

**ROSS TOWNSHIP JOINT MEETING**  
**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD/ PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2014 MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was held at the Ross Township Hall. Supervisor Dykstra called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Roll Call of Members present showed as follows:

Present:	Paul Dykstra, Supervisor	Monica Markillie, Clerk
	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
	Robb Blain, Trustee	Jon Scott, Trustee
Absent:	Sid Durham, Trustee	

❖ Planning Commission Members Present showed as follows:

Present:	Jim Lauderdale, Chairman
	Rusty Fry
	Jeff Price
	Sheri Fry

**Joint Meeting of the Township Board and Planning Commission:**

Jim Lauderdale, Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC), presented an overview of the Planning Commission's annual report that outlined activities of the PC. Lauderdale provided an update on the progress related to the work plan for fiscal year 2014-2015. Board Members received a handout that included a comprehensive list of the work that has been completed in 2014; and existing items that the PC continues to focus on.

Lauderdale requested input from the Township Board. Board Members inquired about the status of some existing PC items including the Township Recreation Plan and the rezoning of property at the GLVGL, Inc. During the discussion regarding the rezoning of property at the GLVGC, Inc., Trustee Scott dismissed himself from the group and joined the public area of the Meeting. Lauderdale addressed questions from the Board.

It was the consensus of the Township Board that the method of which the PC is operating is consistent with the Board's expectations. The Board expressed appreciation for the dedication of the PC Members and the work that has been completed this year.

Dykstra discussed a potential upcoming community planning/visioning workshop that may be offered to the Township and neighboring municipalities. Dykstra added there will be additional information regarding this matter in the upcoming months. Dykstra reported the Planning Commission has a vacancy to fill by December 15, 2014. He requested the Board Members contact him with information regarding any Township Residents who may be interested in filling the vacancy.

The Township Board Members also praised Lauderdale for his leadership, hard work and dedication to the residents of Ross Township.

### **Approval of Township Board Agenda:**

Motion by Langshaw to approve the amended Agenda which includes the revision of the minute report date from September 9, 2014 to October 9, 2014; and adding to the Consent Agenda, item IV. Amended Township Board Minutes of September 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

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

Motion by Langshaw to approve the amended Consent Agenda which includes the Township Board Minutes of October 9, 2014, the Treasurer's Report for October, 2014, the bills paid and payable for November, 2014 and the amended minutes of the September 9, 2014 Township Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

### **Reports:**

#### **Fire Dept.:**

Genung reported the Annual Haunted House took place on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Genung stated the event was a huge success with the highest turnout since the Fire Dept. began sponsoring the event.

#### **Ordinance Enforcement Report:**

Dykstra reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report for October, 2014 (see attached).

#### **Police Report:**

Dykstra reviewed the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. Report for October, 2014 (see attached).

#### **Supervisor's Report:**

Dykstra reviewed the supervisor's Report dated November 11, 2014. Dykstra provided an update on a few of the items listed in the report including the Township emergency sirens, Township Building and the status of the Island Cove Acres proposed bridge project. Dykstra addressed questions from the Board.

#### **Parks Committee:**

Scott provided an update on the Parks and Rec Committee. Scott stated the Committee continues to consult with the Kalamazoo County Parks Department. He added the two priorities in proceeding with the development of the trail system are educating the community and fund raising. He reported the first meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will take place this Thursday, November 13, 2014. Scott offered an invitation to the Board to attend the Meeting.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Building-firehouse update:**

Dykstra stated he has consulted with Terry Schley, Architect who designed the Richland Township Hall and Firehouse; and Howard Ovebeek, Architect who designed the new Comstock Township Firehouse. Dykstra reported he has also consulted with Representatives from Tower Pinkster, the Firm that provided the Township with floor plans and cost estimates in 2012. It was noted while the Board received architectural drawings from Tower Pinkster, blue prints were never received. Dykstra added he toured Comstock Township's Firehouse and consulted with the Comstock Township Supervisor, Ann Niewenhuis, to obtain feedback on the architectural services and building services for their new facility. Dykstra stated he would like to request proposals from the three Architecture firms to determine what it would cost to obtain blue prints for a new Township Building and Firehouse.

