

## Ross Township Board

January 9, 2018 Minute Report

12086 M-89

Richland, MI 49083

Meeting will also be held via teleconference at:

1598 San Silvestro Dr.

Venice, FL 34298

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

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Absent: None

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Trustee, Diana Langshaw, supported by Trustee Jeff Price and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Motion by Trustee Sid Durham, supported by Trustee Robb Blain and carried unanimously.

### Reports:

**Fire Department:** Chief Doug Bogema stated that they had 297 calls for 2017. This is 17 more than last year's total. As a comparison 20 years ago they had 100 calls per year. The department purchased new pagers with a total cost of \$12,225. The departments out of pocket cost was \$1,225 with the remaining amount covered by a Grant. New purchases for 2018 will be turnout and washer extraction gear. There is grant money available for these purchases along with a new upgrade for their air packs for 2018. There is also a DNR grant of \$4,500 available to offset the cost of new air packs. This upgrade will bring the Department in line with other local Fire Departments equipment. Chief Bogema hired three new firefighters in 2017 and now has a crew of 26 total volunteer fire fighters. He also states that Pavillion Township has a new full time Fire Chief. Ross Township may have to look at that possibility in the future given our level of calls made per year. They continue to work well with our Township EMT employees and both appreciate the ability to back each other up when needed.

**Police Report:** Lt. Christensen of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department presented the Year End and December reports to the Board. This report will be included in the formal minutes of the Board as an attachment. Lt. Christensen spoke about an incident that happened Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 2017. It involved a larceny in Oshtemo Township and a chase of the suspect and arrest in Ross Township at 48<sup>th</sup> St. and Custer Road. An additional incident was a home invasion on E. Gull Lake Dr. that involved a Jewelry theft. The jewelry was recovered on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Ongoing investigation will result in multiple arrests in the near future. Identity theft is still an ongoing problem, mostly done on the internet. The new Central County wide dispatch center on the west side of Kalamazoo County is progressing. New hires are expected in two months to staff the new center. They hope to have many of the existing local dispatch people join their team at the new center.

**Supervisors Report:** Supervisor Moore review 2017 as a landmark year for the Township. We have a new Supervisor, Clerk and new Trustees on the Board. Our Special Road Assessment is continuing to move forward with new road construction to begin in 2018. According to Treasurer Genung we have collected \$570,000 in road assessment payoffs so far. Supervisor Moore stated that the Bible conference will be remitting their road assessment check this week to the Township. Additionally Township's position on Medical Marihuana facilities is a new challenge for the Township in 2018. Rob Thall, Township Attorney stated that Ross Township is ahead of other municipalities on this issue. Our zoning ordinances are in a good position to manage this new type of business entity in Ross Township. Rebecca Harvey and Rob Thall have worked to streamline the approach to handle any Medical Marihuana requests in the future. Supervisor Moore stated that the Township has renewed the 2018 Kalamazoo County Sheriff's agreement for 2018. He stated that the Township will be looking to collaborate with local police departments in 2019 to reduce costs and possible provide better service coverage. Supervisor Moore has appointed Trustee Blain and Deputy Treasurer Gene McKay to serve on an advisory committee to pursue this option. An additional resident will be appointed by Supervisor Moore in the near future to round out this committee to a total of up to five members.

**Public Comments:** Carole Kamerman, 8258 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street spoke about her concern about the lack of Public Safety coverage in Ross Township. She recently had her Kayak stolen in 2017. She contacted the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and they handled it well. She had monitored the web site "Next Door" for her Kayak to be put up for sale. It showed up on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> for sale in the Hickory Corners area. Ms. Kamerman contacted the Sheriff's Department on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to report the incident. A Sheriff called her back the following Monday and found out the resident in Hickory Corners had a criminal history. By Wednesday night the Kayak had been sold. Her main concern was a crime was committed and it took a week to pursue the perpetrator. This leaves our citizens vulnerable to this type of crime with no recourse due to the lack of Police coverage in Ross Township.

