

**Village of Rothbury
Special Council Meeting
August 13, 2024**

The Special Meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was called to order in the Village Hall at 7PM by President Vern Talmadge.

Council members present were Autum Drake, Mike Harris, Jim Fekken, Denise Kurdziel, Troy Voorhees and Dylan Zuniga.

Also present were Treasurer Deb Murphy, Police Chief Ethan Walker, Deputy Clerk Carol Witzke, Eric VanDop from Brickley DeLong, Officer Brandon Tenhove, Jeanne Furman, Jaden Furman, Jeff Furman, Sonya Talmadge, Mary Ann Canales, Carlos Canales, Stephanie Tallquist, Jayne Silvers, Harold Drake, Sandra Bailey and Lisa Armstrong.

After the pledge of allegiance, the prior meetings minutes were approved as written.

Eric VanDop from Brickley DeLong presented council with the annual audit report. Mr. VanDop indicated that the audit went well as usual, that everything is well run with no issues. Council member Mike Harris asked if in the history of Brickley DeLong doing the audit for the Village of Rothbury, had there ever been any findings of fraud. Mr. VanDop's answer was NO.

Treasurer Deb Murphy gave the monthly treasurers report, reporting the receipt of the Electric Forest Festival income at a total of \$361,593.20. Deb presented to council the needed upgrades for the Village to transition to the new BS&A cloud based software with the access of the remote server in the office in Bath, Michigan being discontinued. Discussion was had among council about the expense and needs of the Village. Motion made by Dylan Zuniga, with support from Mike Harris to approve the transition at a cost of \$26, 070.00 to make the change, with an annual fee of \$8,770.00. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Deb reminded council of the money that had been earmarked to be committed to the DNR Grant Project for Czarny Field at a previous meeting. Motion made by Mike Harris, seconded by Troy Voorhees to commit \$150,000 toward the fund. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Council then gave permission to Deb Murphy to invest the \$150,000 into a CD or Money Market account with the best available rate.

Clerk Brandy Williams read to council a proposed budget amendment; to add \$361,593.20 to revenues under Mass Gathering. Move \$15,000 to Clerk Technology Services 101-215-802, as well as \$15,000 to Treasurer Technology Services 101-253-802 both for the purchase of the new BS&A cloud software. Move \$150,000 to new account, fund balance for Czarny Park 101-000-380. Move \$181, 593.20 into

unallocated, bringing the new unallocated total to \$272,993.20. Motion made by Mike Harris, with support from Jim Fekken to approve the budget amendment as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Jaden Furman, of Boy Scout Troop 1151 of Shelby, presented to council a proposal to replace the sign at Czarny Park for his Eagle Scout project asking for funding in the amount of \$433 for materials with all labor to be completed by the Scout Troop. Expected completion date of October 2024. Motion made by Mike Harris to approve Jaden Furman's proposal, seconded by Autum Drake. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Police Chief Ethan Walker gave the monthly police report.

Planning Commission Chair Mike Harris reported that there was no Planning Commission meeting held in August.

Zoning Administrator Mike Harris, read to council Michigan Statutes regarding the Green Lawn Trailer Park, and who the responsibility falls on to enforce the maintenance, trash, grounds, animals, etc. and informed council that the operator/owner of the park is responsible. The Village is responsible for zoning violations and that going forward they will be addressed after receipt of a written complaint and that forms are available at the Village Hall upon request, as well as a printable version on the Village website.

President Talmadge reviewed the ATV ordinance that was adopted last year as a one year review clause was added at the time of adoption. Council as well as the police reported no significant issues, and that the ordinance stands as written going forward.

President Talmadge raised the idea of annexing the Rothbury Community Center into the Village of Rothbury for police service purposes as the Community Center is located in Grant Township outside of our department's jurisdiction. Motion made by Jim Fekken, supported by Mike Harris to have the Clerk handle the annexation process with the attorney. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion passed.

Recreation Director Brandy Williams shared that there was not much going on in the recreation department and was waiting to purchase fall flags for the street poles until it is determined the cost to repair the benches at the pocket park that were damaged in the storm at the end of June.

RCC Director Deb Murphy updated council that the ant invasion at the Community Center had been eradicated and that the doors had been re-keyed. Council discussed possibly adding a camera or two at some point in the future for security purposes.

Council member Autum Drake questioned the cell phone bill, and the amount of phones the village was paying for that had minimal to no use on them. Brandy Williams offered to return hers, as she preferred to use the office phone and email for communication

purposes. President Talmadge was going to follow up with other phone holders to see if they wanted to stop their services also if they were not being used.

Motion by Mike Harris to pay the monthly bills, seconded by Jim Fekken. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

President Talmadge advised that chip and seal will be beginning on the upcoming Friday or early at the start of the next week.

Lisa Armstrong updated council with a preliminary plan for the new garden club. It was suggested that emails be collected through our Facebook page for those who would like to volunteer to “adopt a corner”.

Motion by Autum Drake seconded by Mike Harris to cancel the regularly scheduled council meeting for August 20, 2024. 7 ayes, 0 nays motion carried.

Motion made by Mike Harris with support from Jim Fekken to extend Carol Witzke’s position as Deputy Clerk for an additional 6 months. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

President Talmadge advised council that the waiting period to adopt the ordinance amendment to change the Clerk and Treasurer positions to appointed instead of elected has passed.

Motion by Autum Drake to appoint Brandy Williams as Village Clerk, seconded by Denise Kurdziel. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion by Mike Harris to appoint Deb Murphy as Village Treasurer, seconded by Denise Kurdziel. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Williams, Clerk