

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD
May 10, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Dykstra at 7:00 pm. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present: Paul Dykstra, Supervisor
Diana Langshaw, Trustee
Jon Scott, Trustee

Monica Markillie, Clerk
Sid Durham, Trustee
Robb Blain, Trustee

Absent: Cynthia Genung, Treasurer

Also Present: Doug Bogema, Fire Chief
Gene McKay, President of Strategic Research Associates, LLC
Ron Kendall, Kalamazoo County District #6 Commissioner Candidate
Vince Carahaly, Kalamazoo County District #6 Commissioner Candidate

Approval of the Amended Agenda:

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Amended Agenda with the following revisions:

- Replace 2016 April Treasurer’s Report with 2016 March Treasurer’s Report.
- Relocate 2016 Spring Survey Results to item #3.
- Add Supervisor’s Report to Old Business item (a) New Township Hall/Fire Station update.

The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Scott to approve the Amended Consent Agenda which includes the March, 2016 Treasurer’s Report, The Township Board Minutes of April 12, 2016 and the bills paid for April and payable for May 2016. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Spring 2016 Ross Township Survey Results-Dr. Gene McKay:

Dr. Gene McKay, President of Strategic Research Associates LLC, provided a presentation to the Board which included the results of the Resident Survey conducted from February 22 to April 15, 2016. Dr. McKay reported there was generally a high satisfaction level with most Township Services. The Fire Dept. received the highest rating and the lowest rating received was in the road maintenance category.

Dr. McKay issued a handout to the Board which included a Survey Report, statistical findings, and an Executive Summary of results. Resident comments from the Survey were also provided to the Board for review. Dr. McKay offered recommendations for improving the categories that received low ratings. It was suggested to have photos of completed Township road projects and improvements posted to the Township website as a method for sharing the work and progress that is being completed throughout the Township.

Scott discussed the idea of displaying an audio visual device in the new Building as a method for posting and sharing pictures with the community as well.

Dykstra expressed appreciation to Dr. McKay for his efforts in developing the Township Survey and for providing the presentation to the Board. It was the Consensus of the Board the information received from the Survey Results will be extremely helpful, especially when making plans to act on the categories that received lower ratings. Further, the Board concurred the Survey is a good practice and should be used again in the future for receiving community input.

Reports:

Fire Department:

Chief Bogema discussed repair work that was recently done on two of the Dept.'s fire trucks. Further, Bogema reported he is working on plans to recognize four retiring/retired Fire Fighters. Bogema added he is still looking to hire additional Fire Fighters to join the Department.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Dykstra reported on the status of the Zoning Ordinance violations related to 11654 E. DE Ave. He also discussed an Ordinance Violation at 12337 E D Avenue which involves Short-term rentals.

Police Report:

Supervisor Dykstra reviewed the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. Report for April, 2016 (see attached).

Planning Commission:

Scott provided an overview of the Planning Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and discussed completed projects. Scott reported the Commission is currently working on the issue of docks within the Township and how it relates to the Ross Township Zoning Ordinance. Scott praised Lauderdale for his exceptional leadership and dedication to the Township. Scott also expressed gratitude to the Planning Commission for their excellent work.

Parks Committee:

Scott reported the Parks Committee is currently working with GLAT, the KRVT, and the Kalamazoo County Parks Dept. to determine the best method for raising funds for the development of the Township bike path proposed to connect to the KRVT. Scott further stated the Members of the Parks Committee are attending training sessions on fund raising.

Public Comment:

Ron Kendall and Vince Caraway, 2016 Candidates seeking election for Kalamazoo County District #6 Commissioner, were present to introduce themselves to the Township Board. Both Candidates provided a brief presentation.

Old Business:

Supervisor Report/New Township Hall-Fire Station Update:

Dykstra reported a Park Coordinator has been hired to work the 2016 summer Season at the Township Park. Dykstra also discussed the status of the Township Hall/Fire Station project and stated he meets with the Building Contractors and the Project Manager to discuss progress of the new building every other Tuesday at 10:00 A.M. It was noted the next Meeting is scheduled for May 24th.

Roads Discussion:

Dykstra submitted a report to the Board which outlines recommended steps for developing a road improvement plan. Included in the report is the total amount spent on road projects over the last five years (par funds + Township funds). Dykstra recommended the Board establish a Road Committee to assist the Township Board in determining the best solution for road maintenance. Suggested goals of the Committee were discussed and potential Citizens were considered for appointment. It was determined a five person appointed Committee (two Board Members and three Citizens at large) would be sufficient in carrying out of the objectives of the Committee.

Motion by Durham to grant Dykstra the authority to select three Ross Township Citizens and two Board Members to serve as the Ross Township Road Committee to assist with the development of a road improvement plan for future local road projects. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

New Business:

Approve 2016/2017 Budget Amendment:

Motion by Durham to amend the 2016-2017 budget to include the loan proceeds in the amount of \$882,000 as income received from Hastings City Bank for the new building/fire station; and to the Construction Building expense account under expenses. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

Approve 2015/2016 Journal Entries:

Motion by Blain to approve the 2015-2016 budget amendment journal entries as presented (see attached). The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Closed Session:

Motion by Dykstra to enter into closed session at 8:01 P.M. for personnel discussion. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**. Motion by Durham to exit the closed session at 8:10 P.M. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

Member's Time:

- Scott thanked the Board and staff for their efforts with the new building/fire station project.
- Markillie reported a Deputy Clerk has been hired to work part-time (two half days per week) to help in the office and with elections.
- Langshaw discussed a conversation she had with Rob Ranes, Representative from Hastings City Bank. Further stated he may have an interest in attending the bi-weekly building/fire station project meetings.

Adjournment: The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie, Ross Township Clerk