

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.
Riga Township Hall, Board Room
7817 Riga Hwy, Riga, MI 49276

MINUTES

Call to Order: Supervisor Gary Kastel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The pledge to the flag was recited.

Members Present: Supervisor Gary Kastel, Clerk Natalie Thompson, Treasurer Katy Gust, Trustee Brenda Delgado, and Trustee Karlene Goetz. Absent: None

Others Present: 9 guests

Clerk's Report:

- Minutes from January 13, 2020 and January 21, 2020 were presented. Goetz moved with support from Gust to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- Thompson reviewed the month's correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Gust presented the Treasurer's Report which included balances, deposits, and expenditures. She commented that about 81% of taxes have been collected to date and Valero did pay taxes at the 50% level for the Ag Renaissance Zone. Balances as follows:

- General Checking 916: \$55,012.74
- Fire Dept. Checking 7773: \$14,036.41
- TLC Fire Checking: \$52,144.67
- Road Improvement 1054: \$136,644.05
- Tax Account 908: \$69,165.49
- Fire Equipment 2356: \$39,279.96
- Sewer/Water Hookup 2445: \$91,936.89
- Fund Raising Committee 7960: \$40,355.22
- First Federal Bank CD 6157: \$101,385.80
- Old National General 9322: \$122,679.01
- TLC CCU Savings 9488: \$50,573.25
- TLC CCU CD: \$511.11

Request a copy of the treasurer's report by e-mail: rigatreasurer@gmail.com

- Thompson moved with support from Delgado to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Public Comment: A few comments were heard regarding the lack of weekend snow removal around Riga Township. There was a question about how the Road Commission was prioritizing snow plow routes.

Planning Commission Report: Goetz gave the planning commission report:

- There were around 50 guests at the February meeting, many were Deerfield residents to hear about and comment on solar development in Riga Township. Members of the ESA-Solar project were on hand to answer questions.
- Next month, the planning commissioners will hear presentations regarding large scale solar development
- The planning commission began reviewing newer information released from the MDNR regarding maintaining land under solar panels and they posed 6 specific questions to the attorney regarding our solar ordinance.

Special Guest: Mr. Robert Knoblauch was present to give an update from the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners. He noted at the annex is now the temporary home to all offices that were previously in the Old Court House. Required updates and maintenance to existing county elevators is also staying on schedule. Mr. Knoblauch also wanted to announce his “retirement” from public service at the end of his current term as County Commissioner. He will not be seeking an additional term. The board thanked him for his 42 years of service to Riga Township as Supervisor, Assessor, and now County Commissioner.

Board Action:

- Kastel presented the following candidates for appointment to the Board of Review for 2 year terms ending in 2022: Cindy Fischer, Maurice Dennecker, and Gary Gorkiewicz as regular members and John Mattek and Dianna Raine as alternates. Goetz moved with support from Gust to approve the appointments to the Board of Review. Motion carried.
- Thompson presented a cost analysis for Conditional Use permits. The current fee is \$300, but has not been updated in many years and does not take into account increased costs of publications, attorney fees, zoning administrator fees, mailings, etc. Goetz moved with support from Gust to increase the Conditional Use permit fee to \$500.00. Motion carried.
- Thompson will correspond with the attorney to draft an updated Conditional Use Permit Application, specifically asking about the requirement of land owner authorization and per parcel terms.
- Thompson presented Salary Resolutions for the offices of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustee for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Goetz moved with support from Delgado to approve Resolutions 2020.3-2020.6 to be presented at the March 30, 2020 Annual Meeting of Electors. Roll call vote: Goetz-yes, Kastel-yes, Gust-yes, Delgado-yes, Thompson-yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2020.3 Salary Resolution Supervisor

WHEREAS, MCL 41.95 authorizes the township board of Riga Township to determine the salaries for the offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee for fiscal year 2020-2021 by adopting a resolution for each office at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2020, the salary of the office of supervisor shall be as follows:

Supervisor: \$12,000.00 salary (not directly performing assessing)

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the electors at the annual meeting to be held on March 30, 2020, at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modification(s) that may be made by the electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during an official's term of office unless the responsibilities and requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to that reduction. In the event that the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, adopted on February 10, 2019, is properly adopted by Riga Township Board at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by law.

Resolution 2020.4 Salary Resolution Clerk

WHEREAS, MCL 41.95 authorizes the township board of Riga Township to determine the salaries for the offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee for fiscal year 2020-2021 by adopting a resolution for each office at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2020, the salary of the office of clerk shall be as follows:

Clerk: \$15,000.00 salary

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the electors at the annual meeting to be held on March 30, 2020, at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modification(s) that may be made by the electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during an official's term of office unless the responsibilities and requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to that reduction. In the event that the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, adopted on February 10, 2020, is properly adopted by Riga Township Board at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by law.