Jon Scott, 6820 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street spoke about the last three years Ross Township has done more than the last 20years to move the Township forward. He thanked the Board for its accomplishments and its ability to move the Township down a good path for the residents.

**Life Care Ambulance:** Steve Frisbee spoke for Life Care about the upward trend in calls for Ross Township. They recently completed a customer survey that was positive. Their response times have been good. They have a great rapport with our Fire Department and have assisted the Township in maintaining our flags when needed to put at half-staff for various reasons.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, Ordinance No. 209 to allow certain Commercial Marijuana facilities in Ross Township. Discussion: by Trustee Price who also sits on the Planning Commission. The Planning commission reviewed this extensively and is presenting this as a new Zoning Ordinance for Township Board approval. Given there was no further discussion, Trustee Durham moved to adopt this new Ordinance, supported by Trustee, Price. A roll call vote was as follows, Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Trustee Price, Aye, Clerk Kellogg – Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye, and Trustee Durham-Aye, via teleconference. The Ordinance passed unanimously

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, Ordinance No. 207 to change lot depth to width requirements. This change was made to mirror the State of Michigan Laws. Planning Commission presents this for Board Approval. Motion by Treasurer Genung and supported by Trustee Price. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Trustee Price-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee, Blain- Aye and Trustee Durham-Aye, via teleconference. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, Ordinance No. 208 to allow certain Land Divisions. No discussion followed a motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Langshaw to approve this ordinance. A roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Blain-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye Supervisor Moore-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Trustee Price-Aye, Trustee Langshaw-Aye and Trustee Durham-Aye, via teleconference. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Resolution to partially vacate lot no. 3904-15-205-013 from an improved parcel to unimproved parcel. Motion by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Price to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Trustee Price-Aye, Clerk Kellogg – Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye , and Trustee Durham-Aye, via teleconference. The resolution passed unanimously.

Appointment of a new Member of the Parks Committee. Jon Scott proposed for Board Approval to appoint Zach Klipsch as a new member of the Parks Committee. Moved by Treasurer Genung, supported by Clerk Kellogg and carried unanimously. Mr. Scott also spoke about the Parks master plan and the need to get Board Approval to move forward. They have a new change that will include a walking path around the park with ADA compliance. This Plan is a conceptual piece with input from residents. They are looking to put the parking up near the road and space for Food Trucks and a new playground area. Additional upgrades are for an automated gate, updated functional uses, a band shell, and shoreline improvements. Clerk Kellogg asked about what the next step was after finalizing the Master Plan. Mr. Scott said they need to have capital improvement figures and an idea what the Park could generate in revenues vs. costs. They can then move to apply for Grant money to support the capital improvements. As there was no further discussion, Trustee Durham motioned for approval to move forward with the Master Plan, supported by Trustee Blain, and carried unanimously.

Township HSA Deductible Employee Contributions: Supervisor Moore asked the Board to approve the annual Family, \$2,900 and Individual, \$1450 contributions for the townships three elected/ appointed employees. Moved by Trustee Durham for approval, supported by Trustee Blain and carried unanimously.

Budget Process Timetable: Supervisor Moore stated that he would like to get ahead of our annual budgeting process for fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. A special preliminary Budget meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2018 at 2pm to start the discussion.

**Members Time:**

Clerk – Norm Kellogg- Stated that new hire Deputy Clerk Alex Harris is doing a great job. The Township Staff looks forward to his technical skills helping us in the future.

Trustee Jeff Price – Can we put our ordinances on our Website? And how should he handle any corrections/amendments to our Board Minutes. Contact the Clerk directly for corrections.

Trustee Diana Langshaw- Can we publish a Township Newsletter soon. It is overdue.

Trustee- Sid Durham – Thanked the Township for the new teleconference phone and set up. Also complimented the Board Meeting Minutes write up.

Supervisor Gary Moore – Gave Thanks to all Staff on the great job they are doing for the Township.

Being no further business, Treasurer Genung Moved for Adjournment, supported by Trustee Blain and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Kellogg  
Ross Township Clerk