

# **RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**AUGUST 10, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian R. Frederick, Supervisor                      David Earley, Treasurer  
Renee R. Herhold, Clerk    Brian Beckrow, Trustee  
Susan K. Neuenfeldt, Trustee

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Richland Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Frederick at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by David Earley, to approve the Agenda as printed. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Motion by Renee Herhold, second by David Earley, to approve and file Minutes from the regular meeting held July 13, 2021 as written. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**BILLS:** Motion by David Earley, second by Renee Herhold, to pay the bills as listed, a total of \$276,478.15. Roll call vote Frederick, yes; Herhold, yes; Neuenfeldt, yes; Beckrow, yes; Earley, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Brian Beckrow, to receive and file the reports as listed. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Questions and comments were heard and answered.

**OLD BUSINESS -** None.

**NEW BUSINESS -**

**PARKING SIGNS:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to purchase “no overnight parking signs” with post, where needed, for both of the township owned municipal parking lots and the township administration building/library parking lot. Roll call vote Herhold, yes; Neuenfeldt, yes; Beckrow, yes; Earley, yes; Frederick, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**TOWNSHIP CDARS ACCOUNT:** Motion by Renee Herhold, second by Susan Neuenfeldt, to reinvest township funds (\$860,000) in the Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) at Isabella Bank for a six-month investment period, authorizing Treasurer Earley and Clerk Herhold to sign on behalf of the Township. Roll call vote Neuenfeldt, yes; Beckrow, yes; Earley, yes; Frederick, yes; Herhold, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING POLICE/FIRE MILLAGE RATES:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to set the Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to establish the millage rates for police and fire protection for the 2021 winter tax roll for operations during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, authorizing the Manager to publicize as required. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by David Earley, as requested by Fire Chief Scott, to allow the Chief and three Firefighters to attend the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Conference in Traverse City, total expenditure of \$2,258 as budgeted. Roll call vote Beckrow, yes; Earley, yes; Frederick, yes; Herhold, yes; Neuenfeldt, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**MTA PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE:** Motion by Renee Herhold, second by Susan Neuenfeldt, Richland Township adopts the Principles of Governance as stated by Michigan Townships Association reaffirming to maintain the highest standards and traditions of Michigan Townships, embracing principles to guide our stewardship, deliberations and constituent services as a commitment to safeguard our community's health, safety and general welfare, authorizing Supervisor Frederick, Treasurer Earley, Clerk Herhold, Trustee Neuenfeldt and Trustee Beckrow to sign on behalf of Richland Township. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY FENCING:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to purchase white vinyl fencing to replace the chain link fence located on the west side of the township cemetery along Gratiot Road, as part of the beautification projects in downtown Hemlock, total expenditure \$212.83. Roll call vote Earley, yes; Frederick, yes; Herhold, yes; Neuenfeldt, yes; Beckrow, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**CAMERA SYSTEM:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Brian Beckrow, to table the purchase of a security camera system, due to a scheduled camera assessment in September which could provide funds from the Department of Homeland Security to alleviate some of the cost. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Brian Beckrow, allowing Chief Scott to purchase fire prevention and public education materials for Sawdust Days and Fire Prevention Week, estimated cost of \$2,000 as budgeted. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT POLICY 04.31:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to approve the amended Fire Department Administrative Policy 04.31, Recruiting and Employment, as presented, effective immediately, authorizing Manager Reno and Chief Scott to sign on behalf of Richland Township. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUIT:** Motion by Renee Herhold, second by David Earley, as recommended by Chief Scott, confirming Ryan Luft as a Firefighter on the Department, working out the details with Tri-Township Fire Department where he currently is an active Firefighter. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**POLE BARN RFP:** Motion by David Earley, second by Brian Beckrow, to table the request to obtain bid proposals for construction of a 30' x 56' x 10' stick-built pole barn to be used for storage for the police and fire departments, forming a committee consisting of the Manager, Building Inspector, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Township Board Member conceivably seeking engineered drawings, with updates conveyed at the September meeting. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**KNOX BOX:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to purchase Knox Box for the Township Administration Building and Township Hall. Discussion held.

Motion to amend by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Brian Beckrow, to purchase Knox Box for the Township Administration building, Township Hall, Department of Public Works building, and Park maintenance barn. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

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**COMMUNICATIONS:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Brian Beckrow, to receive and file communications. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

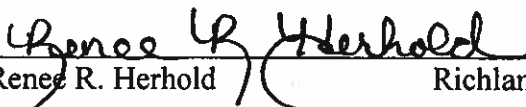
**SOLAR FARM ORDINANCE:** After much discussion, motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to direct the proposed Solar Farm Ordinance to the Planning Commission to revisit due to lack of language as discussed during the August Commission meeting regarding the setbacks and decommissioning. Roll call vote Frederick, yes; Herhold, yes; Neuenfeldt, yes; Beckrow, yes; Earley, yes. (5) Yeas, (0) Nays. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Correspondence was received, read and placed on file regarding the proposed solar farm ordinance with special regards to the declared setbacks. Comments and questions were received and answered regarding the proposed solar farm ordinance.

**SPECIAL MEETING:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by Renee Herhold, to hold a special meeting with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 7:00 P.M., to review with possible adoption of the proposed Solar Farm Ordinance. Unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Susan Neuenfeldt, second by David Earley, to adjourn. Unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned – 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Renee R. Herhold      Richland Twp. Clerk