

Richland Village Council
8985 Gull Road
Special Meeting
July 24, 2015

Present: President Paul Gobble, Trustees: Virginia Gross, Kim Lewis, Kevin Foust, and Deputy Clerk Michael Scott

Absent: Clerk Wanda Holewa, President Pro Tem Gail Koporetz, Trustees Dave Greve and Bob Prentice

The meeting was called to order in the Richland Community Hall by President Paul Gobble at 3:30 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was led by President Gobble.

President Gobble asked those in attendance if they needed the microphone and speakers turned on. All in attendance declined.

Public Comments:

Virginia Mejeur, resident on N. 32nd Street, commented that during the last meeting, it was difficult to hear the Siegfried Crandall representative and that his microphone wasn't on. Mrs. Mejeur stated that it can be intimidating to always have to ask people to repeat themselves. She continued by stating that acoustic panels are not ADA approved and therefore does not approve of the panels being bought and installed. Additionally, Mrs. Mejeur commented that there needs to be something done about the visibility when turning out of Harding's parking lot onto 32nd Street. There is a large pothole that everyone tries to avoid, but it is difficult to see oncoming traffic as the trees are blocking the view.

Agenda Items:

1. The floor was given to Rob Brinkerhoff to discuss the acoustic panels and the quotes he obtained. Mr. Brinkerhoff explained that the main issue in the community hall is the echo and that he learned that when sound baffles are installed, it breaks the first point of contact. Acoustic panels are a solution that has success in many settings, such as churches and gymnasiums. Mr. Brinkerhoff explained that after speaking with a few different acoustic businesses, that a minimum of 300 square feet, with a recommended 450 square feet, is needed in the community hall. He was extremely confident that this was accurate, even without paying for someone to come out and test the building, because every competing organization was telling him the same thing. Mr. Brinkerhoff proceeded to point out where each panel would go. The highest concentration of panels would be in the stage area, and the rest of the panels would be spread throughout the community hall. Once the panels were installed, he recommended to mount the speakers, move the council back to the stage, and move the audience closer.
2. Trustee Lewis asked what the panels looked like. Mr. Brinkerhoff explained that they are fabric covered and come in a variety of colors. He recommended the bone color, but that decision would be left to the council.

3. Mr. Brinkerhoff then went through each of the estimates that he received and recommended that the council go with Acoustimac. This was the best price of all the estimates and the quality of the product did not diminish because of the lower price. In addition, this company would not charge an upcharge for eco core technology panels, which are more effective for absorbing the sound waves of voices. President Gobble asked about delivery time, which Mr. Brinkerhoff stated was 6 to 8 business days. President Gobble asked about any grants that may be available. Mr. Brinkerhoff stated that it would be a good idea to apply for one. A letter of support from Richland Area Community Center to have a better performance venue would help this cause. Mr. Brinkerhoff and President Gobble discussed that there was \$600.00 in donations already collected for these panels.
4. Virginia Mejeur asked that a professional come in and analyze the hall and re-measure before anything is purchased. Mr. Brinkerhoff stated that the closest company was in Grand Rapids and wanted \$2400.00 just to complete the analysis. He again stated that he is confident in what he is recommending to the council, but it would be a good idea to have someone measure again to confirm that everything is accurate. Trustee Foust volunteered to come into the hall to confirm the measurements and also stated that he would contact Robin Nott, former teacher in Gull Lake High School's Arts Dept. for his opinion and feedback on the acoustic panels.
5. **Motion** to purchase acoustic panels, contingent upon an accurate re-measure and no other solution presenting itself. The funds coming from the combined donations of \$600.00 with \$3600.00 of village funds. Foust/Lewis – **Carried**
6. Since not all members of the council had a chance to look over the insurance policy and since there was no negative effect to waiting, the payment of the insurance premium was held till next council meeting.

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 4:32 p.m. Gross/Lewis – **Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Scott
Deputy Clerk