

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

**Regular Board Meeting
May 18, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by Supervisor Hutchings

ROLL CALL:

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Cindy Genung
 Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka
 Linda Walters
Absent: None
Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA:

Items removed from the agenda were and will be *discussed* at the next board meeting:

- 10. Old Business:
 - A. Short Term Rental Ordinance
 - B. No Parking Ordinance in South Bay

Trustee Harmon moved to approve the amended agenda as presented. Trustee Bekes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: *All items under this section are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion with no discussion. If discussion is desired by a Board Member, that member may request removal of an item from the Consent Agenda.*

Items removed from the consent agenda were:

- A. Draft Board Minutes April 20, 2021 – corrections to the Draft Board minutes were: *“Trustee Sulka expressed concern regarding the ZBA interpretation because of the impact on non-lake homes.”* The correction was also made to the March 16, 2021 Board Minutes.
- B. Clerk’s April Report – Was not made available for the meeting.

Trustee Bekes moved to approve the amended consent agenda as presented. Trustee Langshaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission recommendation regarding conditional rezoning-Allendale Park, LLC at 156/160 East Gull Lake Drive. – *Has been postponed until the Board meeting on June 15, 2021 at the request of Allendale Park, LLC.*

Park Committee April 2021 Report:

- The Park Committee did not meet in May.
- Trustee Harmon stated that we need to relook the Park Ordinance. Trustee Harmon moved to suspend the walk-in fee for the Park. Trustee Sulka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- There are 56 parking spots in the Park. The fee for entrance into the Park is strictly a “parking fee.”
- Trustee Bekes moved for the Board to continue to operate with the *Definition and Rules of Procedures that were adopted March 12, 2019* and ask Trustee Harmon to cover said document with the members of the Park Committee as the initial effort to get the Committee and Board on the same page. Trustee Langshaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Trustee Bekes moved for the Board to post for a Park Deputy, paid at a Deputy rate for 30 hours per week during park open hours and part time (such as 16 hours per week) for the balance of the year; hours permissible before benefits. Responsibilities to include securing grants, securing volunteers, overseeing the Park Committee and operating the park to all legal and regulatory obligations including COVID protocol, Insurance Company recommendations, Attorney recommendations, MIOSHA requirements and to a capacity limit of 160 people at all times. Trustee Langshaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Trustee Bekes moved for a discussion about a possible Park mileage to improve the Park at the next Board meeting in June. Trustee Harmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission February 2021 Update:

- Trustee Bekes stated that the proposed PC review (2020-2021) of the Master Plan was ready for submission. There were no additional changes.

Supervisor Report:

- Buoys/Markers for Slow, No Wake Zone will be launched this weekend thanks to our partnership with the Sheriff Department. CPT. Christensen is coordinating the launch with the dive team on our behalf.
- Spectrum/Mark Newhouse came in and cleaned the boiler, HVAC systems have new filters.
- Trustee Genung, Supervisor Hutchings, CPT. Christensen and Undersheriff VanDyken met with residents on Monday May 17th regarding ways the Marine Patrol can be more proactive using the private “sandbar” funding by these residents. The Township will not be hiring people and paying them to write noise ordinance tickets. We will meet again June 7th.
- The Ross Township Park has a capacity limit of 160 guests. This is a fire marshal limit; it is not a suggestion.

- In the past, the Park Committee appears to behave more as a Park Board with elected members and Park funding through mileages. We do not have this arrangement in Ross Township. The Committee must operate in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Definition and Rules of Procedure effective 3/12/2019. There is only one Board responsible for committing Ross Township in expenditures, execution of any agreement or partnership binding Ross Township, or to direct and supervise any employee of Ross Township. The Committee can not act as employees of the Township. They can not assume responsibility of Township or Park property, cannot supervise employees at the Park, and will not be key holders of Ross properties without the express written consent of the Township Board of Trustees. All liability of Ross Township is assumed by the Board of Trustees. The Park Committee will advise the Board with insight and expertise, who may or may not act upon the advisement of the Committee. The Park Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees at all times.
 - A. With the resignation of Donna Tellam as Chair, the Park Committee will need to replace her at their June meeting. This is time for a fresh start for the Parks Committee to align their work with and through the Trustee Board to accomplish the outstanding ideas they have for Ross Township Park.
 - B. I would like to see the Committee require volunteer hours for the Park in addition to being on the Park Committee to help offset the demands the Park places on the Township.

Public Comment:

- John Rochta (MI 6th District) – He introduced himself. He informed the Board Members and public of his candidacy.
- Peggy Satler (Heights Drive) – Is concerned about the Park. Will it open? Last year was great. Supervisor would watch kids. Concerned about deputy. We need more coverage. There is no emergency contact. Cars are parking in front of the park. This is not in line with the Ross Township mission statement.
- Joannie – Road damage has been reported to the county. There are lots of rumors regarding the park. There are problems also with car parking. We need to fix the park. Don't take away my access.
- Mark Ranly – Will speak during the LaBelle portion.
- Jane Cochorn – Here for the LaBelle portion.

Old Business:

- Short Term Rental Ordinance is currently with Attorney Thall and pending.
- No Parking Ordinance in South Bay is currently pending.

New Business:

Resolution of Intent to Make the Improvement and Designate the Special Assessment District (LaBelle SAD):

- Trustee Bekes moved for the Board to ask Attorney Thall to construct a document for the LaBelle road SAD that models the Island Cove Acres Private Road (Bridge) Improvement Project document with the following variables: Implementation of the project is expressly subject to 50% up front

collection, advance maximum is \$40,000, interest rate of carried monies at 4% and a collection period of five years. Trustee Langshaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- The Public Hearing to moving forward is scheduled for June 16, 2021.

Members Time:

- Trustee Bekes – Hopefully, the Township will be paid for the entire cost of the FOIA request that is currently being processed.
- Trustee Langshaw – Mike Sulka mentioned “ordinance enforcement” and I don’t recall saying that.
- Trustee Genung – Impressed with Linda and Christina. Please pray for my Godson Devin.
- Clerk Walters – It’s FOIA season.
- Trustee Harmon – Is the Sheriff Department providing enough force?
- Trustee Sulka – Thoughts about the fence issue. We need to be careful with the term’s *waterfront versus lakefront*.

Adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Walters

Linda Walters
Township Clerk
June 01, 2021