

**Ross Township  
12086 M-89  
Richland, MI 49083  
269-731-4888**

**Regular Township Board Meeting  
April 20, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Supervisor Hutchings

Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Cindy Genung  
Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka  
Linda Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney and Jeff Brown, Owner of Ned’s Restaurant

A motion to approve the agenda was presented by Trustee Bekes, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:** All items under this section are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion with no discussion.

- A motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the draft Board Minutes from March 2 and 16, 2021 and to add the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) topic was made by Trustee Harmon; supported by Trustee Bekes and carried unanimously.
- Draft Board Minutes from March 02, 2021 were changed at the request of Trustee Sulka to add under Gull Lake – Ross Township – WC 39-21-001 – Slow-No Wake Speed Ordinance, *“Trustee Sulka stated that the last two meetings showed a public split of 50/50. This is an interesting learning opportunity since email has been significantly favorable.”* Motion made by Trustee Sulka and supported by Trustee Harmon; carried unanimously.
- Draft Board Minutes from March 16, 2021 were changed at the request of Trustee Sulka to add under the Planning Commission February 2021 Update, *“Trustee Sulka expressed concern regarding the ZBA interpretation because of the impact on non-lakefront homes.”* Also, under Park Committee March 2021 Report, 20% of proceeds was corrected to 15%. Motion made by Trustee Sulka and supported by Trustee Harmon; carried unanimously.
- HHW was added as item G to the consent agenda.

**Park Committee April 2021 Report:**

Trustee Harmon reported the following updates from the Park Committee:

- Ned's Food Truck in the Park: The township will be receiving 15% of the sale paid to us once a month. The money will go into a special park savings fund for future updates. Rob Thall, Township Attorney will look over agreement and then have the Board vote on it.
- Daily operations and special projects: They must be first approved by Supervisor Hutchings per Rob Thall, Township Attorney; all other items must be approved by the Board; items considered daily operations include purchasing "no smoking" signs for the Park. This must be done with prior approval from Supervisor Hutchings.
- Clean up and work dates before opening the Park are scheduled for the end of April through opening day of the park. Trustee Harmon's Scout Troops will have at least two Tuesday evening work days beginning the end of April. Boy Scouts carry their own liability insurance. Volunteers must sign a waiver.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Rotary work day with several more to follow.
- Trustee Langshaw briefed the Board on the following:
  - 1) 56 total parking spaces
  - 2) 160 residents per Park maximum
  - 3) 40 people for 1 toilet; the park has scheduled 4 toilets for the Park
  - 4) It was suggested to get a "clicker" to count the number of people who enter the Park.

**Planning Commission March 2021 Update:**

- Trustee Bekes stated that Jim Lauderdale would remain PC Chairperson, Sherri Snyder is the new Vice-Chair and Michael Moore, will remain Secretary.
- The site plans for *Gull Lake Ridge Apartments* was approved by the Board with conditions.
- The Master Plan is almost complete with a few minor changes. The Township will read the completed Master Plan and then will prepare it for distribution. Once this has been completed, there will be a public hearing. The Master Plan will also be sent to neighboring townships.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Genung requested Board action on approving outside vendors. Trustee Sulka made a motion to accept the outside vendors and Trustee Bekes supports; carried unanimously.

The outside vendors are:

1. CPA/Auditor - Siegfried Crandall, PC
2. Township Attorney - Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber, & Kaufman, PC
3. Township Engineer – Prein & Newhof
4. Insurance Company – Ted Hartleb Agency
5. Planning Consultant – Rebecca Harvey
6. Building & Zoning Company – Associate Government Services
7. Financial Institutions – Treasurer's discretion under Township Depository Guidelines
8. Property Tax Payment Designee's – Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Office Manager

**Supervisor Report:**

- Four Townships Water Resources Council - There is an annual membership fee to FTWRC for 2021 for a total of \$500. Motion made by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

- Credit Card for the Township – It was determined by Supervisor Hutchings that the Township needs a credit card in the Supervisor’s name for office expenses. We need to get a “no fee” one and need to check on the credit card policy first. A motion was made by Trustee Bekes, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.
- Life Care – There were a total of 76 calls for the month of March for LifeCare.
- Postage and Website – Supervisor Hutchings is looking at outsourcing the website and postage. More information to come.
- Sandbar Patrol – Attorney Thall had concerns and stated that we should “leave it to the professionals.” The Township should look into refunding the money denoted for this cause.

**Old Business:**

- Boiler & Furnace Maintenance Contract – A motion was made by Trustee Harmon and supported by the Trustee Bekes to select Mark Newhaus, Spectrum Boiler & Mechanical, for the new Boiler and Furnace Maintenance contract. The vote carried unanimously.
- Buoys/Markers for Slow, No Wake Zone – There will be divers to determine the chain length. Buoys have not yet been placed.
- Short Term Rental Ordinance – With Rob Thall, currently pending.
- No Parking Ordinance in South Bay - Pending

**New Business:**

- Road Commission PAR funding - Richland has agreed to pay for half of the 36<sup>th</sup> Street project. Ross Township now has left over PAR funds and we need to come up with a new project for those funds.
- LaBelle Road – Trustee Harmon makes a motion to accept the petition and Supervisor Hutchings supports; carries unanimously.
  - 1) The Township adopts a resolution of intent to move forward with the project and will set a public hearing date to hear objections to the petition, plans, costs, and special assessment district boundaries (May 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting).
  - 2) After the public hearing the board can establish the special assessment district by resolution and then set a public hearing on spreading the costs on the special assessment roll (June 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting).
  - 3) A public hearing is then held to hear objections to the spread of costs on the parcels and after the hearing the Board can authorize the assessment on the properties, the billing schedule, and move forward with the project (July 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting).
  - 4) A new estimate for the road was presented to the Board; the new amount is \$69,266.00.

**Public Comments:**

- *Doug Bogema* – The Township needs to hire someone on the outside for following up with complaints. Doug no longer wants to do it.
- *Jeff Christensen* – Despite the Chavin verdict, all is calm so far. He stated he was glad to be here in person. The new deputy, Bailey Kloosterman has a B.S. in Criminal Justice. There was a glitch with his required training but he is almost done. Until then, his position will be backfilled. The person taking his place is from Portage and fully certified. There is lots of turnover. Not a popular career. Marine patrol will hopefully to back to normal when working with DNR.

*Trustee Langshaw made a motion to convene to the closed session by stating, "Move that the Board of Trustees convene in closed session under section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute, section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, for the reason that the items are exempt from disclosure under State law due to the attorney-client privilege." Trustee Bekes supported the motion and carried unanimously.*

***Closed door session to consider attorney client privilege memorandums:***

- *AGS Services*
- *Enforcement of Carr Property Zoning Restrictions*
- *Sheriff's Department Contract*

**Closed Session** began at 8:14 p.m.

**Closed Session** ended at 9:56 p.m.

Adjournment: 10:05 adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Walters*

Linda Walters  
Township Clerk  
May 05, 2021