

**Rives Township Regular Board Meeting
8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277**

March 19th, 2025

Board members present: Supervisor Jerald Adams, Clerk Joseph Super, Trustee Bryce Hammond, Treasurer Carol Schulz, Trustee Brandon Adams

Meeting was called to order, following a brief recess after the public hearing, at 6:24PM.

Public Comment

Public comment began at 6:25PM.

- Resident spoke about contracts and the Parks and Rec Committee.
- Resident waived their time to the later public comment.
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- Resident made brief comments about the fiscal year and cemetery appropriations.

Public comment ended at 6:27PM with two (2) people speaking.

Approval of Payroll & Bills

(M-2025-42) Motion by Clerk Super, supported by Trustee Hammond, to approve checks #84412 through #84416, sewer checks #2238 and #2239. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Additional Public Hearing and Meeting Date

Discussion over the public hearing that had taken place just before the meeting, and that there were many disturbances and the board has a lot of work to do before approving the budget. As a precaution, the Board agreed to hold another public hearing and meeting on March 31st, 2025.

(M-2025-43) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Adams, to hold another public hearing and board meeting on 3/31/2025 at 5PM at the Lansing AVE firebarn. All ayes, motion carried.

Communications

- Supervisor Adams discussed an upcoming meeting with Jackson Department of Transportation about what projects can be done in Rives Township for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Discussion of the possibility of a Special Assessment District involving about 21 parcels. Details, so far, would be a loan of roughly \$60,000 and an interest rate of 7-8% over 7-ish years.

- Treasurer Schulz discussed bank reconciliations and which accounts were in balance and which were still out of balance. The board was given a memo and a corresponding sheet showing which bank accounts had been reconciled to date. Treasurer Schulz also reported a 2024 tax recap, explaining that out of the \$5+ million in taxes the Township receives the Township only keeps roughly \$174,000 as revenue, with the rest going to places like the County, school districts, etc.

Discussion of hiring a third party accountant, Steve Bryer, to help Clerk Super catch up on reconciliations. The details, so far, include “up to two years” of additional help from the accountant, for the hourly cost of \$250/hr. The maximum budget would be \$1000/month, roughly 4 hours of work per month.

(M-2025-44) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to have an accountant catch up the fiscal year end reconciliations for a total of 20-40 hours and then go forward with up to \$1000/month help. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye.

- Supervisor Adams received correspondence during the meeting from Tompkins Supervisor Washburn indicating that Tompkins was going to do road repairs on Blackman Rd, on the west half. Rives Township could do the east half of the road, but it would change the meeting details that Adams has with JDOT, and is something the board members will have to think on and decide soon.

- Trustee Adams asked about policy for the agendas and there was discussion about the agenda being a working document, and that the Clerk and Supervisor are often changing items or still putting it together in the day or so before a meeting. Clerk Super said he can give everyone standard agendas and any relevant information much sooner, but that he also needs to have input on the agenda soon enough himself in order to have it passed out to board members promptly.

Public Comment

- Mary Miller, chair of the Parks Committee, discussed the Parks and Rec Committee will be selling banner space at the baseball diamond. Residents/businesses would need to purchase their

own banners and then, for a fee, they can hang them at the baseball diamond to fundraise for the Parks Committee. Residents would then be given back their banner at the end of the season.

- Resident stated that she had received a call from the ~~Freedom of Information Act Coordinator~~, Vercilla Hart, days prior to the meeting and that the resident was screamed to about the former Clerk/current FOIA Coordinator wanting the current Clerk gone. Resident stated it appeared to her that some people are doing anything they can to pressure the Clerk into resigning even though he is doing a good job as far as the resident could tell. And the resident stated she would never be able to sit there and take all of the nasty accusations and hurtful words the way the Clerk has been so far this term.

- Resident apologized to the Treasurer for losing their temper during the public hearing. Resident stated she is unhappy with the agreement to hire the accountant for up to two years, because (as Deputy Clerk) she is aware that the biggest problem seems to be one time frame from October and November and that once that is corrected, the rest should be relatively simple.

- Resident stated she wants the Deputy Clerk terminated and that resident would like a written apology for a comment the Deputy had put on social media regarding a recent election audit. Resident stated the Township Board should utilize the Township attorney to remove the Deputy from her position.

- ~~FOIA Coordinator~~ Vercilla Hart stated that the Deputy Clerk wages should be used to cover the accountant since it's the Clerk's job to do them.

- Resident read out loud the comment that was made by the Deputy Clerk about an election worker who spoke earlier about terminating the Deputy. Resident read the comment word for word, then confirmed that the Clerk and Deputy were both told the same information directly from the Jackson County Elections Director and remarked that the audit itself was linked in this social media post, so anyone could verify that there was nothing "~~untruthful~~" about the comment itself and the Deputy Clerk had spoken the details provided in the audit and by the Elections Director, and had confirmed the audit itself was able to be shared and is a public record itself.

- Resident spoke about social media and that the local Facebook group was a problem.

Motion by Treasurer Schulz, supported by Trustee Hammond, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

Submitted by Clerk Joseph Super