

Ronald Township Regular Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2024

7:00PM

Ronald Township Hall

4987 Stage Rd.

Ionia, MI 48846

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 thanked Treasurer Lamphere and Clerk Borton for the documents she received and noted she would like a general idea of what documents were destroyed. Strickling also spoke on the formatting of the Agendas and the unfinished business item.

Residents voiced concern over the Blight Ordinance.

Supervisor Blood noted the Ordinance is still in effect.

Resident questioned if the ordinance was going to be voted on.

Supervisor Blood clarified that it was voted on by the Board not the public.

Discussion was had pertaining to the Ordinance.

Courtney Wilson questioned the forensic audit, fire truck, and ordinance not being under unfinished business.

Supervisor Blood noted the Forensic Audit falls under Attorney Client Privilege, the fire truck debt would need to be brought to the residents in order to enter the Township into that kind of debt.

Discussion regarding Unfinished Business.

Kathy Ainsworth questioned if the Blight Ordinance can be put on the website and noted that the fire truck discussion was brought up under the Fire Chief Report.

Christine Strickling questioned the fire truck age and wants that item on the agenda.

Supervisor Blood clarified that the fire truck discussion has been on the agenda previously.

Christine Strickling commented on the ARPA funds and the fire truck.

Discussion regarding the Fire Truck.

Sulyn Bettinghouse spoke about the Blight Ordinance and that it's been in effect since 1991 and amended in 1995 but not enforced.

Sulyn Bettinghouse stated it would be a Health Department issue, not a township issue.

Supervisor Blood noted he has spoken with the Health Department and the Sheriff Department in regards to the issues.

Discussion was had regarding the health concerns and Blight Ordinance.

Matt Edwards commented that the Blight Ordinance is meant for health reasons- not everyday living.

Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda made by Trustee Fox, supported by Supervisor Blood.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Request to approve June 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve made by Trustee Fox, supported by Trustee Thelen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

None - Supervisor Blood noted the Blight ordinance remains tabled.

New Business

Trustee Thelen spoke in regards to the laptop purchases and questioned if there is an amount that can be spent without approval of the board. Supervisor Blood noted the township has a Credit Card with a limit of \$2,500 and clarified that the laptops come out of the Treasurer and Clerks budgets.

Request to approve accounts payable dated July 15, 2024. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Clerk Borton. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Lamphere presented the Treasurers Report.

Treasurer Lamphere noted that 2024 Summer Taxes were mailed out on June 28, 2024. All tax payments will receive a printed receipt. There is a Tax Drop box located at her residence- this information is also available on the Townships website. There is also a drop box located at the hall that is checked daily during tax season.

Treasurer Lamphere will be collecting at the Township Hall on September 16, 2024 from

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Residents may call Treasurer Lamphere to make an appointment to pay taxes outside of these hours as well.

Treasurer Lamphere noted there is about a 24 hour turn around from the time the tax payment is received to the time that the payment is finalized.

Treasurer Lamphere spoke about breaking the contract with Point & Pay. The amount was originally \$1,200 but after speaking with them she was able to negotiate it down to \$500.00.

Trustee Thelen questioned if it was noted that payment is no longer available via online. Treasurer Lamphere clarified that it was on the tax bills and it is also on the website.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Blood spoke to the Health Department in regards to health concerns at a residence and they will be condemning the building if it is not taken care of within 10 days.

Supervisor Blood noted we should be getting another brine in the next week or two.

Clerks Report

Clerk Borton presented the Clerks Report.

Absentee Ballots have been mailed out. Clerk Borton noted that if residents wish to receive an Absentee Ballot they can still fill out an application.

Clerk Borton noted that Ronald Township is taking Sunday July 28 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM for Early Voting located at 302 W Main St. Ionia.

The Public Accuracy test was conducted on July 10 at 10:00 AM.

Clerk Borton spoke in regards to varmint issues at the Township Hall. Grand Wildlife conducted a pest inspection and then completed the removal of bat colonies, rats, mice, voles, opossums, and squirrels.

