

## **Ronald Township Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2024, 7 PM**

**Ronald Township Hall**

### **Call To Order**

Supervisor Blood called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

### **Members Present**

Supervisor Mike Blood, Trustee Sandra Thelen, Trustee Stephanie Fox, Treasurer Angela Lamphere, Clerk Kaitlyn Borton

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Blood led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Public Comment**

Christine Strickling commented on the destruction of records and questioned if there was a retention and disposal schedule for the records. Strickling questioned if she needs to FOIA for them. Clerk Borton noted the schedules exist and she does not need to FOIA for them. Strickling questioned who was present. Clerk Borton stated she and Angela Lamphere as well as Kay Swanson with the County were present.

SuLyn Bettinghouse voiced concern in regards to the records that were destroyed and if any of the destroyed documents were those that have been missing or misplaced.

Supervisor Blood verified that the documents destroyed were only those in accordance with all applicable retention schedules.

Matt Edwards spoke in regards to the records age, Supervisor Blood noted that everything historical was retained.

### **Agenda**

Changes were made to the agenda to add bills from the Ionia County Road Department and Spectrum Printers.

Clerk Borton noted a mistake on the bills and payroll printouts- the header reads May 20 when it should read June 17.

Treasurer Lamphere requested to add the discussion in regards to breaking the Point & Pay contract.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Clerk Borton. Motion carried by voice vote.

Request to approve May 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Trustee Fox, supported by Treasurer Lamphere. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Unfinished Business**

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to the blight ordinance, noted it will be tabled for the time being.

## **New Business**

Request to approve accounts payable dated June 17, 2024. Motion to approve made by Trustee Fox, supported by Supervisor Blood. Motion carried by voice vote.

Request to approve payroll dated July 1, 2024. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Clerk Borton. Motion carried by voice vote.

Request to approve signatures on the L4029. Motion to approve made by Trustee Fox, supported by Treasurer Lamphere. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Lamphere presented the Treasurer Report.

Treasurer Lamphere spoke in regards to the 3 year Point & Pay contract that Ronald Township entered into in April 2023 which allowed tax payments to be paid online. Ronald Township paid a \$2,000 onboarding fee, \$500 set up fee and a monthly fee of \$50. It has been used 41 times to date. Treasurer Lamphere addressed issues that have arose as a result. Treasurer Lamphere requested to break the contract with Point & Pay with a fee of up to \$1,200.

Supervisor Blood acknowledged the interest amongst the constituents and opened public comment before voting on the Point & Pay discussion.

Matt Edwards commented on what it's costing the township per use of the online tax payment and noted the money could be spent elsewhere.

Christine Strickling commented on the Point & Pay contract. Strickling questioned how many banks have utilized the service. Treasurer Lamphere noted she is aware of 2 instances based on the information provided by Point & Pay.

Trustee Fox questioned how we would notify the residents that this service is no longer available. Treasurer Lamphere said it will be indicated on the tax statements and the website.

Motion to approve the cancellation of Point & Pay in the amount of \$1,200 made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Trustee Thelen. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Supervisors Report**

Supervisor Blood spoke in regards to the brining of the roads. Supervisor Blood noted that if we committed to 3 brines a year, we would move up two townships on the list-but we've remained committed to 2 per year with the option of a third.

SuLyn Bettinghouse remarked that gravel is needed on the roads. Supervisor Blood referred her to contact the County Road Department as the roads are their responsibility.

SuLyn Bettinghouse questioned what roads are county roads within the township. Supervisor Blood noted all roads are county roads.

Kathy Ainsworth also spoke in regards to the roads needing gravel and noted that all the gravel is being pushed to the sides.

Supervisor Blood noted he will get in touch with Tanner from the County.

Matt Edwards commented on the brining.

Tamara Edwards mentioned the state wanting to put a stop to the brining.

An individual questioned if the township pays to have the roadsides mowed.

Supervisor Blood noted we do not pay.

### **Clerks Report**

Clerk Borton presented the clerks report. Mastercards and voter ID cards have been received. The township will receive our ballots towards the end of the week and will begin sending out Absentees.

### **Fire Chief Report**

Chief Walker presented Fire Chief Report. 72 calls to date. 7 Structure Fires, 48 Med Calls, 5 Personal Injury, 12 All other (wildland, trees, powerlines). Provided 5 Mutual Aid, received 2.

Chief Walker notified the board they will be applying for the DNR grant by the end of the month. It is a 50/50 match up to \$4,999. They will put it towards 3 sets of Bunker gear.

Chief Walker mentioned the email he sent out to the board pertaining to new Fire Truck quotes. EV+ provided a quote of \$501,000 based off the same specs as Spencer Fire.

Trustee Thelen noted that the specs were off on the Spencer Fire quote, and questioned if there would be a price change for the correct specifications.

