

Ross Township Board
April 12th 2016 Meeting Minutes

The regular scheduled meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Dykstra at 7:00pm. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present:	Paul Dykstra, Supervisor	Absent:	Monica Markillie, Clerk
	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer		Rob Blain, Trustee
	Sid Durham, Trustee		
	Jon Scott, Trustee		
	Diana Langshaw, Trustee		

Also Present: Starla Scott, Resident
Rick King, Resident
Doug Bogema, Fire Chief

Approval of the Amended Agenda

Motion by Durham to approve the proposed Amended Agenda with the following: Remove “Accept And Place On File – Treasurer’s Report March 2016” and “Approve FY2015-2016 Journal Entries”. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Durham to approve the Consent Agenda with the following changes to the March 15th 2016 Meeting/Budget Hearing Minutes: **“Financing Agreement”** – should read “...of which \$882,000 will be paid to Hastings City Bank over a 10-year period...” **“Assignment of Installment Agreement”** – should read “Motion by Durham to approve...” **“Approval of 2016-2017 Outside Contractors”** should read – “Bauckham, Sparks, Thall...” **Approval of the Gull Lake View Golf Club, Inc. Liquor License Request”** should read – “Stoatin”. The motion was seconded by Scott and carried.

Reports

Fire Department – Chief Bogema reported the Department will attempt to recognize four retiring/retired fire fighters. The Department recently assisted with a major house fire in Richland. The Department is also going to “sponsor” a section of highway (96) in Augusta from the river to Ft Custer.

Ordinance Enforcement – Supervisor Dykstra reported AGS has a new point of contact (Steve Horton) for Ordinance Enforcement. He is organized and has good follow up. Powell property is now “cleaned up” and most likely will be put up for sale. There was a Court appearance by Gleason on April 11th. The Gleason’s were ordered to have a structural engineer inspect foundation to determine next steps for the house on DE Ave.

Police Report – Supervisor Dykstra presented the Township Statistics from January 2016 and February 2016. Captain Bowen has retired and will be replaced by James VanDyken who will attend our May Board Meeting. Todd Myers is now the Sergeant of the Marine Division. Sgt. Myers and Supervisor Dykstra will have a meeting on Tuesday April 19th at 900am to discuss strategies for patrolling lakes in Ross Township.

Planning Commission – Trustee Jon Scott reported the Commission is looking at language regarding Docks, Access Lots, and a few other ordinances.

Parks Committee – Trustee Jon Scott reported that the Committee has been moving along with work on GLAT. The partnership with Kalamazoo Parks Foundation and Kalamazoo Valley River Trail was working well and there is positive momentum starting to build in regards to funding. There was also discussion on where the Committee should focus their efforts moving forward. Possibly getting involved in Ross Township Park and developing a long term and ongoing plan for the Park. Suzanne Sippel and Melissa McKay, members of the Committee, were recognized by Scott for all their time and effort with the Committee.

Supervisor Report – Supervisor Dykstra presented the monthly report of activities. Majority of time in March was devoted to the new Fire Station and Office project. Cemetery and Park signs are being repaired/redone.

LifeCare Report – Paper report of the first quarter (Jan-Mar) of service calls for LifeCare Ambulance was presented.

Public Comments

None

Old Business

Yorkville Cemetery Landscaping Proposals – Supervisor Dykstra presented two proposals to address road condition and erosion at Yorkville Cemetery. Stap Brothers and Gull Lake Landscaping. Companies recommended different “fixes” for issue. Durham questioned GLL’s “mobilization” charge of \$150. Board agreed to GLL proposal if “mobilization” charge could be removed. Supervisor Dykstra will discuss with GLL. Motion by Genung, seconded by Durham and carried.

New Building – Supervisor Dykstra discussed progress on new building. Asked Board members to be aware of different signs in the community or around town that might work for the new building. Take pictures if possible. Will put the sign project out for proposals in the next week or two. Currently seeking bids for asbestos abatement for old building.

Ross Township Resident Survey Update – Supervisor Dykstra discussed preliminary survey results. 292 survey responses. Fire Coverage and protection received the highest “satisfaction” score. The lowest was for “road maintenance”. 46% of Residents would support a millage for road projects and 54% are against. Dr McKay will attend our May meeting to present the detailed findings.

New Business

Approval of Ross Township Group Pension Plan – Motion by Durham to approve. Seconded by Scott and carried.

Personnel – General discussion from Board on whether we need to have more coverage for upcoming elections, relocation, etc. Genung mentioned there has been some interest in Deputy positions. Interview later this week. Will continue conversation in May when full Board is present.

Member Comments

Supervisor Dykstra discussed the new rehab at Yarrow is now open. Roads continue to be a huge issue in Township with no solution in sight and the Township has to do something. Discussion regarding a Road Committee was had. Goal would be to find some type of solution/plan. Supervisor to meet with a Calhoun County Commissioner who has extensive experience with road project funding. Supervisor Dykstra will put together an outline for May Board meeting to address Road in Township.

Trustee Scott offered ideas on landscaping for new building,

Treasure Genung discussed banking fees being charged by Mercantile Bank. She is in discussion with bank on fees and options for avoiding fees moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 800pm

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Dykstra
Ross Township Supervisor