



7401 N 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Richland, MI 49083  
P: 269-629-4921  
F: 269-629-5993

## **Richland Township Board – Budget Workshop**

**December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

**7401 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Richland, MI 49083**

Supervisor Harma called the workshop of the board to order at 6:02 p.m.

Those present:

Supervisor Lysanne Harma

Treasurer Marsha Drouin

Clerk Bear Priest

Trustee David Wendzel

Trustee Bill Peter

Trustee Paul Foust

Trustee Trey Eldridge (Arrived at 6:04 p.m.)

Those absent: None

Also Present: None

### **Budget Review**

Supervisor Harma recognized Treasurer Drouin and Clerk Priest to review the Requested Budget for fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. The Board discussed most line items.

### **Adjournment**

Supervisor Harma declared the workshop adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



**Richland Township Board – Regular Meeting**

**December 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**7401 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Richland, MI 49083**

Supervisor Harma called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Supervisor Harma led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

Those present:

Supervisor Lysanne Harma  
Clerk Bear Priest  
Trustee Bill Peter  
Trustee Trey Eldridge

Treasurer Marsha Drouin  
Trustee David Wendzel  
Trustee Paul Foust

Those absent: None

Also Present: Fire Chief Luedecking, Asst. Fire Chief Hoffman, Captain Patrick Doran, Lieutenant Travis Helmer, 10 Fire Fighters, several fire fighter family members, Ordinance Enforcement Officer McCain, and Attorney Seeber.

**Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Wendzel moved, supported by Treasurer Drouin, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

**Citizen Comment**

None.

**Reports**

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Luedecking presented Captain Doran with his recently earned Managing Officer Certificate from the National Fire Academy.

**Consent Agenda**

Treasurer Drouin moved, supported by Trustee Eldridge, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which included the following:

- November 21, 2023, Richland Township Board meeting minutes, and;
- November 2023 financial statements, and.
- Paying January 2024 bills and the submitted December 2023 invoices, and;
- Approval of the Fire Department, Parks Department, Ordinance Enforcement, Assessing, and Supervisor Reports.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

**Amended Water Services Agreement**

Trustee Foust moved, supported by Trustee Peter, approve the amended and restated water services agreement and authorize Supervisor Harma to execute the agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**



**Agri-tainment Zoning Text Amendment**

Trustee Eldridge moved, supported by Trustee Foust, to adopt the zoning text amendment relating to agri-tainment businesses as presented and recommended by the planning commission with the condition the planning condition recommend additional conditions similar if not the same as the original text within six months of today’s date.

**AYES: PRIEST, HARMA, ELDRIDGE, FOUST, PETER**

**NAYS’: DROUIN**

**ABSTAINED: WENDZEL**

**ORDINANCE ADOPTED; 5-1-1.**

**Deputy Fire Chief Position**

Trustee Peter moved, supported by Treasurer Drouin, to approve the creation of the Deputy Fire Chief position per the Job description as presented by the Fire Advisory Committee and approve posting of the position internally at first and externally if no qualified candidate is found. Timing will be later in January to coordinate with the Chief’s return from vacation.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

**Household Hazardous Waste**

Trustee Eldridge moved, supported by Trustee Wendzel, to approve the proposed annual agreement with Kalamazoo County to allow township residents a safe way to dispose of household hazardous waste with a total cost of \$16,500 for 2024 and authorize Supervisor Harma to execute the agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

**Road Commission Agreements and PAR Funds**

Trustee Wendzel moved, supported by Trustee Foust, to authorize Treasurer Drouin to execute agreements with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for 2024 road projects and the 2024 PAR Funds agreement when the agreements become available.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

**Cemetery Fee Schedule**

Trustee Eldridge moved, supported by Clerk Priest, to adopt the proposed fee schedule for the cemetery effective January 1, 2024, due to cost increases at the cemetery.

**AYES: PRIEST, DROUIN, HARMA, ELDRIDGE, FOUST, PETER, WENDZEL**

**NAYS’: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED; 7-0**

**Property Tax Payment Designees (Resolution Number 23-12-23)**

Clerk Priest resolved, supported by Trustee Foust, to adopt a resolution authorizing additional staff and elected officials to collect property taxes in the absence and assistance to the Treasurer.

**AYES: PRIEST, DROUIN, HARMA, ELDRIDGE, FOUST, PETER, WENDZEL**

**NAYS’: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED; 7-0**



**Trustee Updates**

Each Board Member had the opportunity to give updates to the community.

**Adjournment**


Trustee Peter moved, supported by Trustee Wendzel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED; 7-0.**

Prepared by: Bear Priest, Clerk of Richland Township

Date minutes available: December 20, 2023

Date minutes approved: - January 16, 2024 -

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Bear Priest, Clerk