

Village of Rothbury  
Special Council Meeting  
September 10, 2019

The special meeting was opened in the Village hall at 5:30 PM by President Scott Beishuizen with all council members present. Also present were planning commissioners Domo Cruz, Jerry Kooi and Mike Harris.

Also present were: Village attorney Matt Mills, Treasurer Deborah Murphy, Police Chief Tom Hasper, Sargent Ethan Walker, Event Coordinator Doug Roesler, Mark and Nancy Rolf, Norm and Susan Halbower, Double JJ attorney, Jim Rose and General Manager Kirby Schoen.

Councilman Bob Fulljames gave a statement to the council condemning the Clerk for her unprofessional attitude concerning public participation in public meetings. The legality of the meeting was questioned and answered by the Clerk.

Kirby Schoen talked to the council about the impact the Ranch has on the community with its 225year round employees. He explained that the Electric Forest is just one of 4000 events Madison House presents each year but locally has a huge impact: every state and 13 countries represented by attendees, \$4.5 million in local labor, food pantries supplied, school music programs funded, etc.

Kirby asked the council to consider different language in the ordinance amendment because part of his job as general manager is risk assessment and he sees the amendment as a high-risk situation. Madison House has informed the resort that if there is a midnight curfew for music there will be no music festival.

There was discussion about the fact that the Electric Forest has always been granted later time frames for shutting down noise, but they don't abide by those times either. Jim Rose, attorney for the ranch, reiterated that the ranch does not stand for the festival violating the permit. He believes it is a crowd control issue.

Sgt. Walker stated that he works the night shift during the festival, and it's been his experience that the late music comes from the Good Life-both East and West campgrounds. Those campgrounds are outside of village limits and therefore not under our jurisdiction. Fulljames made

the point that the Electric Forest had been specifically exempted in the new amendment from the new time limit. Matt Mills and Jim Rose debated ways to separate the Electric Forest from other mass gatherings. It was the consensus of council to move the time in the ordinance back to 2 AM.

There was discussion of how many festivals there might be in the future and decided that no one knows for sure.

Bob and Marlene Lohman joined the meeting.

Jim Rose asked about the possibility of having 10 one year permits or one 10-year permit with pre-event and post-event meetings to deal with problems as they arise. Matt Mills explained that as is the amendment calls for a 3-year rolling agreement with a yearly site plan review. Police Chief Hasper showed the council this year's site plan. The site plan did not include campgrounds in the Township.

The willingness of Madison House to meet pre and post event was questioned. The attorney told the council that language can be added to insure the meeting happens.

It was the consensus of council to include a 10-year rolling permit which would allow the permit holder to apply for another year at each post-event meeting.

Sgt. Walker questioned the ability of the council to control events in the case of a change in ownership at the ranch. Matt Mills will investigate the possibility of including language to address a change in property ownership mid-permit.

Village attorney Matt Mills will bring a new amendment to the next council meeting which will reflect the concerns of the council to have control of the mass gathering without undue restrictions on the property owner or the event producer.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Witzke

Rothbury Village Clerk