Resolution 2020.5 Salary Resolution Treasurer

WHEREAS, MCL 41.95 authorizes the township board of Riga Township to determine the salaries for the offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee for fiscal year 2020-2021 by adopting a resolution for each office at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2020, the salary of the office of treasurer shall be as follows:

Treasurer: \$15,000 salary

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the electors at the annual meeting to be held on March 30, 2020, at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modification(s) that may be made by the electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during an official's term of office unless the responsibilities and requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to that reduction. In the event that the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, adopted on February 10, 2020 is properly adopted by Riga Township Board at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by law.

Resolution 2020.6 Salary Resolution Trustee

WHEREAS, MCL 41.95 authorizes the township board of Riga Township to determine the salaries for the offices of supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and trustee for fiscal year 2020-2021 by adopting a resolution for each office at least 30 days prior to the township annual meeting of the electors;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that as of April 1, 2020, the salary of the office of trustee shall be as follows:

Trustee: \$3,500.00 salary

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be submitted to the electors at the annual meeting to be held on March 30, 2020 at which time the electors may modify these amounts. Pursuant to MCL 41.95(7), such modification(s) that may be made by the electors cannot result in a reduction of salary during an official's term of office unless the responsibilities and requirements of that office are diminished, and the official agrees in writing to that reduction. In the event that the electors fail to act on this resolution, the officer shall be entitled to the salary as established in this resolution, in accordance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution, adopted on February 10, 2020, is properly adopted by Riga Township Board at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, as required by law.

Water and Sewer Report:

- Kastel reported ditch flushing of 270,650 gallons @ 3.65/month = \$987.87 and additional hydrant flushing of 444,648 gallons @ 3.65/month = \$1,622.97
- Goetz shared that flushing is down to once per week. She also noted that the State is mandating a review of all water hooks-ins at individual residents, inspecting 18 inches into the home for lead lines. She requested that the board be kept informed by the Drain Commission so that we can communicate with residents and perhaps arrange inspections by our own plumbing inspector rather than a state contracted agent.

Grounds and Maintenance:

- The board agreed that a new rug can be purchased for the entry to the main hall.
- Thompson presented a sample contract to be used between Al Smith and the Board for work on the Riga Park trail and tennis court excavation. She will consult with Mr. Smith on agreeable terms and bring it back to the board for approval.

Fire Department Report:

- Dan Schwyn, representing the Fire Committee, set the next Fire Committee meeting for February 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The committee is working on a photo display of the Fire Personnel and an inventory of fire equipment.
- Chief Norman presented the fire report: There were 8 calls in the month of January: 5 medical, 1 PI Crash, 1 transfer, and 1 citizen assist.
- The Fire Department has successfully made a partial switch to 800MHz radios. Chief Norman that previous home scanners will not pick up 800MHz transmissions.
- Chief Norman presented a request to enter into contract with ImageTrend for reporting fire calls to the state. The "free computer tool" offered by the state does not work and the State Fire Commissioner is unwilling to work with smaller departments to share the cost of reporting.

Goetz moved with support from Thompson to contract with ImageTrend for \$1,200.00 per year to meet state requirements for fire call reporting. Motion carried.

- Chief Norman requested that the board send four officers to the Fire Department Instructor Conference. Delgado moved with support from Gust to pay the \$60/person FDIC entry fee for 4 Riga Fire Officers. Motion carried.
- Chief Norman also noted that over the weekend the 911 call-in service was down county wide. He immediately posted his personal contact information on social media as an alternative. He also noted that the Fire Station was manned during the entire outage.

Approval to Pay Bills:

- The following warrants were presented: Fire Checking checks 2275-2290 totaling \$4,967.30 and General Checking checks 11709-11739 totaling \$16,781.09.
- Goetz moved with support from Delgado to pay the warrants as presented. Motion carried.

Cemetery: There is still a remaining tree stump on the east side of the cemetery as well as the large tree trunk along the south fence. Kastel will seek stump removal bids. Goetz noted that we should budget additional cemetery maintenance in the next fiscal budget.

Public Comment: Comments were made regarding water usage by the ethanol plant and Airgas, raises for the Township Board, the name of the township attorney, and solar energy.

Kastel noted a big thanks to Billy Kastel for helping repair a leaking urinal in the men's restroom.

Adjournment: Delgado moved with support from Gust to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Natalie Thompson, Clerk
Gary Kastel, Supervisor