Chief Walker confirmed there would be no price change.

Chief Walker mentioned they've been actively looking for used apparatus, most of which is out of state and the same age as the truck we currently have. Chief Walker noted he had found one truck like what they're looking for that's in Kentucky for about \$400,000. But noted there is no way to verify if it would fit in the station. Trustee Thelen questioned if they could measure the specifications. Chief Walker noted an engineer would likely need to answer that.

Chief Walker mentioned that the websites and specifications were in the email if the board would like to search for apparatus meeting the criteria.

Matt Edwards questioned what the two trucks that would be replaced are worth. Chief Walker stated they're worth roughly \$25,000 combined.

## Public Comment

Juanita Mills questioned the reasoning for purchasing the property at Borden and Judevine.

Supervisor Blood clarified the property has not yet been purchased but it is for a future fire department.

Juanita Mills questioned if a pole barn structure has been considered. Chief Walker noted they received two rough estimates from local builders for pole barn structures and submitted those to the board.

Chuck made a recommendation to forget about the purchase of the property until the fire truck situation is figured out.

Christine Strickling made note that if the board purchases the property a well and pump station could be put in.

Christine Strickling questioned the LCSA funding, because it stated it is to be used for fire, police and emergency services and could potentially be ear-marked for fire. She also noted we have the ARPA funds, just not enough.

Christine Strickling questioned the interest earned on the ARPA and if it could potentially be put aside for other things.

Christine Strickling made note that if we have to wait for surrounding fire departments to respond, response times are going to be prolonged.

Chief Walker noted that the township would be charged for those services as well.

Supervisor Blood clarified that the ARPA money won't always be available.

Christine Strickling noted we need to be looking for grants.

SuLyn Bettinghouse questioned funds in CDs that were set aside for a future fire truck.

Supervisor Blood noted the CDs were rolled over into other funds.

Christine Strickling questioned which account those funds went into, interest earned, and if the money was ear-marked.

Supervisor Blood noted it wasn't ever officially ear-marked but could be done in the future.

Christine Strickling questioned what the L-4029 is.

Supervisor Blood noted it is our tax milage rate.

Kathy Ainsworth questioned if the fines and delinquencies are all caught up now.

Supervisor Blood noted they should be.

Kathy Ainsworth spoke in regards to the quarterly payroll tax.

Clerk Borton clarified that the quarterly payroll taxes were paid timely.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to March and April's meeting minutes on the website and asked for clarification as to where they're located.

Clerk Borton noted they're on there, but if they're not under the Minutes the website needs to be reformatted.

Christine Strickling noted there is outdated information on the website.

Clerk Borton noted they're working to update the website.

Christine Strickling noted the website has been an issue for a few years and is getting better, but not where it should be.

Trustee Fox noted someone needs to take the time to notify the website designer of what changes need to be made.

Lynnelle Wilson spoke in regards to a FOIA request that she submitted.

Lynnelle Wilson questioned why the township did not have April and May meeting recordings.

Clerk Borton noted that we did not have computers to record.

Lynnelle Wilson questioned why the township made a motion to record meetings and didn't tell them when they weren't recorded.

Clerk Borton noted they would be recorded when applicable.

Lynnelle Wilson commented on the Agenda.

Lynnelle Wilson requested more information on the agenda.

Supervisor Blood noted that the Point & Pay issue arose the day of the meeting, had it come sooner it would've been addressed.

Treasurer Lamphere noted she has been attempting to make contact with Point & Pay since she came on the board.

Christine Strickling commented on the Agenda.

Chief Walker questioned the Michigan Fire Grant in the amount of \$9,999. The Fire Department purchased the bunker gear in September. Reimbursement did not come back until April of this year after the budget was already established. Chief Walker questioned if there was \$10,000 that the township received but wasn't put into the budget because it came this fiscal year and if it could be used to pay down the lease payments with. Supervisor Blood confirmed we will look into it.

Supervisor Blood questioned how long before they've got to start buying tanks again, Chief Walker noted it should be about 10 years.

Kathy Ainsworth spoke in regards to the financials being on the website.

Kathy Ainsworth mentioned the content of the agenda and noted many residents aren't aware we have a website but agrees the agenda needs more information.

Matt Edwards spoke in regards to the funds in the bank and the funds needed for a truck and fire barn. Matt Edwards noted we need to be prepared and a better option is needed.

Christine Strickling noted that often times individuals need to prioritize, therefore knowing what's going on for meetings is beneficial.

Christine Strickling spoke in regards to the website and making residents aware of its existence.

SuLyn Bettinghouse questioned if we could break the contract with the website and have Clerk Borton do it.

Kathy Ainsworth noted the domain name is owned by PJM.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Supervisor Blood to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM, supported by Clerk Borton. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted: Kaitlyn Borton, Clerk

DRAFT