

RIVES TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 10, 2024
Lansing Ave. Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

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

Absent: Supervisor Jerald Adams.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, to allow Clerk Vercilla Hart to chair the meeting tonight. Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hammond - yes, Hart - abstain. 3 - yes, 1 - abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve the Agenda with Parks and Recs added as 7a. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment #1 began at 6:02 p.m. and closed at 6:23 p.m.

Jackson County Commissioner Tony Bair

- The millage for the Sheriff's Dept. is the smallest millage request on the November ballot.
- Vertical construction may be approved at the McGill Rd landfill.
- Donations have been pledged for the cost of a \$401,000 playground at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.
- Mental Health project grant will cover all the cost except Phase I.
- County Financial Audit was done September 2024 by Rehmann. This was not an operational audit.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to approve September 12, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes with correction on page 3 with motion by Hart supported by Hammond to review section 17.32 should be 17.42. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, to pay bills check number 84282 through 84300 and Sewer checks 2223 to 2226. All ayes. Motion carried.

Superior Industrial Sales had to fix the control board at the Sewer transfer station.

Hammond would like to check over the township's Consumers Energy bills. Maybe usage could be trimmed.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay Payroll check numbers 32032 through 32059 and EFT 260 and 261. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jackson District Library Millage

Liz Breed, Director, and Carrie Wold, manager of the Meijer branch, spoke about the request for an 8-year operating millage for the library, and what the library offers residents.

- Between 85-90% of their income is from property taxes.
- The millage cost for an average home would be about \$113/year.
- Free library cards are offered to anyone working in Jackson County or attending school in Jackson County.
- The library partners with Meals on Wheels.

Parks and Recreation

Mary Miller said the top requests in the community survey were for bathrooms at the Main Street Park, events at the parks, and community participation. Mary Hall agreed.

Board liaison Christy Beecher said a restroom should be separate from the Fire Station so as not to interfere with the Fire Department operations.

Communication

Beecher said the Planning Commission has decided to review ordinances, and may ask for an outside agency to review the ordinances.

Hart said the Zoning Board of Appeals is now reviewing Section 17.42 letter "O" and will give an interpretation to the Township Board.

Schulz said KCI's cost for mailing tax bills has not increased even though postage has increased. KCI supplies the paper and does the printing.

Motion by Schulz, supported by Beecher, to use KCI as the printing company for the Winter tax bills, and approve the KCI contract for \$1,953.17. All ayes. Motion carried.

Schulz has reviewed credit card processing fees, and at this time recommends Catalis and a 3-year contract at \$2.75 per transaction. The fee would be the same for debit and credit card purchases. There would be no EFT or ACH payments. The credit card fee would be paid by the cardholder. Hart would like to look over the contract before the board makes a decision.

Motion by Schulz, supported by Beecher, to use the remaining ARPA funds of \$6,590.73 plus any future interest for the Fire Department gear, Rives' share of the approved \$20,000.00. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart reported that Region II Planning Commission sent an invoice for renewal of membership from October 2024 to September 2025 for a total of \$1,282.50. Region II wasn't used by Rives Township last year, and payment of the invoice was tabled.

Tompkins Township Board and Planning Commission is reviewing their Master Plan and notices were sent to the surrounding townships for the required 63-day period. Hart encouraged board members and residents to look on the Tompkins Township website and voice their opinions at the next board meeting.

Hart said Blackman Township has increased their late payment fees from \$42.62 to \$62.62. She hasn't incurred any late fees except when the bills were paid late due to the previous Clerk's resignation.

The Township Office deck was stained and painted by Eva Rude at no cost to the township, and Margaret and Mark Stevenson replaced some boards at no charge. Hart thanked Eva Rude.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to reimburse Vercilla Hart for total of \$113.14 for Sherwin Williams paint and cleaner for the Township Office deck. Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hammond - yes, Hart - abstain. 3 - yes, 1 -abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to reimburse Margaret Stevenson \$38.92 from Home Depot for boards for the township deck. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart said Rives Township has received the \$6,000.00 grant money from Institute for Responsive Government for election stands and election supplies. She is also applying for a grant for the November election, and would like to use the funds, if received, for a police officer to provide security on Election Day.

Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, for approval of Jackson County Sheriff or Michigan State Police, whoever is available, for the November 5th election, not to exceed \$2,000.00, and apply for the security grant from the State of Michigan.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart received 100 ballots on September 26th, but testing of ballots had to be done before any ballots were sent out. The testing programming was received on October 3rd. On October 8th and 9th, over 900 ballots were mailed.

Fire Barn Security

Hart said security and safety at the fire barns needs to be addressed. The fire barns have fire trucks and equipment that needs to be secured, and election equipment is also stored in one of the fire barns.

Motion by Hart, supported by Schulz, for access to Fire Stations be: Board Members, Fire Department staff, Chairperson of ZBA and Planning Commission; and all unauthorized entries to the Fire Stations will be reported to police for investigation - this is a safety and security issue for this Township.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hammond will report at the November 14th Board Meeting regarding additional security measures.

Public Comment #2 began at 7:47 p.m. and closed at 8:02 p.m.

Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Vercilla Hart, Clerk