

July 15, 2025

Village of Rothbury

Council Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rothbury Village Council was called to order at 7:00PM in the Village Hall by President Vern Talmadge.

All Council Members were present. Also present were Treasurer Deb Murphy, Police Chief Ethan Walker, DPW Director Scott Beishuizen, Byran VaNett, Jayne Silvers, Bekah Silvers, Juan Cano, Andy Roberts, and Carol Witzke.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the prior meetings minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer Deb Murphy gave the monthly Treasurers report.

Treasurer Murphy asked the council to consider adopting a resolution to collect the 1% administrative fee associated with tax collection.

Motion made by Mike Harris to adopt the resolution as written, with support from Jim Fekken. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Chief Walker gave the monthly police report, apprising council of activity throughout the Electric Forest and month of June.

Mike Harris gave the Planning Commission update, there was a meeting, ran by Carol Witzke because he was unable to attend. Planning Commission meetings will now be held at 6PM, on the same dates.

Greenlawn Trailer Park is making progress with the cleanup, and there are two new potential residential developments pending within the Village limits.

Mike Harris read a resignation letter from Planning Commission member Chris Oracz who is moving from the area. The Planning Commission will be accepting interested parties to fill the vacancy.

Motion made by Autum Drake to accept Chris Oracz resignation with regret, seconded by Denise Kurdziel. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Denise Kurdziel recommended the council consider the new occupant of the Oracz/Silvers residence as a potential replacement for the now open seat.

Collin Mann updated the council on the complications with the DNR Grant funding and the Consumers Power Easement crossing the ballfield. Three options were presented to reallocate the funding within the new scope of allowability from the DNR so that the grant process can move forward. The council discussed the options.

The discussion shifted to potential conflicts regarding a previously proposed road that would run through the village hall park, parking lot and across the bike trail. This road is part of a project being developed by Valley City Metals, and concerns were raised about the conflicts it could create for future improvements to the village hall park.

Denise Kurdziel made a motion to prohibit Valley City Metals, along with any other business or entity, from constructing a road or otherwise interfering with the village hall park, bike trail access or any property connected to Community Drive in the future.

Motion seconded by Mike Harris, 6 ayes, 1 nay (Dylan Zuniga), motion carried.

Discussion resumed amongst council members regarding the three proposed options from Prein & Newhof on reallocating the DNR Grant Funding.

Motion by Autum Drake to move forward with option 3 for the grant funding reallocation, seconded by Mike Harris. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Collin Mann with Prein & Newhof will follow up with DNR with the decision and let us know what the next steps are.

RCC Director Deb Murphy gave the Community Center update, she is busy with bookings and receiving good feedback.

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

DPW Director Scott Beishuizen gave the DPW report for the month.

A brief discussion was had regarding the Employee Handbook draft and including the ethics policy in its entirety. Discussion was tabled until the August meeting with the intention of adopting the completed handbook at that meeting, giving council additional time to review.

Treasurer Murphy spoke to the council about gathering more information on investing village funds into options that have a better return on investment such as Michigan Class with the intention of creating a cushion of funding.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Williams

Clerk