

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD
September 12, 2017 MINUTE Report
Ross Township Hall
12086 M 89
Richland, MI 49083

The regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Moore at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Gary Moore-Supervisor
 Monica Markillie, Clerk
 Robb Blain, Trustee
 Robb Thall – Township Attorney
 Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
 Diana Langshaw, Trustee
 Sid Durham, Trustee
Absent: Jeff Price

Additional Attendees: Norm Kellogg Deputy Clerk

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Trustee Langshaw to approve the agenda, supported by Markillie and carried

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Trustee Durham to approve the Consent Agenda, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

Special Recognition Awards: State Representative Dave Maturen District 63 presented four special recognition awards to Paul Dykstra, previous supervisor, Monica Markillie, previous Clerk, Jon Scott, previous Trustee and Rick King previous Trustee. Each was awarded a special recognition award along with a township clock with their years of service to Ross Township. The board wished them all well in their future endeavors and thanks all of them for their service and hard work for Ross Township.

Reports

Fire Dept.– Chief Doug Bogema stated that they will most probably have 320 runs by year end. This is up from the previous year. Presently they have completed 225 runs year to date. They assisted with a house fire in Bedford Township. Staff is continuing to attend MFR classes. Doug is still looking for qualified fire volunteers.

Police Report:

Lt Jeff Christensen from Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Department spoke about Police calls. There have been a few break ins on Marsh Ridge, the 6000 block of 42nd St. and the 5000 block of 42nd St. There was some damage done to Gull Lake View Golf course by teenagers in a golf cart. Some identity theft issues and a larceny at 1600 C Ave. which included some tires. He also reported a CSC in Fort Custer as well as a home invasion on McDonald St. Pirate Day this year was uneventful, no issues as he knows.

Supervisor Report:

Supervisor Moore spoke about his first week as Ross Township Supervisor. He has followed up with every resident complaint to date and has reached out to residents as needed. Supervisor Moore also

presented Doug Bogema with a letter from a resident that thanked his department and the first responders in the care of her husband.

Public Comment:

Lou Bruska – shared a letter regarding the Road SAD. Disagrees with the Road assessment, and would rather see a Millage approval for repair and maintenance.

Brad Worsup – is against the road assessment and we should vote on any assessment. Would rather see a millage for improvements and repair.

Diane Charles – Inquired about Public Act 188 as amended. She had questions about the process for disagreement to the road assessment and the timeline for the SAD establishment.

Cheryl Sherman – What is the plan to maintain the road in the future?

Brad Worsup – How many Mills needed for road repairs, 3, 4, or 5 mills?

Paul Dykstra – responded to Mr. Worsup’s question. One mill will generate about \$300,000 per year for repairs. 5 Mills needed for 3 years to get to the proposed \$5,500,000 price tag.

Peter Dykema – Does not understand the issue on 42nd St. It has been fixed but is still on the list for repair. Why can’t this be a County Solution? If this proposal passes will there be an additional millage request in the future?

Doug Bogema – Speaking for the Fire Department we do not want to go backwards on this proposal.. Move forward , no more dirt roads in the Township

Michael Kline- B Ave. to Baseline Road approved and in plan – Re: Mr. Dykema’s issue with this road.

Diane Charles – Is there and estimate of road costs?

Sean O’Brien – As an owner of 6 parcels, is the Bible Conference and MSU paying their fair share? Questions on the road assessment.

Paul Dykstra – Answered Mr. O’Briens question yes they both have agreed to pay their fair share of the road assessment.

Jon Scott – Comments on the the different ways to assess properties, Frontage tax, house value tax, etc. Businesses pay their fair share of the assessment. The lack of a road plan has been a discussion by the Board for many years. Is in favor of approving the SAD.

Bob Viccaro – Has 500 of frontage on two parcels. How did the roads get so bad after the sewer installation around the lake? He has concerns about the increase in pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. The increase in speeders and the lack of road shoulders concern him. He also expressed the lack of tree and brush trimming along the roads for safety reasons.

Lou Bruska – Stated he is confident the the SAD will pass but wants the Board to prepare a plan for future road maintenance.

Old Business

Supervisor Moore discussed some cosmetic issues with the new building project. Corey from Cornerstone Construction will be on site to address and repair any requests.

Ross Township Roads SAD:

A resolution of Intent to Establish a SAD Assessment District No. 1 was presented to the Board. Trustee Durham motioned for approval and supported by Clerk Markille. A roll call vote was taken. All Yes votes to proceed from all Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor. Passed unanimously .

Additionally and Resolution to Establish the District Tax Roll and set a public meeting for October 10, 2017 was presented. A motion by Trustee Durham to approve, supported by Trustee Blain. A Roll call vote was taken. All Ayes for in favor to establish a District Tax Roll and set a public meeting. All Trustees voted yes, including the Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor. Passed unanimously.

New Business

Supervisor Moore discussed the new Medical Marijuana laws pending in the State Legislator. Attorney Thall discussed many options open to the Township. Municipalities need either to opt in or opt out by year end 2017. This new business can be a potential revenue stream for the Township, with licensing fees and dispensary taxes. Types of operations could be grow facilities, dispensaries, processing testing labs and transportation facilities. Townships can allow anyone or all types. The Board should start looking at possible outlooks and the direction the board wants to take going forward. The Board agreed to put this issue into old business at the next Board Meeting.

Preliminary Audit Findings

No major issues with the audit.

House Bill No. 0329 to approve transient residency of 29 days or less anywhere in the State. This is expected to pass in the legislature and be signed by the Governor. What this means is that anyone will be able to rent out their home on a daily/ weekly basis. Attorney Thall discussed other ways the Township could mitigate some of the problems this may cause in densely populated areas.

Member's Time:

Diana Langshaw – Training next week for new Township employees is available in Battle Creek. She hoped that some employees could attend.

Monica Markillie – Monica thanked the Township for the honor of serving for the past 9 years. She also expressed thanks for the help and support she has received. She introduced Norm Kellogg as the new Clerk, effective September 13, 2017.

Sid Durham – Thanked Monica for her hard work, you will be missed.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Trustee Durham so moved, supported by Clerk Markillie and passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk