

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD
October 10, 2017 Minute Report
The Tabernacle Building
2372 Tabernacle St.
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

The regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Moore at 7:00pm

Present: Gary Moore-Supervisor	Cynthia Genung – Treasurer
Norm Kellogg-Clerk	Diana Langshaw- Trustee
Robb Blain – Trustee	Sid Durham – Trustee
Jeff Price – Trustee	Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Absent: None

Approval of the Agenda : Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Blain and carried

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Motion by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

Reports:

Fire Dept.- Chief Doug Bogema stated that they have done 241 runs YTD. They are ahead of last year's run total. They have done 22 runs to Skyview Place (Old Yarrow facility). 1 member has completed the fire MFR class. The Fire Dept. is also participating in the County wide grant program, for possible new equipment.

Lifecare: Ron Slagell from Lifecare reported that they have responded to 95 emergency calls in Ross Township from July to September 2017. This compares to 96 emergency calls last quarter and 72 calls from July to September 2016. There are 260 families in the Gull Lake response area that have memberships, compared to 255 families at this time last year.

Ordinance Enforcement: Supervisor Moore stated that 6 different ordinances are being worked on presently

Police Report: Lt. Jeff Christensen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department spoke about Police calls. A boat was stolen on Sherman Lake Drive and a lawn mower theft from a garage. Identity theft is still an ongoing problem.

Supervisors Report: Supervisor Moore stated that he has seen more of the Township in the past 6 weeks than he has in the past 30 years, due to one on one meetings with residents. He also thanked the Gull Lake Ministries for the use of their facilities for tonight's Board Meeting. Supervisor Moore also stated that our local Sheriff provided active shooter training for the Township staff last week.

KCRC : Both Joanna Johnson and Mark Worden from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission attended tonight's meeting. Joanna gave thanks and appreciation to the Township and residents in working together to use our resources efficiently. They will continue to work hard to serve the public on any road issues.

Public Comments: Ron Kendall, Kalamazoo County Commissioner reviewed KCC's duties for Kalamazoo County and Ross Township. They work on road funding and the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department.

Any questions or concerns please call his office to discuss any issues.

Old Business:

Medical Marijuana: Trustee Blain presented an MTA article on MTA model of a medical marijuana facility and the opt-in , opt-out documents available. Also the Sheriff's department can supply additional information. Motion by Trustee Durham to delay our decision until the next meeting, to gather additional information. Supported by Treasurer Genung and carried.

Transient Residency House Bill #0329: Supervisor Moore spoke about the pending legislation that will most probably pass in the State Legislature. Trustee Durham stated that he has contacted various Legislative representatives for additional information with little success.

New Business:

*See excerpts of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Township Board of Ross Township held at 2372 Tabernacle Street Hickory Corners, MI 49060 within the Township on Tuesday October 10, 2017, commencing at 7:00pm.

Public Hearing on Road Improvements Special Assessment District Roll. Motion to open the public hearing on the Special Assessment District Roll by Supervisor Moore, supported by Trustee Blain. Roll call vote was Langshaw-aye, Genung-aye, Price-aye, Moore-Aye, Kellogg-aye, Blain-aye and Durham-aye. Motion passed with all ayes. Residents were asked to state their name and address prior to their statements. Comments will be limited to 2 minutes per resident.

Jim Worden, 16937 East C Ave. Why do we pay county road tax and now a new township tax? Road funding should be through the county.

John Barkley, 239 E Gull Lake Dr. Confused on the assessment details. Served on a previous road commission and wanted to know are we going to get additional assessments in the future. What control do we have?

Diane Charles, 11490 East G Ave. Delivered an objection letter and spoke to register her objection due to living on G Ave, a primary road. Public will benefit more than homeowners on G Ave.

Frances Dozeman, 5424 N 37th St. Stated Public 188, with questions on property being benefited by the assessment vs. off roads. Stated the assessment if not proper or legal and will go to the tax tribunal.

Herb Dozeman, 5528 N 37th St. Read letter of objection and requested that his property be removed from the assessment due to land not benefiting from the assessment. Defined areas should only be assessed. Assessment not based on empirical data, No tax dollars to attorneys, put the money toward road expense.

Ron Blackburn, 5876 N. 42nd St. Moved from Kentucky and supports objection to the assessment, not fair or legal. North 42nd street was recently resurfaced and claims mismanagement of road maintenance. No stated interest rate for assessment for improved or unimproved parcels.

Jack Gesmundo, 1225 East D Ave. Supports the road improvements, but unhappy with the assessment amounts. Newly built homes during the last part of this year were given an improved parcel status even though the construction is not completed by the Jan. 1, 2018 assessment roll.

Dave Hyslop, 7983 N 40th St. Stated he wants to vote on any road assessment. His road recently was chip n sealed and will not benefit now from road improvements. Wants to have a say so in the process and does not agree with the present assessment.

