

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD
MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 5, 2016 MINUTES**

The Rescheduled Regular Meeting and budget workshop of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Dykstra at 9:00 A.M. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

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

Also Present: Martin Janssen. Representative from the Kalamazoo County ~~Transpiration~~ Transportation Authority

Approval of the Amended Agenda:

Motion by Markillie to approve the Amended Agenda adding under New Business (c) Sign damage-Ross Township Park/Yorkville Cemetery and (D) 2016 Property Guidelines Resolution. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Approval of Amended Consent Agenda:

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Amended Consent Agenda which includes the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Report, the Bills paid and payable for January & February 2016, and the January 12, 2016 Board Minutes as amended to include the following paragraph under Old Business item (A): **The Board discussed improvement options for the following roads located within the Township: 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th. It was the consensus of the Board to have Dykstra research the number of houses and traffic rates on each road listed above for further discussion at the February 5, 2016 Township Board Meeting/Budget Workshop prior to making a decision.**

Public Comments:

Martin Janssen from the Kalamazoo County Area Transportation Authority (KCTA) was present to discuss the KCTA millage scheduled to expire in 2016. Janssen reported KCTA is requesting a renewal of the current transportation millage and will ask voters to consider .315 mills (down from .4 mills) on May 3, 2016. The Board thanked Mr. Janssen for providing the information and for attending the Board Meeting.

New Business:

BS&A Accounting Software:

Motion by Langshaw to designate \$30,000 in the 2016-2017 budget for the purchase of the BS&A accounting software program with the agreement to hold off on implementing the new program until January 2017. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

2016 BOR Resolution:

Motion by Durham to approve the 2016 Ross Township Board of Review Resolution to accept alternate dates and protests by mail for the March 2016 Board of Review. The motion

was seconded by Langshaw. Roll Call Vote showed: Durham-aye, Langshaw-aye, Markillie-aye, - Dykstra-aye, Genung-aye and Blain-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes.** -

Sign Damage-Ross Township Park/Yorkville Cemetery: -

Dykstra reported the Ross Township Park sign and the historic iron sign at the Yorkville Cemetery were both damaged. He added the damaged signs were likely caused by vehicles. Dykstra stated he has requested estimates from the Sign Shop and Sign Center to have the Park sign replaced noting it was a total loss. Additionally, Dykstra stated he has requested a bid from Jameison Fabrication to have the Cemetery sign repaired. Dykstra stated he has not yet received the estimates but was informed the cost to repair the Cemetery sign would be approximately \$3,750. Dykstra stated he is planning to consult with the Township's Insurance Agent to inquire about filing a claim for the damaged signs. It was the consensus of the Board to postpone this item until the March Board meeting when more information is available.

2016 Property Guidelines Resolution:

Motion by Durham to approve the 2016 Property Guidelines Resolution for tax year 2016. The motion was seconded by Langshaw. Roll Call vote showed: Durham-aye, Langshaw-aye, Markillie-aye, Dykstra-aye, Genung-aye and Blain-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes.**

Old Business:

Approval of 2016 Road Projects:

The Board discussed proposed road projects for 2016 and considered options for raising funds, specifically raising funds for the failed roads within the Township. It was noted the approximate cost to improve ½ mile of road requiring total reconstruction is \$150,000. It was the consensus of the Board to consider a Township wide road assessment and a millage proposal as potential methods for increasing funding for road projects. Genung noted the topic of roads is one of the items included in the Resident Survey and suggested the Board postpone making a decision regarding any funding options until the results from the survey have been submitted for review.

Motion by Genung to approve the following 2016 road projects: Heights Drive which includes HMA wedging and chip seal treatment in the amount of \$22,495.00 and 42nd St. from M-89 extending north (approx.) ½ mile for the amount of 150,000.00. Included in the motion is the agreement to consider a road millage and a Road assessment once the results of the survey have been reviewed. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried.**

New Building-Fire Station Township Hall:

Dykstra provided a packet to the Board that included a financial overview of the proposed Township Fire Station and building project. Financing proposals submitted by Hastings City Bank, Chemical Bank and Mercantile Bank were included in the packet along with Non-Contractor items estimates and Construction updates.

Dykstra reported the total approved project cost is \$1,482,000 and the current cash total in the Building fund is approximately \$701,000.00. Additionally, Dykstra reported the financial proposal includes a down payment in the amount of \$600,000 and the proposed amount to be financed as \$882,000. The Board reviewed the bank proposals.

Motion by Durham to approve the proposal submitted by Hastings City bank for a financed amount of ~~\$882,000~~ **\$882,000** for a 10 year term at a 2.51% interest rate. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call vote showed: Langshaw-aye, Markillie-aye, Dykstra-aye, Genung-aye, Blain-aye, Scott-aye and Durham-aye, the **motion carried with all ayes.**

Approval of Resident Survey:

Motion by Durham to approve the distribution of the proposed Resident Survey as amended with the following items added: Township Website, Email Sign-up information and Township Cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

Member's Time:

Markillie discussed the term for the Clerk's position scheduled to expire in November, 2016. Paperwork for the Township Board positions were handed out during this time. Dykstra discussed erosion that has occurred at the Yorkville Cemetery and suggested the Board designate additional funds in the Cemetery Account for 2016 repairs.

2016-2016 Budget Workshop:

The Board worked on the proposed 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Township Budget during this time, see attached.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie
Ross Township Clerk