

## **Ross Township Board and Planning Commission November 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Board was called to order by Jeff Bither, Supervisor, at 6:30 P.M. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present:        Jeff Bither, Supervisor                Cynthia Genung, Treasurer  
                  Monica Markillie, Clerk             Owen Murray, Trustee  
                  Diana Langshaw, Trustee            Jon Scott, Trustee  
Absent:         Sid Durham, Trustee

Also in attendance:    Robb Bain, PC Member  
                              Russell Fry, P/C Member  
                              Jim Lauderdale, PC Chair & ZBA Member  
                              Rich Pearson  
                              Otie Ingraham  
                              Suzanne Sippel  
                              Melissa McKay

### **Joint Meeting—with Planning Commission**

Jim Lauderdale, Planning Commission Chairman, provided an overview of the Planning Commission's Annual Report. He discussed a list of work that has been completed by the Planning Commission during the current year. Lauderdale discussed the Recreation Plan that is currently underway and he also reviewed the amendments of the Ross Township Zoning Ordinance that were completed in 2013. Lauderdale answered questions from the Board regarding some of the issues that the PC will be addressing in the future. The issue of outdoor burning units was one of the issues discussed during the meeting. Lauderdale requested input from the Township Board regarding the direction that the PC should be taking.

It was the consensus of the Township Board that they are very pleased with the projects that were completed in 2013, the direction the PC is taking, and the method in which the PC is operating. Members of the Township Board commended Lauderdale for his exceptional leadership, dedication to the Planning Commission, and the hard work that he has put in for Ross Township and the residents of our community. Murray praised Lauderdale for consistently providing the Township Board with excellent communication. The Board thanked Lauderdale and the PC Members for attending the meeting.

### **Township Board Meeting:**

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Amended Agenda adding Veteran cemetery flags under New Business (C). The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Murray to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Treasurer's Report for October 2013, bills paid and payable and the Township Board Minutes of 10/8/13. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Reports:

Fire Dept.:

Genung reported the Annual Haunted House was a huge success noting that attendance for the event increased from last year.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report for October 2013. Bither reported a Dangerous Structure Hearing took place for the Rubick Property stating that a compliance plan has been put in place with new deadlines for the proposed work to be completed.

Police Report:

Captain Bowen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. was present to review the Police Report for October 2013. Bowen addressed questions from the Board Members.

Planning Commission:

Jon Scott provided the Board with a Parks and Recreation Commission bylaw document as a sample for the Board to review. Scott stated he has consulted with a few townships in the area, the most helpful being Prairieville Township. Scott reported the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KVRT) representatives have shown interest in helping the township put together a plan as well as at least three individuals from the township. Scott encouraged the Board to review the document and consider the formation of a Parks and Recreation Commission to guide the implementation of the Ross Township Recreation Plan.

Melissa McKay, a resident of Ross Township, expressed support for a bike trail system that connects Ross Township to the KVRT. McKay discussed the positive benefits a trail system would offer residents including, a connection to other communities and a safe place for people to bike and run. McKay pointed out Ross Township is a community rich with natural resources and a bike trail system would encourage people from other communities to visit the area. McKay reported there is a significant runner/biker population in the township and further stated she is aware of at least 30 residents who would also like to see a bike trail system in the township.

Bither encouraged the Board Members to review the bylaw document presented by Scott and suggested to have the item discussed at the Budget Workshop in December. He stated the item could then be considered at the January 2014 Township Board Meeting.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

New Business:

Gull Lake Sewer Authority Ordinance:

Motion by Langshaw to adopt the proposed Ordinance No. 192, (Ordinance Amending Sewage Disposal System Ordinance No. 179). The Motion was seconded by Markillie.

Roll Call Vote Showed: Genung-aye, Murray-aye, Markillie-aye, Bither-aye, Langshaw-aye and Scott-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes.**

Set Budget Workshop Date:

It was the Consensus of the Board to schedule the Budget workshop for Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.

Flags for Veterans:

Motion by Markillie to approve the quote submitted by American Tradition, Inc. in the amount of \$91.80 for 144 Veteran Flags to be placed at the gravesites of all Veterans in Ross Township Cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie  
Ross Township Clerk