Bob Baker, 1550 Burlington, 1906 Midlake Dr. Called the County on pot holes, and they were repaired the next day. He has concerns on Midland Park drainage issues. Any road improvements should include water run off/ drainage issues. Is supportive of the road assessment.

Robert Dahmer, 12306 East D Ave. Objects to the proposal as it is the County's job to maintain roads. Road dollars built the rails to trails and new crosswalks. Road should not be the Townships business.

Klaas Buurstra, 15078 East C Ave. Has many questions but sees that the assessment will pass. He stated that it is unfair in many ways. Does not support the assessment.

Mike Ambro, 1341 W. Gull Lake Dr. How many governmental units in Kalamazoo County? What is their function and is there a different way to improve the roads? Wants to see good roads in the Township.

Richard Maxson, 10489 N, 43rd St. Completed a petition 12 years ago to improve their streets roads. Why don't the rest of the residents do the same to improve their roads? Had a question as to where does the gas tax money go?

Gene Rothenburg, 1515 E Gull Lake Dr. Why did we not vote on the assessment. Properties valued at \$500K vs. \$50K, is the assessment fair? It's your plan, not our plan, not the peoples plan.

Dave Fox, 8630 N 36th Street. The properties across the street are in Richland Township. Any discussions with the village to help in the costs? As a senior citizen he probably won't live in his house for 15 more years. Can I add to the sales price of my house when I sell it, if I pay off the assessment?

Angela Bowers, 14119 East C Ave. Is a 10 year resident of the Township. Sees a lot of upset residents and does not seem to be the right thing to do. Please review the assessment and it should not be a done deal.

Mr. Dozeman also asked when the Michigan Tax Tribunal open up for appeals. Attorney Thall answered the question, you have 30 days from the date that the amended assessment roll is approved.

Mr. Hyslop also stated there were many questions asked tonight. Nobody is answering questions. Residents want answers to their questions.

Clerk, Norm Kellogg, Presently the Clerk has received 64 negative Communications and 1 positive communication since the last public hearing. The Clerk shall report any written comments/correspondence received by the Township. All of these comments/correspondence will be part of the public record. For the record, it should be noted that each comment/correspondence, from whom, the date, and that the Board Members have all had the opportunity to review.

A motion by Trustee Durham to close the public hearing , supported by Trustee Price. This motion was carried by all aye votes from the Board.

Resolution concerning the Road Improvements Special Assessment District Roll.

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Resolution to sell to the Gull Lake Marine Center, parcel number 04-20-178-220 for the sum of \$22,000.00. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Langshaw , All Board members voted Aye to approve this parcel sale.

Approval for the purchase of a new Township Hall sign. Utilizing the money from the property sale to fund this purchase of \$23,440.00. Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Blain. Roll Call vote: Trustee Price voted Aye, Treasurer Genung voted no, Trustee Langshaw voted no, Supervisor Moore voted Aye, Clerk Kellogg voted Aye, Trustee Blain voted Aye and Trustee Durham voted Aye. This approval passed with a 5 Aye votes and 2 no votes.

Transfer of Signature Authority from Markillie to Kellogg: Motion by Treasurer Genung, supported by Supervisor Moore. The motion carried and the Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote. Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Trustee Price-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye and Trustee Durham-Aye.

Approval of Health Savings Accounts for Gary Moore and Norm Kellogg for the standard annual contribution of \$1,462.00. Motion by Trustee Price, supported by Trustee Blain and carried by all Aye votes.

Increase by \$1,500.00 to our funding of the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste. Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Clerk Kellogg and carried by all Aye votes.

Approve the finalized Siegfried, Crandall Financial Statement Audits for the year ending March 31, 2017. Motion by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Blain and carried with all aye votes.

Members Time

Trustee Langshaw- wanted to know what the possible agenda items would be presented at the November Board meeting. Supervisor Moore stated it should be a full agenda as the Parks and Planning Commission would like to present at the Board Meeting. Trustee Langshaw also would like to start our next year's budget planning earlier than last year.

Trustee Price- spoke about the Planning Commission ordinance No. 138 as to depth vs. width ratios for land divisions. He submitted a copy of our present land division ordinance. The Board should work toward having the same standard as the State Law. Requested that this issue be placed on next month's Board Meeting agenda. Prepare an ordinance amendment for the Board to remedy this issue.

Treasurer Genung – would like to have BS&A give us a proposal to supply their special assessment software to the Township at a cost of approximately \$3,775.00. Treasurer Genung was given the approval to solicit a bid from BS&A.

Trustee Blain- Would like the MTA magazine material submitted, be available for review on our Medical Marijuana discussion for the November Board meeting.

Supervisor Moore- Thanked all of the gracious homeowners who have welcomed him into their homes the past few weeks for one on one meetings. He also thanked the Township staff for their support and hard work.

Motion by Trustee Durham to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

Respectfully submitted

Norm Kellogg
Township Clerk

