

RIVES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
September 12, 2024  
Lansing Avenue Fire Station

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Comment #1 began at 6:01 p.m. and ended at 6:17 p.m.

Included in Public Comment was Jackson County Sheriff Deputy Larry Jacobson, and township resident Joe Strong from the Sheriff's Department, who spoke about the November 5th ballot request for .25 mills for 10 years for a jail operating millage.

#### Minutes

Clerk Hart would like to add the reason for going into Closed Session to the August 22nd Minutes. Reason for Closed Session per MCL 15.267 complaints/ charges brought against prior Clerk Stacy Stoner, and present Employee of Township. Stacy Stoner okayed closed meeting. All Board Members present and Decker Agency- Kevin Decker present in closed session.

Hart requested to add to the minutes the email received from a resident that she read at the meeting, and the Michigan State Police Incident report #013-0000072-22 page 6 of 9. There were 2 conflicting versions of Resolution 2017-09, in regards to Trustees' pay.

Hammond questioned if a roll call vote was needed to go into Closed Session, and Beecher reviewed the MCL exceptions and her opinion was an exception for a roll call vote applied for the August 22nd Closed Session meeting.

**Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, to approve the amended meeting minutes.** All ayes. Motion carried.

Hart gave board members a draft of the August 22, 2024, Closed Meeting minutes to review and return to her. Each board member signed one of the copies of the minutes.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to approve the Closed Meeting Minutes as printed.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### Bills and Payroll

**Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to pay bills check numbers 84272 and 84273, then 84276-84281, and Sewer bills check numbers 2219-2222.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried. Hart noted that check numbers 84274 and 84275 were approved at last month's meeting.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to pay payroll checks number 32022-32031 and EFTPS 259.** All ayes. Motion carried.

#### Election Grant

Hart applied for an Election grant of \$6,000.00, offered by the Institute for Responsive Government. The grant was awarded based on the township board's approval. Hart would like to use the funds to purchase 3 more voting stands, 2 printers and ink cartridges for the printers, and lights to add to booths. A restriction is that funds cannot be transferred out of the Election Department in the General Ledger to a different department, and the funds must be used by June 2025.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Adams, to accept the grant from Institute for Responsive Government in the amount of \$6,000.00 exclusively for the nonpartisan public purpose of planning and operations for secure, efficient and accessible election administration in Rives Township, Michigan. All documents on how the grant was spent to support public purpose to be submitted by June 30, 2025.** Roll call. Schulz - yes, Beecher - yes, Hart - yes, Hammond - no, Adams - yes. 4 - yes, 1 - no. Motion carried.

#### Michigan PAR Plan Grant

This grant is for up to \$5,000.00, and the application must be received by September 15th. Lighting for the ballpark at Fire Station #1, and for Fire Station #3 is the suggested use if this grant is approved.

Joel from Cochran Electric talked about solar vs. electrical LED lighting, and a bid from Aladdin Electric has also been received.

The board decided to use any funds received for 2 LED lights at Fire Station #3, and 2 LED lights at the pavilion.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Beecher, to support Michigan Township Participating Plan Grant application. The Park/ Fire Barn grant is up to \$5,000 for purchasing/ funding lighting for Rives Township. With Resolution 2024-15.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### Communication

*Treasurer Schulz* would like to update the township's CD investment resolutions. The F-65 report and the township audit has been filed.

Schulz would like to revise Resolution 2024-2 regarding investments and submit paperwork to Michigan CLASS for investment options.

**Motion by Schulz, supported by Hammond, to approve Resolution 2024-16 Township Investment and Depository Designation Resolution that replaces Resolution 2024-2.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Motion by Schulz, supported by Beecher, to approve 2024-17 Resolution to approve the Addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an Approved Investment Option.** Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Communication (continued)

*Trustee Beecher* reported the Planning Commission Meeting was rescheduled to occur during the hours of the Joint Fire Board Meeting, and she attended the latter. The Planning Commission Meeting began but was cancelled due to posting concerns.

*Supervisor Adams* reported the Joint Fire Board approved the donations in memory of Randy Avery be used by the Fire Department as they see fit.

Adams has been approached about Clerk candidate Joseph Super's request to acquire access to the Michigan Township Association website. Clerk Hart said it's possible a candidate could do a write-in for the Clerk position as late as October 25th. Trustee Beecher agreed that giving Mr. Super the access would be premature. Other board members did not opt to give Mr. Super access at this time.

*Clerk Hart* said more policies and procedures were needed for the township. Adams agreed to work with Hart to work on a draft of each of the procedures for the board's approval.

Hart read an apology letter to former Clerk Stacy Stoner regarding the 2017 township board's pulling of Stoner's surety bond. New information was found in township records by current board members, which has been followed up by an investigation by the insurance company. This has resulted in the surety bond claim of 2017 being reversed.

Hart discussed with Christine Beecher regarding if the Planning Commission was doing interpretation on the letter O in Section 17.32. Christine response was yes.

\*Correction of Section 17.32 should be 17.42.

**Motion by Hart, supported by Hammond, to go to the ZBA with recommendations to review Section 17.32 with focus on the letter "O" to interpret the wording since it doesn't follow the Master Plan.** Beecher - yes, Hammond - yes, Schulz - yes, Hart - yes, Adams - no. 4 - yes, 1 - no. Motion carried.

\*Correction of Section 17.32 should be 17.42.

Hart read current guidelines for COVID from the Jackson County Health Dept. and was wearing a mask throughout the meeting. She is a nurse and reported that she follows the guidelines well, and hopes everyone respects the guidelines.

Public Comment #2 began and ended at 7:32 p.m.

**Motion by Beecher, supported by Hammond, to adjourn the meeting.** All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Vercilla Hart  
Rives Township Clerk