

**JOINT MEETING  
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD AND  
RICHLAND VILLAGE COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016  
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP HALL**

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The joint meeting convened at 7:00 P.M.

Those Township Board members present:

Supervisor Lysanne Harma  
Treasurer Marsha Drouin  
Trustee AJ Harma  
Trustee Paul Foust

Clerk Desiree LaDuke  
Trustee Jeannie Byrne  
Trustee Dave Wendzel

Village Council members present:

President Dave Greve  
PPT Gail Koporetz  
Trustee Kevin Foust

Trustee Kim Lewis  
Clerk Jacqueline Holewa  
Trustee Virginia Gross

Treasurer Terry Edds  
Trustee John Smith

Also present were Township Attorneys Roxanne Seeber and Seth Koches, and several members of the community.

Byrne/Drouin moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an MDOT update. **MOTION CARRIED**

A Harma/Greve moved to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2015 joint meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

Joe Kaywood spoke about the Firefighter Association's Annual Banquet commending Rick Wisser for being awarded Captain of the Year. He thought it would be a nice gesture for the Township and the Village to jointly send a letter to all award recipients thanking them for their time and service to our community.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Questions had been asked about the accuracy in billing from HHW to Village and Township residents. Supervisor Harma said that both the Village and Township participate with funds. There is no cost to the residents unless their drop-off exceeds the allotted amount. HHW looks at each person's driver's license to confirm residency and then charges the municipality accordingly.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP CALLS**

In 2015 the Fire Dept. responded to 71 calls within the Village limits. Village calls for service represent 20% of all calls for service for the Fire Dept. 60% of calls for service in the Village of Richland occurred between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. 54 of the 71 calls were medical including Personal Injury traffic accidents. Medical calls for service in the Village make up 76% of all Village calls.

**VILLAGE TO REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED/POTENTIAL OUTCOMES OF MAY VOTE**

Discussion of services led into discussion of potential outcomes of the disincorporation vote in May.

Dave Greve presented a list of services that the Village of Richland provides to the Village residents. This included things such as the Village Police, Department of Public Works, Village Master Planning and Zoning and Local Ordinances.

Township Trustee Byrne asked if residents within the Village were aware that services may change. PPT Koporetz said that the petitioners had told the residents that services will remain the same. Greve's opinion is that all services would stop and the Township would have to decide what they would keep.

Township Attorney Koches had prepared a memo as to what may happen. (See attached).

There is a framework of law that is provided however this has never happened in the State of Michigan. Statute does not tell us what happens.

If the vote were to pass, the disincorporation would not be complete until October 4, 2016, when the Kalamazoo County Board Commission meets for its annual meeting. A disincorporation council would not apply in this instance.

The net position of the Village is greater than its total liabilities.

Koporetz asked if research could be done as to what would happen with the Library as it is a District Library. The requirement to be a District Library is that involves 2 or more municipalities.

Byrne asked what assets the Village has and if a list with values attached could be provided at the next joint meeting. She also asked if there is any pending litigation. Village Treasurer Edds said he could provide a list of assets and that all litigation is over. Village Clerk Holewa stated that there are 3 ADA complaints that had been turned over to the Department of Justice.

Greve asked if we are going to educate the Village and Township residents as to the vote. Attorney Seeber said that we could provide factual information but she would like to review anything the Township writes. Greve would like to invite Tim Snow - County Clerk, Joanna Johnson - Managing Director of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, a member of the Michigan Townships Association and a member of the State Bureau of Elections to attend the next Joint Meeting. Supervisor Harma asked all present to check their calendars to see about scheduling the next Joint Meeting. April 14 was chosen as a tentative date.

## **MDOT UPDATE**

Supervisor Harma said that she had met with MDOT and been updated about the work to be done on the M-43/M-89 intersection. New sidewalks and signals would be put in. There would be no charge to the Village for signals. The work is to begin in September of 2016.

## **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Ed Beilby spoke of the necessity for the Village Police. He stated that it is known in outlying areas that "you don't cause trouble in Richland." He asked, "Why would you want to disincorporate?"

Ed Huard spoke about using WMU's Public Administration as a resource.

Joe Sikkema asked how a vote could happen. He said there are too many unknowns, would there be a liability to residents, and would there be an increase in taxes? He said that the Township and Village need to say there is a liability.

Jim Nieuwenhuis asked if the Township would be without a police force from May – October. He asked if keeping the police has been considered.

Tattie Hodge spoke about her issues with the Village Council saying they are not a democracy but a representative republic. Three council members had been appointed – not elected. She stated that the Village budget is approximately \$500,000 a year and that over 50% is spent on the police force. 12% had been used for legal fees. She asked if the Village police had been trained in ICS?

Doug Penny said that the Village and the Township have shared services with the Fire Department.

Moly Hilliker stated that there are a lot of unhappy people in the Village and wondered why the citizens are so unhappy. She said that if everyone wants to keep the police force then maybe the Township and Village should consider financing the department for the entire Township.

## **TRUSTEE UPDATES**

Trustee Kim Lewis said that the Village is partnering with the RACC and master gardeners to “plant the pots” around town. They are looking at planting perennials rather than annuals. This will be taking place on May 14.

Trustee Harma wanted to thank the Village police and the Richland Fire Department for being first responders to the recent tragedy that occurred on 2/20/16.

He also reminded everyone of the Township Clean-Up day taking place on April 30, the shredder will be at the Township Hall from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and the dumpsters will be there from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Dave Greve thanked the Township for hosting the Joint Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.