

Rochester Township
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chairman Jamie Neisen.

Members present - Matthew Kitzmann, Jamie Neisen, Jeff Orth, Michael Melford and Randy Staver. **Absent:** Nathan Clarke.

Guests – Pat McGowan, Dean Thompson, Brian Mueller and one member of the public.

Minutes – Jeff Orth moved to approve the minutes for the July 20, 2023 meeting. Michael Melford seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Deputy's Report – Deputy Dean Thompson reviewed the call report of 36 calls for service.

Jamie Neisen distributed speed data that has been collected over the past month. The device was placed in Millie Meadows for 3 days and Mayo Woodlands for 6 days. Jamie encouraged board members to review the information for further discussion.

2630 Wild Rose Lane SW –

- A second letter, as approved by the Board, was mailed to the property owner. No trespassing signs have been posted which is about all the township can request.

Land Use Planning Workgroup –

- There was no new information to report for this month.

Nuisance Ordinance –

- Subsequent to adoption of the nuisance ordinance, a question was raised whether the township can enforce the ordinance under state statute. Those townships that have adopted urban powers do have enforcement authority. Rochester Township adopted urban powers several years ago and, regardless, has urban powers by virtue of population.
- Jamie stated that the township will need to assess whether there are structures within the township that might apply under the new ordinance.

Mayo Woodlands 4 Trail Expense –

- The township had agreed, as part of the approval of the development agreement, to share in the cost of the construction of a trail. However, the Board did not stipulate where funding would come from.
- The township previously agreed to pay \$41,076 for the asphalt material. ARPA funds were designated for that amount. The township also agreed to share in the cost of construction of what is an 8 foot wide trail. The shared cost is \$15,000+. The amount will be paid from the road and bridge fund although it may be decided to use ARPA funds at a later date.

Cannabis Legislation & Moratorium –

- Randy Staver noted that the City of Rochester did adopt a moratorium prohibiting implementation until January 2025. Olmsted County chose not to at this time. There are a number of questions surrounding regulation and implementation that need to be resolved. In addition, it is unlikely that the State will be in a position to have the new regulatory commission in place and a process developed to license applications until sometime in 2024. No action will be taken by the township at this time.

Subdivision Ordinance –

- Jamie said that there are still a few items to resolve that are under discussion.

Reports:

Treasurer’s Report –

- Treasurer Randy Staver reported. There were no unusual activity to report.
- Jeff Orth moved approval of the treasurer’s report. Michael Melford seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Rochester Township Claims – Jeff Orth moved and Michael Melford seconded to accept and pay Rochester Township claims #5344-5360 in the amount of \$91,155.95. All voted in favor and the motion passed with Matt Kitzmann abstaining.

JPB Claims – Jeff Orth moved and Matt Kitzmann seconded to accept and pay Joint Powers Board claims #6274-6302 and the Rochester Township share in the amount of \$26,646.28, and a payroll share of \$14,553.84. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Road Maintenance Supervisor Report –

- Several projects are wrapping up including roads and trails. The storm on July 26th resulted in some downed trees that needed to be removed. The new mower needs a minor repair.

- There have been some resident requests for road striping on Weatherhill Road. The project won't happen this year due to schedule and budget.

TCPA Report –

- Matt Kitzmann reported. There was a recap of Roger Ihrke's retirement celebration and also some discussion about the cannabis legislation. It was otherwise a light meeting.

Board of Appeals & Adjustment Report (Township Board) –

- There was no action requested this month.

Planning and Zoning Commission Report –

- No more information other than what was provided earlier.

Board Chair Report –

- Nothing else to report.

Other Business –

- Randy Staver reported that the township has been asked to host election activities in November for a special Rochester School District referendum. A percentage of township residents are in RSD 535.
- Assignments related to the upcoming township picnic were made. Postcards have been mailed. Matt Kitzmann moved to set the date for next year to Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 to allow plenty of time to publicize the event. Jeff Orth seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Further discussion determined that date will conflict with the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Matt Kitzmann moved to reconsider the motion. Jeff Orth seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Jeff Orth moved to set the date for Tuesday, August 20th, 2024. Michael Melford seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Upcoming Meetings –

- Planning and Zoning Commission – September 12, 2023 – 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned – Matt Kitzmann moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Melford seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Staver, Clerk / Treasurer

Jamie Neisen, Chairman