were strings attached on how it was used.
- A jail millage would replace the **Chandler** \*(Chanter) Rd millage that just expired.
- Operations are part of the millage, but not part of the bond.

\*\*Correct word Chandler to Chanter

ARPA Funds

The balance of ARPA funds is \$70,513.29. Road repair options were presented and Broughwell Road was discussed and decided upon.

**Motion by Adams, supported by Hammond, to approve the balance of our ARPA money to be put towards Option 2 skip pavement approximately 3,500 feet, and the balance from General Fund with our estimate of \$76,156.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Surety Bond

Supervisor Adams and Clerk Hart had spoken with Colleen at Decker Agency and were told that both surety bonds needed board approval to let the bonding agency decide on which bond would be used.

**Motion by Adams, supported by Schulz, to have Decker Agency submit prior Clerk Judith McCord's surety bond along with the proper documentation to be added with the prior Treasurer Janina Teske's surety bond, for the bonding agency to determine which bond will be held liable to cover the losses of Rives Township related to the overpayment of payroll.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart reported that the Michigan State Police added an additional 35-day extension to their time to complete Rives Township's FOIA request for the police report on former Treasurer Janina Teske.

### Parks and Recreation

It was determined that removing the swings and slide from the W. Main St Park was the most urgent need due to liability.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to rescind the February 8, 2024, motion for \$3,000.00 for mailing, stamps and envelopes for Parks and Recs, and to use \$3,000.00 to purchase equipment.** All ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Adams has equipment to remove the playground equipment, and offered to remove it in 2 weeks. It would take approximately one day to remove it all. Adams asked for 1 swing set and 1 slide in lieu of payment for his time and equipment. The equipment is deemed unsafe.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, for Jerry (Adams) to remove the slide and all equipment at Main St and Lansing Ave and to leave the basketball hoops and Jerry to take one swing and one slide.** Roll call. Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond - no, Adams - abstained. 3 - yes, 1 - no, 1 - abstain. Motion carried.

### Elections

Hart reported Rives Township has been reimbursed for the August 2023 and November 2023 elections. She had to resubmit the grant request after she took office, and funds for the cameras have now been reimbursed by grant funds.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to purchase (4) Franklin 4-station booths for the elections for a total of \$3,876.00.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

### Treasurer Banking Resolution

Treasurer Schulz reported Rives Township currently is authorized to use only one financial institution - Independent Bank.

**Motion by Schulz, supported by Hammond, to approve Resolution # 2024-2 to approve Independent Bank, PNC Bank, American 1 Credit Union, and Michigan Class for Rives Township banking institutions.** All ayes. Motion carried.

### Committees

**Motion by Adams to approve that all appointed members of any committee of Rives Township will be terminated at the next meeting if any disparaging comments are made against any employee of Rives Township.** Motion was rescinded. Will discuss with MTA.

\*\*Remove Motion from under Committees (Darkened with Gray means removed)

### Clerk's Communication

Hart reported that sealed lawn mowing/snowplowing bids must be received by the Clerk by March 18th.

Hart said Risk Management showed up at the Rives Township Office today, and approved of the tubs Hart used to protect records in the office's basement, the generator and safety devices surrounding it. The Risk Management representative was pleased, and Hart expects the insurance rate to be decreased because of this inspection.

Hart reported that Decker Agency has been receiving numerous calls from Rives Township.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, that only the Executive Board - Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer can contact Decker Agency and the auditor moving forward.**

Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond - abstain, Adams - yes. 4 - yes, 1 - abstain.  
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Communication

Treasurer Schulz reported that taxes have been settled at the county.

Trustee Beecher

Trustee Beecher reported the Planning Commission will need to determine what to do because the Solar Amendment to the Master Plan failed.

Supervisor Adams

Supervisor Adams reported the Board of Review will meet next Monday and all-day next Tuesday.

Public Comment #2

Public comment began at 7:50 p.m. and ended at 7:58 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Vercilla Hart, Rives Township Clerk