Clerk Borton presented the board with the list of Election Inspectors for Ronald Township 2024.

Christine Strickling questioned if Kathy Ainsworth can be an election worker considering she is on the ballot.

Clerk Borton clarified she cannot work in Ronald Township but can in a different township.

Trustee Thelen questioned why Kathy Ainsworth is listed on Ronald Townships Election Inspectors List if she cannot work here.

Clerk Borton noted that she is still one of our election workers, she worked in February. She filled out an application to be an election inspector with Ronald Township, but we can send her to other townships when needed.

Lynnelle Wilson questioned if Ronald Township is paying her. Clerk Borton noted that if she works in Lake Odessa, they would pay her. If we receive a worker swap with Lake Odessa then we would pay their worker.

Christine Strickling questioned if Ronald Township has the name of who may work from Lake Odessa.

Clerk Borton read off who was set to be working Election day in Ronald Township. Matt Edwards noted to make sure the worker from Lake Odessa received mileage reimbursement.

Motion to approve the 2024 Ronald Township Election Inspectors made by Supervisor Blood, supported by Trustee Thelen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Walker presented the Fire Chief Report. 78 calls to date. 8 structure fires, 53 medical first responder, 5 Personal Injury accidents, 12 all others (power lines, grass fires, brush fires, ect.) Mutual aid received 2, provided 6.

Chief Walker spoke in regards to the fire truck. The township has 1 fire truck and it is a 2001. The Township has a tanker that carried water, a rescue aid, and a F250 Brush Rig. Chief Walker noted this is not a new issue, it was brought to the board 5 years ago to come up with a plan for replacement. The Fire Department is looking for a new Fire Truck that would replace 2 vehicles.

Chief Walker stated that if going with a refurbished it is probably 6 months to 1 year out and the fire department would not have a fire truck.

A resident questioned if the township had purchased property to move the Fire Department.

Supervisor Blood clarified that the township has not yet purchased the property but it was voted on.

Resident commented that the truck should come before the property.

Supervisor Blood noted that if the truck will fit in the building, then yes.

Chief Walker noted that the fire department has had 2 trucks designed and it will tightly fit.

Matt Edwards spoke in regards to an incident involving a grain bin rescue and questioned if the Ronald Fire Department has the equipment necessary to perform such rescue.

Matt Edwards mentioned fundraising for the kit which is \$2,000.

Supervisor Blood noted he would make a \$500.00 donation when the fundraiser begins. Discussion was had in regards to what training is necessary to perform related rescues.

Public Comment

Lynnelle Wilson questioned who the Election Chairperson is going to be. Clerk Borton noted it would be either Deb Amos or Kay Swanson. Clerk Borton spoke with the county because the previous chair was not available.

Lynnelle Wilson spoke in regards to the \$10,000 grant for the fire department and if those funds were in the budget for this fiscal year.

Courtney Wilson spoke in regards to the 2 laptop purchases. She noted that 2 laptops were purchased in 2022 as well.

Supervisor Blood noted that those laptops are no longer in the possession of Ronald Township.

An individual commented that the Palo store would likely help with fundraising.

Sulyn Bettinghouse spoke in regards to the ARPA funds.

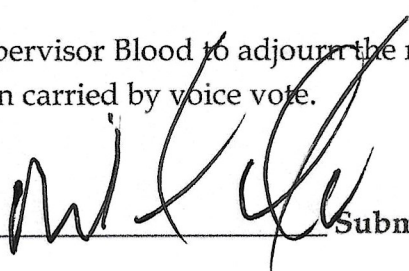
Supervisor Blood noted we file a report each year and the township rolled over the funds into an investment.

Trustee Fox noted that if the funds are designated by the end of the year the state will give the township an additional \$6,000. Trustee Fox noted that when Clerk Borton filed the report the funds were allocated towards expansions and maintenance of the Fire Department and Township Hall.

Adjournment

Motion by Supervisor Blood to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM, supported by Clerk Borton. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVED



Submitted: Kaitlyn Borton, Clerk