

**Ross Township Board
December 13, 2016 Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Dykstra

Present: Paul Dykstra, Supervisor Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
Monica Markillie, Clerk Diana Langshaw, Trustee
Sid Durham, Trustee Rick King, Trustee

Absent: Jon Scott, Trustee

Also Present:

Township Fire Chief, Doug Bogema
Township Firefighter, Branden Shirley
Road Committee Member, Les Heidmous
Road Committee Member, Barb McAllister
Road Committee Member, Tom Gallagher

Please see attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees

Approval of Amended Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Amended Agenda with the following changes:

1. The relocation of item (A) Road Committee to item #8
2. The addition of Bond Attorney and Bond Advisor under Road Committee
3. The relocation of item (C) Dolan-short term rental to Old Business item (B)
4. The addition of RFP-Park Landscape Architects to Old Business item (C)
5. The addition of Eagle Scout Project Discussion
6. The addition of 2017 Par Funds

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

Approval of the November 15, 2016 Regular Board Minutes:

Motion by Durham to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2016. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Public Comment: No Public Comment

Community Room Dedication:

The Board held a Dedication Ceremony in Honor of Township Fire Chief Doug Bogema. Dykstra reported the Township Received a \$2,500 donation and a thank you letter from the Craosdale family in honor of Doug Bogema for his dedication to the community and for the service he provided to Mr. Raymond Craosdale and his family.

The Township Board, Members of Bogema's Family, Members of the Fire Department, and Township Residents gathered in the lobby to witness the Dedication. Dykstra presented an engraved bronze plaque dedicating the Meeting/Class/Community room as the Bogema Room. Dykstra reported the money from the donation was used to purchase the plaque and added the remaining funds will be used toward Fire Department training and education. Additionally, Dykstra thanked the Board for their participation in planning the dedication Ceremony and further acknowledged Trustee Durham for spearheading the idea and for developing the language for the Plaque.

Fire Chief Bogema expressed gratitude to the Corasdale Family for the donation and the letter of appreciation, and also thanked everyone for their support and for attending the Dedication Ceremony. At this time, the Board reconvened in the Bogema Room for the remainder of the Meeting.

Old Business

Fire Station Update:

Bogema reported fire runs are up from this time last year. He also stated the Department has three firefighters who have completed the required MFR Training.

Branden Shirley, Member of the Fire Department, was present to provide an update on the purchase of the new Fire Truck. Shirley reported the new truck should be available by April, 2017. Dykstra stated the Board is planning to have an open house for the new building in May, further stating Residents will have an opportunity to view the new truck.

Dolan-Short Term Rental:

The Board discussed a short term rental violation involving a property on Burlington Drive. Dykstra reported following a court appearance and ongoing communications between the Township Attorney and the property owner over the past 18 months, the matter was settled out of court. Dykstra further stated the owner of the property will be responsible for paying the Township \$750.00. King inquired about the short term rental provision in the Ordinance. Durham stated the Township Ordinance prohibits property owners from renting out their property for a period less than thirty days.

RFP-Park Landscape Architects:

Motion by Durham to authorize the Parks Committee to solicit RFP's for the development of a Ross Township Park Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried.**

Discussion of Eagle Project:

Dykstra reported he met with Jonathon King to discuss the plans for the Eagle Scout Project approved by the Board in October, 2016. Dykstra stated Jonathan submitted a plan he created to install a Veterans' Memorial around the American Flag in front of the Township Office and Fire Station. He further reported the Bible Conference made a \$1,000.00 donation towards the Project.

New Business

KCSD 2017 Contract:

Motion by Markillie to approve the proposed Kalamazoo County Sheriff Department Agreement for 2017 which authorizes the Township to contract with the KCSD for one Deputy at an annual rate of \$123,339. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Budget Meeting Date:

Dykstra reported the budget workshop for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be held on February 3, 2017 from 9:00 am to noon.

Approval of 2017 Par Funds:

Dykstra reported the Township is eligible to receive approximately \$66,000. In Par Funds from the KCRC for 2017 which is ~~\$11,000~~ **\$11,000** more than what the Township received in 2016. It was noted the Township typically receives approximately \$50,000 to \$55,000 in Par funds annually.

Motion by Markillie to accept the \$66,000 Participation Road funds for 2017 from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Road Committee Update-Bond Attorney & Bond Advisory:

Dykstra issued a road report to the Board which included the number of parcels located in the Township, broke down by road frontage type, and information regarding bond proposal options to finance road maintenance. At this time, the Board discussed the options listed in the report and discussed pros and cons of both a Millage and Assessment for raising funds. Durham reported the Road Committee recommends a Special Assessment for funding road improvement and has developed a plan that will fix every road in the Township.

Dykstra expressed support for the scenario #2 15 year assessment including 1764 improved parcels @\$175 and 785 parcels @75. Board discussion took place at this time, please see comments and concerns from the Board and Committee Members below:

- King expressed support for a Millage, stating he is in favor of letting the voters decide, but is concerned a millage won't raise enough funds to fix all of the roads within 5 years.
- Durham expressed concern regarding the ability to pass a millage
- Les Heidmous, Road Committee Member, stated he is in favor of private road owners being included in the assessment. Markillie expressed support for including the private road owners in the assessment as well.
- Tom Gallagher, Road Committee Member, expressed support for the road assessment option vs. millage and stated the numbers support an assessment vs. millage.
- Genung expressed concern regarding the money available to support a special Assessment

- Langshaw stated she doesn't feel comfortable making a decision given the information was not presented in advance of the meeting.

The Board further discussed the issue and agreed Resident education is the key for support of the Special Assessment.

Motion by Durham to proceed with a Special Assessment for Township road improvement and approve option #2 included in the Road Report submitted by Dykstra (see attached), which encompasses a 15 year Special Assessment for a road improvement plan that will improve every street in the Township within a five year period by means of a Bond Proposal. Included in the Motion is the approval of \$175 for an improved parcel, \$75 for a vacant parcel, plus an annual Township contribution of \$200,000, raising an approximate total of \$6,513,625 over a 15 year period. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried 4-2**.

Member's Time:

The Board welcomed its newest Board Member Rick King, who was Elected as Trustee on November 8, 2016.

Markillie reported the Presidential Election and Statewide recount were conducted successfully without any problems and recognized the Inspectors and staff for their excellent work and dedication to the Township.

The Board discussed a snow plowing issue involving Day Cemetery. Langshaw suggested having an apology letter written to the Stocker Family.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie
Ross Township Clerk