

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

March 31st, 2025

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

Public hearing was called to order at 5:07PM.

(For statements, there will only be a bullet point. For questions with answers, there will be an identifier of the question and another for the answer.)

Public Hearing

- Resident suggested that the \$6000 Deputy Clerk line item be used to partially cover the CPA contract that the Board has entered.

Q: Resident asked about a previous auditor bill of \$7,600 on top of the actual audit cost of \$16,000, and what was included in that?

A: That was for non-audit services including multiple journal entries that had to be corrected for the previous fiscal year and the one that the Board was currently in.

- Resident suggested that the revenue is still wrong and should be fixed before the budget is approved.
- FOIA Coordinator passed out a printed off copy of text messages between FOIA Coordinator, Deputy Clerk, and Supervisor and then discussed that the Deputy Clerk should not have the authority to use Clerk's email, and called for the remote access for the Clerk to be removed.

Q: Why is the board using a budget from today instead of using the same budget that was provided to residents through the week before?

A: Because the budget that the board has, and that the public was given at the start of this public hearing, does have additional expenditures added to it such as payroll that was ran this week.

- Resident thanked the board for "tolerating" the public and asked that the in-fighting on the Board stops immediately to allow everyone a chance to succeed.
- Resident stated that the board should remove the Clerk's "\$29,000 salary" and only allow the Clerk to sign paychecks.

Public hearing was closed at 5:21PM.

Meeting was called to order at 5:22PM.

Public Comment

- Resident stated that the animosity has to stop and that the board has to find a way to work together and give the Clerk a chance.
- Resident stated that the Clerk isn't doing his statutory duties and it's costing the Township money.
- Resident stated that in other industries if a person isn't doing their job they are terminated and that the Clerk is not doing his job.
- Resident stated that the posting for the special meeting doesn't state approving resolutions so the board should not be doing that during this meeting.
- FOIA Coordinator again spoke about text messages and claimed that a certain MCL law prohibits this type of behavior of the Clerk allowing the Deputy Clerk to send an email from his account.
- Deputy Clerk spoke about clearing up "rumors" in that the Clerk was busy/occupied but gave full permission to respond to the FOIA Coordinator during the conversation that was being discussed by the FOIA Coordinator previously. Deputy Clerk stated that she's doing the jobs that the Clerk tells her to do, and that that's well within the boundary of the laws regarding Deputies.
- Resident pointed out that the budget that was posted on the website was incorrectly posted so that it was "unreadable" to the public.
- Resident stated again that the Clerk should not give out passwords or allow authorization of the Deputy to correspond in such ways, and called for removal of remote access .
- Resident stated that while he has nothing personal against the Clerk, he feels that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are being "hypocrites" because they wanted to take the job and then not do the work, and that now everyone is watching the Clerk "fail".
- Resident spoke about how things have gotten worse in the last few years with in-fighting on the board and that there is a pattern of "witch hunts" against at least one person on the board no matter who is on the board. Stated that the board needs to work together and end the fighting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

(M-2025- __) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Adams, to approve March 6th, 2025, meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

(M-2025- __) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Adams, to approve March 11th, 2025, meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Trustee Hammond, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve March 19th, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected. All ayes, motion carried.

Approval of bills & payroll

(M-2025-__) Motion by Clerk Super, supported by Supervisor Adams, to approve checks #32206-32232, and #84416-84420. Roll call vote. Trustee Hammond - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Budget Adjustments

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Clerk Super, to move from Roads (101-451-970-000) \$800 to Street Lights 101-448-926-000, \$800 to Cemeteries 101-567-932-000, \$1500 to Medicare Tax 101-863-716-000. Roll call vote. Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Correction Action Plan Policies

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to approve Resolution 2025-12, Business Continuity Plan. Roll call vote. Clerk Super - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve Resolution 2025-13, Capitalization Policy. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Adams, to approve Resolution 2025-14, ACH/EFT Policy. Roll call vote. Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye.

Roads

(M2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to approve payment of \$183,737 to Jackson Department of Transportation for skip paving on Zion from Berry to Cooper, Easton from Zion to Berry, and Easton from Berry to Territorial. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee

Hammond - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Wages

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve an hourly pay increase for the workers at the collection site from \$14 per hour to \$16 per hour.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve an hourly pay increase for the election workers from \$16 per hour to \$18 per hour.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Clerk Super, to approve a per diem pay increase for Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission, with Chair and Secretary of each increasing from \$95 to \$125 per meeting, other members increasing from \$80 to \$100 per meeting, and Zoning Board alternates increasing from \$15 per hour to \$16 per hour.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Clerk Super, to approve pay increase from \$145 per meeting to \$175 per meeting, for the Trustees.

Cemeteries

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve payment from 2024-2025 fiscal year budget for \$5000 to Draper Cemetery, \$2500 to East Rives Cemetery, and \$2500 to Jones Cemetery.

Adoption of Budget/Resolutions

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to approve Resolution 2025-12, Tax Millage. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Adams, to approve Resolution 2025-13, Resolution to Waive the 3% Late Penalty Charge. Roll call vote. Trustee Hammond - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

(M-2025-__) - Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to approve Resolution 2025-14, General Appropriations Act. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye,

Trustee Hammond- aye, Clerk Super - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting Dates

(M-2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to accept list of 2025-2026 Rives Township Regular Board Meetings. (see below) All ayes, motion carried.

2025-2026 Rives Township Regular Board Meetings:

May 6th, 13th (2025) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

June 3rd, 10th (2025) (at 106 W Main St, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

July 8th, 15th (2025) (at 106 W Main St, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

August 12th (2025) (at 106 W Main St, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

September 9th, 16th (2025) (at 106 W Main St, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

October 7th, 14th (2025) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

November 4th, 11th (2025) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)December 2nd, 9th (2025)

January 6th, 13th (2026) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

February 3rd, 10th (2026) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

March 3rd, 10th (2026) (at 8682 Lansing Ave, Rives Junction MI 49277 at 6:00PM)

Parks & Recreation

(M2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Clerk Super, to approve payment to Midstates Recreation in the amount of \$12,000 for the Parks & Rec Committee to purchase a slide and teeter totter. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Trustee Hammond - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

Communications

(M2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Treasurer Schulz, to amend budget to Deputy Treasurer budget: from \$10,500 to \$7,500, and move that \$3,000 from Deputy Treasurer to Staff (101-101-702-000). Roll call vote. Trustee Hammond - aye, Trustee Adams - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Supervisor Adams - aye. All ayes, motion carried.

(M2025-__) Motion by Supervisor Adams, supported by Trustee Hammond, to list Treasurer as designated contact person for accountant contract. Roll call vote. Trustee Adams - aye, Treasurer Schulz - aye, Clerk Super - aye, Trustee Hammond - nay,

Supervisor Adams - aye. Four (4) ayes, one (1) nay. Motion carried.

CS - contract again

Parks motion, amend to “up to four people” and “one board member”

JA - Appoint Kendra to Parks, and Brandon /// Storms /// Easton dumping

Public Comment

- Tony Bair
- Varicella
- Mary Miller
- Stacy Stoner
- Jobeth
- Beecher
- Linda

Jerry speaks. Carol and Facebook.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

Submitted by Clerk Joseph Super