

Ross Township
Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 5:58pm.

Roll call was as follows:

Present: Mike Sulka Diana Langshaw Norm Kellogg
 Rob Baker Dave Senkewitz Lynn Harmon

Absent: Cindy Genung

Also, Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Agenda: Amend Agenda to add under D. Ordinance 217, under new business
 Amend Agenda to add B. Sheriff Contract under old business

A motion by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to accept these
Agenda additions, carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda: Remove October minutes from consent agenda, to remove the
sentence Parks committee eagle scout fund budget to be reviewed at a future
Board meeting and add: A motion to approve this Eagle Scout GLARC project for
Ross Township Park as presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee
Sulka and carried unanimously.

A motion by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to accept the minutes
as revised, carried unanimously.

Remove Treasurers Report: Discussion of fund balance of \$618K for possible use
as additional funds for roads and police budgeted items next year. A motion to
accept the Treasurers report as stated by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee
Harmon and carried unanimously.

Reports:

Police Report submitted by Captain Christensen. Office Christensen answered
Board questions on the report.

Fire Department: Chief Bogema submitted his report. 21 runs for November is under their historical average. Still working with Life Care Ambulance on medical care for the Township. Haunted House had 500+ kids attend. Two firefighters have passed their State fire exam. National test to follow. Mezzanine storage an issue. Possible expand the building for more storage, etc.

Planning Commission: Report submitted. The Master plan update had started. Looking at Chickens on property issues

Cemetery Committee: Planted 50 juniper trees at Day Cemetery. Eagle Scout Ethan is asking for donations to fund a bench at Day Cemetery. Estimated cost is \$1,625.00

Parks Committee: Report submitted. Township Plumber Brent Gould has stated that the Park toilets, sink/pipes, etc. are in need of replacement. Cost estimate to be provided. Mr. Gould winterized the Park plumbing for the season. Possible resident request to host a Sunfish regatta at the Park on a Saturday and Sunday.

Law Enforcement: Discussion of letter submitted by Greg Huggett to the Board. Work in progress.

AGS: Report submitted

Household Hazardous Waste: Report submitted.

Supervisors Report: Road work for 2019 is completed, except for some minor shoulder work to be finished. Several complaints as to the lack of snow plowing on M-89 during our last snow storm.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

Budget Amendments: eliminate \$9000 Park repair and maintenance amendment. Township Board- professional services increase to \$6000, funds to come from the contingency fund. Cemetery supplies: increase \$1,200 funds to come from the

perpetual care cemetery fund. A motion to amend the budget by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried unanimously.

Police Protection/ New Sheriff's contract: Discussion of mutual aid agreements between Richland and Augusta Police departments. The 2020 Kalamazoo County Sheriff contract has a 2% increase from 2019. Supervisor Baker- make a decision on who provides service for Ross Township. Trustee Sulka-who is responsible for the 120 hours after our 40 hours of covered service. (Primary provider?) Discussion of pros and cons of additional coverage. Officer Christensen said the County re-bids the shifts – we need to get to Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Dept. by Feb. if an increase/decrease in coverage requests. i.e. more in summer months. Reviewed the Sheriffs contract. Trustee Harmon discussed paragraph 18 – 90-day termination agreement. A motion to accept the Kalamazoo County Police protection contract for January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 proposed by Trustee Sulka, supported by Clerk Kellogg. Ayes were: Sulka, Langshaw, Kellogg, Baker and Senkewitz. Nays were: Harmon. Motion to accept was passed, 5 ayes to 1 nay. Other topics of discussion to be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Role of Board Representatives on Advisory Committees: A motion to postpone this topic until the next Board meeting was presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Langshaw, carried unanimously.

Township Recreation Plan 2020 to 2025: Publish a public notice in the Kalamazoo Gazette for 30 days – for a scheduled public meeting/hearing for January 7th 2020 at 4:30 PM. A motion to accept the Proposed Park and Recreation Plan 2020 to 2025 was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously. *To publish the 30 day Public notice & schedule public hearing 1-7-2020.*

Group Season pass for Ross Township Park: decision to allow a case by case basis Township decision, Supervisors discretion. A motion to accept this decision was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Gull Lake Watercraft Control Ordinance: Attorney Thall discussed the need for a public hearing meeting to adopt a Township Resolution. Special Meeting to be February 18, 2020 at 4:30PM. A motion by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to approve a special public hearing on Feb. 18, 2020 at 4:30PM and carried unanimously.

Approval of 2 Planning Commission members for the 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2022 term: A motion by Trustee Sulka supported by Trustee Langshaw to re appoint Jim Lauderdale to a new three- year term., carried unanimously.

After discussion, a motion to approve the re appointment of Sherri Snyder to new three- year term was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Clerk Kellogg. Ayes were: Harmon, Baker, Kellogg and Langshaw
Nays were: Sulka, Senkewitz.
Motion carried 4 ayes to 2 nays.

Approval of ZBA member for a new term of 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2022: A motion to re-appoint Jim Lauderdale to a new three-year ZBA term by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried unanimously.

Zoning Ordinance 217: Planning Commission recommendation to approve the text amendments for accessory buildings. Residents to go to Planning Commission for a special land use/ site plan review request. An amendment to our zoning ordinance site plan. A scaled down version for accessory building uses on residential properties. Simplify the application process for residents. A motion to adopt these text amendments, Section 1 and Section 2, Section 5 and Section 6, by Trustee Senkewitz as presented by the Planning Commission, supported by Trustee Langshaw. A small discussion of paragraph 18.4d issues. A roll call vote was as follows:
Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye, motion carried unanimously.

December 17, 2019 Board Meeting: A motion by Trustee Harmon to cancel the Dec. 17, 2019 Board Meeting, supported by Supervisor Baker and carried unanimously.

Members Time:

Trustee Sulka- A question on a public hearing needed for Township salary. No, a salary resolution needs to be passed for each position. Normally during the budget process, but not required.

Clerk Kellogg- November 2019 election wrap up. A County wide Risk Limited Audit will be conducted December 5, 2019.

Supervisor Baker – review overseas trip to Israel.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk.