

**Village of Richland/Richland Township  
Joint Meeting  
8985 Gull Road  
October 30, 2013**

**Present Village Council:** President Bob Prentice, Clerk Jacqueline Holewa, and Trustees: Diane Briggs, Doug Jonas, Virginia Gross, Rob Brinkerhoff, and Gail Koporetz  
**Absent:** Paul Gobble

**Present Township council:** Supervisor Al Bussema, Clerk Jackie Light, and Treasurer Marsha Drouin, Trustees: Jeanne Byrne, Paul Foust, and Dave Wendzel  
**Absent:** AJ Harma

No guests were present.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Richland Community Hall update:**

The new doors are scheduled to be installed November 11, 2013. The Village will be hosting Santa & Mrs. Claus and the reindeer for Wassailing this year.

**Motion to purchase Christmas decorations in the amount of \$200.00 for the Richland Community Hall. The Village will pay 60% and the Township 40% per the Richland Community hall agreement. Brinkerhoff/Gross – Village council CARRIED unanimously -- Township – CARRIED 4 - 2 Wendzel and Light opposed.**

Village trustee and Richland Community Hall BOC member, Rob Brinkerhoff, would like to sell the current chairs used in the Hall and purchase new sled chairs approximate cost is \$3400 - \$4000. A donation from Village trustee Jonas with a matching gift from Pfizer would go towards the purchase of the chairs.

**Village Green Park/Richland Square:**

Village President, Bob Prentice, discussed the possibility of mowing the park and taking care of the leaves in the park. Bussema to discuss with the Township board in December.

**Police:**

Township Supervisor, Al Bussema, was concerned about the fire lanes at the Gull Lake schools being blocked. The Fire chief reports that there are many violators. The Township would like the police to increase their patrols and give tickets to vehicles blocking the lanes hoping that the tickets will deter the violators. The village council will ask Chief Mattioli to increase patrols at the schools.

Village trustee, Rob Brinkerhoff, addressed complaints/rumors regarding the police department. He feels that the Township should take the opportunity to educate people about the Village police department when they receive calls/complaints.

1. The speed was recently increased in the village per state law.
2. The police on most occasions stop/give out tickets to people going at least 15 miles over the 25 mph. With the increase of the speed limit the police officers will stop/give tickets at their discretion to people going over the posted 30 mph speed limit.
3. Extra patrols were put on DE Avenue after local residents complained of people going quite a bit over the limit.
4. Out of Village jurisdiction: Quite often the police will detect the vehicle going over the limit and will end up out of the village limits when the offender finally stops. Other reasons the police are out of the jurisdiction – called to assist another department, Richland police are security for Gull Lake High School games and dances, they also provide security for Western Michigan University games, and lastly they participate in the Safety Grant for seat belts and drunk driving which takes them outside of the village.

Township Trustee, Jeanne Byrnes, thought that the police were entrapping drunk drivers especially near local taverns and bar establishments. She objected to the practice saying the police were overzealous. Township trustee, Wendzel, thought that the reputation of the Richland Police was of their own making. A suggestion was made that in the future the police should announce the grant locations, dates and times in advance.

Brinkerhoff explained that complaints are taken seriously and the police committee investigates each grievance and have found the police to be within the guidelines for each reported incident.

The village police will be replacing their old worn out vehicles and the 2011 Ford (totaled in an accident) with three used Tahoe vehicles from WMU.

**Miscellaneous topics:**

The village will be reviewing their 5 Year Recreation Plan in hopes of adopting it soon.

**The next joint meeting will be April 17, 2014 at the Township Hall.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jacqueline Wanda Holewa,  
Village of Richland Clerk