Motion by Markillie to grant Dykstra the authority to request proposals for the cost to obtain blue prints for a new Township Building and Firehouse from Architects Howard Overbeek and Maxwell, Tower Pinkster, and Terry Schley. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

Township Warning Sirens:

Dykstra reported he contacted West Shore Services regarding the warning sirens located within the Township. Dykstra stated the Township has three warning sirens (1) Gull Lake Island boat landing area (2) 38<sup>th</sup> St. near Sherman Lake Drive and (3) the Village of Augusta. He added only two of three sirens are functional noting the siren on 38<sup>th</sup> St. near Sherman Lake Dr. has failed. Dykstra requested the authority to obtain a proposal from West Shore Services for the cost to repair the siren located on 38<sup>th</sup> St. near Sherman Lake Drive.

Motion by Genung to have Dykstra request a bid from West Shore Services for the cost to repair the siren located on 38<sup>th</sup> Street near Sherman Lake Drive. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Island Cove Acers SAD-Adoption of Resolution of Tentative Intent:

Motion by Markillie to adopt the Island Cove Acers Private Road Bridge Project Resolution of Tentative Intent to make the Improvement, Designate the Special Assessment District, and Schedule the first Public Hearing for December 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call Cote Showed: Blain-aye, Genung-aye, Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Langshaw-aye and Scott-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes**.

Rubick Property (Dangerous Structure)-Schedule Enforcement Hearing for 12-9-14:

Motion by Genung to schedule the Township Board Enforcement Hearing for the Rubick Property located at 16511 East C Avenue for December 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Request to accept resignation of Robb Blain from Planning Commission:

Motion by Genung to accept the Resignation of Robb Blain from the Planning Commission effective 10-31-14. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

**New Business:**

Request for Adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 195 (Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:

Motion by Scott to adopt Ordinance No. 195 which includes Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments of various sections of the Zoning Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Blain. Roll Call Vote showed: Blain-aye, Genung-aye, Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Scott-aye and Langshaw-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes**.

Request for "Distribution" of the Proposed Revised Amendment to the Ross Township Master Plan Future Land Use Map:

Motion by Markillie to approve the distribution of the proposed revised amendment to the Ross Township Master Plan Future Land Use Map. The Motion was seconded by Blain and **Carried**.

Set Date for 2015-2016 Budget Workshop:

It was the Consensus of the Board to tentatively schedule the Ross Township budget workshop for February 6, 2014.

Ross Township Park Update-Trees, Landscaping at Lakefront, Pump, etc.:

The Board discussed the condition of the Ross Township Park. Dykstra reported he facilitated the closing of the park (removal of buoys, winterizing of restrooms, etc.) Dykstra

stated while he was at the park he observed a few issues that raised concern and may require attention in the near future. Dykstra discussed a few of the issues he observed including the following: failing condition of the well & pump, a significant drop off in the swimming area due to beach decaying. Dykstra stated the area where the drop off exists is a safety and liability concern. It was the consensus of the Board to request proposals for the cost to repair the well & pump and for landscaping in the beach area to eliminate the safety concern. The Board discussed options for improving the Township Park and creating a more attractive destination for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Scott discussed the option of adding a concessions area and a pavilion at the park. Dykstra reported he spoke to members of the Gull Lake Rotary Club (GLRC) and stated they may be willing to donate funds for the construction of a pavilion. He added the GLRC donated the funds for the Richland Township Park Pavilion and volunteered with the construction process as well. Markillie expressed support in having playground equipment at the park and stated it would create a more family friendly environment. After extended discussion it was the consensus of the Board to revisit this matter at the Township Budget workshop with the plan to consider adding additional funds to the park budget for park improvements.

Motion by Scott to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 P.M. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie  
Ross Township Clerk