

## ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING JUNE 14, 2016

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

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

Also present: Township Attorney, Rob Thall  
Captain James Vandyken, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept.  
Sargent Meyers, Kalamazoo County Sherriff's Dept.  
Several Ross Township Residents (see attached attendance sheet)

Prior to the Meeting, the Board shared a moment of silence for the victims of the bicycle accident that occurred in Cooper Township on June 7, 2016, and for the victims of the shooting in Orlando Florida that occurred on June 12, 2016. Dykstra stated the cyclists who did not survive the June 7<sup>th</sup> accident were close friends, community leaders and area Residents including Suzanne Sippel who previously served on the Ross Township's Planning Commission and most recently served as a Member of the Township's Park Committee. The Board expressed condolences to the victims, their families and to all those who have been impacted by the tragic accident.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

### Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Treasurer Reports for April and May, 2016, the Township Board Meeting minutes of May 10, 2016 and the bills paid & payable for May and June, 2016. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

### Reports:

#### Fire Dept.:

Dykstra provided an update on Fire Department business. Dykstra acknowledged the Department for assisting with the Gull Lake drowning incident during Memorial weekend.

#### Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Dykstra reviewed the June, 2016 Ordinance Enforcement Report. Additionally, Dykstra discussed a recently reported violation involving a lake access area near the Grand View Plat at the end of Yorkville Ln.

#### Police Report:

Captain Vandyken and Sergeant Meyers of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department (KCSD) were present to introduce themselves to the Board and to discuss law enforcement issues in the township including issues related to the Gull Lake sand bar. Captain Vandyken and Sargent Meyers addressed questions from residents who live near the sand bar. The questions were related to excessive noise and trespassing during events including, pirate's day, mardi gras and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Dykstra reported pirate's day has been rescheduled to June 25<sup>th</sup>. Captain Vandyken assured the Residents there will be a law enforcement presence at the sand bar during these events via combined efforts from several Law Enforcement agencies including MSP and the DNR. Sargent Meyers reported they plan to have twenty officers patrolling the area on Pirates Day which includes on land and in the water. Becky Vandermeulen inquired about who to contact for reporting issues on Pirates Day. Captain Vandyken provided the phone number for the Sheriff's Department, which is as follows: 269-383-8882. After extended discussion, the Board thanked Captain Vandyken and Sargent Meyers for attending the Meeting and for all their efforts in dealing with the issues at the gull lake sand bar. The Board also thanked the residents for their continued efforts and support with actions to resolve the issues related to the Gull Lake sand bar.

#### Planning Commission:

Scott reported the PC continues to work on screening standards and guidelines relevant to landscaping and how it relates to the Township Zoning Ordinance.

#### Parks Committee:

Scott expressed his sadness for the loss of Suzanne Sippel and recognized Suzanne for her dedication to the Community, the Township's Planning Commission and Parks Committee. Scott added Suzanne was the driving force in moving the Ross Township bike trail forward noting she also served as a Member of the Kalamazoo County Parks Foundation, and worked **effortlessly tirelessly** to develop GLAT. Scott stated Suzanne's knowledge, hard work and dedication to the Parks Committee will be missed and further expressed concern regarding how the Committee will move forward without Suzanne's expertise. Scott requested the Board consider allowing him to hire a consultant to work with the Parks Committee to continue efforts in developing the Ross Township bike trail. Scott offered a proposal to raise \$10,000 for the cost to hire a consultant to work with the Parks Committee for a 12 month period of time.

Motion by Durham to grant Scott the Authority to hire a Planning Consultant to work with the Township Park Committee on the development of the Township Bike trail for a twelve month period. Included in the motion is the agreement to not exceed \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

#### Supervisor Report:

Dykstra reviewed the Supervisor's Report for June, 2016. Items discussed included the new Township park sign, the recently repaired Yorkville Cemetery sign, and updates regarding the new building project.

#### Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Old Business:

Citizen's Road Committee:

Motion by Langshaw to appoint the following Township Residents and Township Board Members to serve on the Ross Township Citizen Road Committee: Paul Dykstra-Supervisor, Sid Durham-Trustee, Barb McAllister-Resident, Lester Heidmous-Resident, and Tom Gallagher-Resident. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

New Business:

Discussion of Ross Township's Zoning Ordinance Section 17.2-Boathouse and Dock Regulations:

After extended discussion regarding Section 17.2 of the Ross Township Zoning Ordinance, it was the consensus of the Board to refer this item to the Planning Commission for their expertise and guidance relevant to eliminating Section 17.2 B #1 and B #4 from the Township Zoning Ordinance.

Members Time:

Dykstra reported the Fire Department received a donation in 2015 from the Croasdale Family. It was the consensus of the Board to use the donation to recognize Fire Chief Bogema and the Fire Department in Honor of Mr. Croasdale. The Board discussed several options for recognizing the Department during this time.

Langshaw inquired about the July Township Board Meeting.

Motion by Durham to cancel the July 12, 2016 Regular Scheduled Township Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Dykstra stated Suzanne Sippel's Funeral Service is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am. at the Kellogg Biological Station. Genung reported the Township Office will close for the Service.

Durham expressed sadness for the loss of Ross Township's Parks Committee Member Suzanne Sippel. Additionally, Durham recognized Sippel for the knowledge she contributed to the Planning Commission and for her hard work and dedication to Ross Township.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Monica Markillie  
Ross Township Clerk