

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Paul Dykstra, at 7: 00 P.M. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present: Paul Dykstra, Supervisor Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
 Monica Markillie, Clerk Diana Langshaw, Trustee
 Owen Murray, Trustee, Sid Durham, Trustee
 Jon Scott, Trustee

Also in attendance:

 Otis Ingraham, Resident
 Dennis Berkebille, Area Manager from Consumers Energy
 Dennis McCee, Consumers Energy Representative
 Larry Lager, Resident of Island Cove Acres
 Captain Bowen, KCSD

Approval of Agenda:

 Motion by Markillie to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

 Motion by Langshaw to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Treasurer's Report for August, 2014, the bills paid and payable for September, and the amended Township Board Minutes of the August 12, 2014 Meeting. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Reports:

Fire Dept.:

 Genung stated the Annual Augusta Car Show took place on August 18th. Genung reported the event was a success however; car registration was down from last year.

Ordinance Enforcement:

 Dykstra reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report for August, 2014, (see attached). Langshaw inquired about the property located at 16511 East C. Ave and the status of the unresolved issues. Dykstra stated he will contact Bert Gale, the Township's Zoning Official, to request an update on the status of the property.

Police Report:

 Captain Bowen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. was present to review the Police Report on calls in the Township for August, 2014, (see attached).

Planning Commission:

 Dykstra reported the two main topics discussed at the August 25th PC Meeting were (1) The Right to Farm Act and (2) GAAMPS and how it impacts the Ross Township Zoning Ordinance.

Supervisor's Report:

Dykstra provided an update regarding current Township business. Dykstra reported it was the overall consensus at the August 12th Board Meeting to move forward with requesting proposals for Township Legal Counsel. Dykstra stated he has identified three law firms to contact and further stated he will request proposals from each firm for Board consideration.

Park Committee Report:

Scott discussed the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee Bylaws and Rules of Procedure document proposed for Board consideration. Scott addressed questions from the Board.

Approve Parks and Recreation Bylaws and Rules of Procedure:

Motion by Murray to approve the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee Bylaws and Rules of Procedure document as presented. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Approve Parks and Recreation Committee Members:

Motion by Markillie to approve the nominations for the Ross Township Parks ~~Commission~~ **Committee** which includes: Jon Scott, Susanne Sippel, Melissa McKay, Rusty Fry, Odie Ingham, Alan Poling and Jay Garside. The motion was seconded by Murray and **carried**.

Public Comment:-Non-Agenda Items:

Dennis McCee from Consumers Energy was present to provide information regarding the Energy Smart Program that will include the installation of new electric meters for homes and businesses. McCee reported the program is U.S. wide and began in 2012 and has now reached the Kalamazoo County area. McCee stated the new meters will provide increased meter read accuracy and will detect power outages immediately when they occur. He added there will be no charge for the new meters.

Old Business:

Island Cove Bridge:

Dykstra reported he attended the Island Cove Association meeting at the Township Office on September 8th to discuss Special Assessment options for the proposed Bridge project. He stated Genung was also in attendance at the meeting. Dykstra reported the Island Cove Association is considering two Special Assessment District (SAD) options which include (1) a regular SAD and (2) a hybrid SAD. He stated the hybrid SAD would require the Township to front a portion of the money to build the bridge. Both options would require petitions to be submitted and Board approval. Dykstra added the Board has the authority to establish parameters regarding the amount the Township would contribute if a hybrid SAD is considered and the percentage of support needed to move forward. Dykstra reported petitions are being circulated however, are not complete. After extended discussion it was the consensus of the Board to move forward with pursuing a special assessment district for replacement of the Island Cove Bridge. Murray suggested to have Dykstra request a recommendation from Attorney Rolfe regarding the petition language and the steps needed to move forward with consideration of the two SAD options proposed.

Firehouse and Township Hall:

The Board discussed the proposed Firehouse and Township Hall. Dykstra reported he received a copy of the original and revised building designs including cost estimates from Tower Pinkster. It was the consensus of the Board to have Dykstra request proposals for the original

design submitted by Tower Pinkster from at least three Contractors and report the results to - the Board at the next meeting. -

Devrou-ATV's/Noise (Zamora letter and Email): -

Dykstra provided an update regarding the ATV Noise concern that was reported at the August 12th Board Meeting. Dykstra discussed the email correspondence regarding the issue and reported no trespassing signs have been posted in the area where the issue has occurred.

New Business:

Appoint Township Supervisor to Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority Board:

Motion by Durham to appoint Dykstra to the Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Approve Consumer's Energy Franchise Consent:

Dennis Berkebile, Area Manager from Consumers Energy, was present to provide information regarding the proposed Ordinance No. 194.

Motion by Murray to approve Ordinance No. 194 which will adopt the Consumers Energy Company Electric Franchise/ Consent. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**

Approve Premier Lawn & Snow for 2014-2015 Snow Removal:

Motion by Genung to accept the bid submitted by Premier Lawn and Snow for the 2014-2015 snow plow services. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Owen Murray's Resignation-Appointment Process:

Murray submitted his resignation letter to the Board and reported he will be resigning from the Township Board Trustee position on October 30, 2014. The Board acknowledged Murray for his exceptional leadership, hard work and dedication that he has provided to the Township and Residents. The Board discussed the appointment process for filling the vacancy.

Motion by Langshaw to accept the resignation submitted by Murray effective October 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Durham and **carried**.

Member's Time:

Dykstra stated Joanna Johnson from the KCRC will be available at 6:00 P.M on October 14th prior to the Regular Township Board Meeting for discussion regarding roads. He also advised that Jeff Rood from Siegfried Crandall is scheduled to attend the October Meeting to discuss the 2013-2014 fiscal year audit.

Langshaw reported overgrown vegetation at the corner of 40th St. and C Ave and suggested the issue be reported to the KCRC. Otis Ingraham, Resident of Ross and Parks Committee Representative reported tall grass and overgrown vegetation at the corner of Fern wood and M-89. The Board expressed gratitude to Murray for his years of service as Township Trustee.

Adjournment:

Motion by Durham to adjourn at approximately 9:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Respectfully submitted: Monica Markillie, Ross Township Clerk

