

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
Board Minutes
February 13, 2018**

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

The Roll Call was as follows:

Present:	Diana Langshaw-Trustee	Jeff Price-Trustee
	Norm Kellogg-Clerk	Gary Moore-Supervisor
	Cindy Genung-Treasurer	Robb Blain-Trustee
	Sid Durham-via teleconference	

Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Absent: None

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

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes of the January 9, 2018 amended on page three, requested by Trustee Durham. Corrections made to 1-9-2018 minutes. Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Price to approve consent agenda, and carried unanimously.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Bogema stated that they had 297 calls last year. So far this year they have had 37 calls YTD, compared to 33 calls YTD last year. Ross Township Fire assisted Richland Township Fire with a house fire this year, and Richland Fire Dept. assisted Ross Township with a house fire so far this year. The Fire Department is participating in 4 grants this year for a total of approximately \$250,000. The most recent is for a grant to replace Turn Out Gear and radios. Matt Beauchamp the Comstock Fire Chief is assisting with the grant writing and documentation. Also participating along with Comstock and Ross Township are Galesburg and Battle Creek. These four Fire Companies use their combined resources to participate and gain access to Federal Grant money. Ross Township Fire is only responsible for 10% of the cost as the grant pays the remaining 90% of the equipment cost. Chief Bogema stated that Keith Kenyon is starting his MFP training classes. Also the Fire Department received a \$500 donation from Mike Morrett.

Police Report: Given by Supervisor Moore. The Board received the annual Kalamazoo County Sheriff's report from 1-1-2017 to 12-31-2017. Trustee Blain reviewed the report and commented that he hopes the new law enforcement committee and the Sheriff's department can meet soon to discuss and review. The January 2018 monthly report recently received is much more detailed than in the past.

Supervisors Report: Supervisor Moore reported on the 7 listed issues.

Two Budget meetings have been held by the Board so far. The final meeting will be March 1, 2018 to finalize and approve the fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 Township budget. This will be then presented to the Board for approval at the March 13, 2018 Board Meeting.

Law Enforcement Committee has met and will meet every third Thursday to discuss and plan the Townships law enforcement consolidation possibilities. Supervisor Moore has met with Troy Eldridge, Richland Township contact and Dave Grebe, Richland Village Manager along with representatives from Galesburg and Augusta to discuss consolidation issues. Supervisor Moore also met with Andy Winber @ MSU. MSU has agreed to pay the Township \$40K in 60 days and \$40K next year to support our Road Assessment and police consolidation. A meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2018 with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff to discuss line item costs associated with KCSD annual cost to house a Deputy at Ross Township. Trustee Blain also inquired about the Committee's future role and the possibility that it could become a permanent entity going forward to manage and/ or oversee any consolidation options. Attorney Thall stated that if the committee becomes permanent the Township Board should act to authorize and approve any such entity.

Gull Lake Sewer and Water authority is coordinating with our Road Construction 3 year project. They will be aware of what roads are being constructed and when.

The Township Master Plan is in need of review as it should be reviewed every 5 years. Jim Lauderdale Chairman of our Planning Commission has reviewed the plan along with the Planning Commission. They will revise 2 or 3 sections in the near future. A complete revision will be completed in 2021 after the census data is available. A new plan will cost somewhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for a total update. Rebecca Harvey our Township consultant will come up with a plan for updates and revisions and associated costs. Trustee Langshaw stated that we should start to Budget now to cover the possible \$25,000 cost in three years.

Medical Marihuana Update: The Township has received three (3) \$5,000 License applications so far. Additionally we will receive another ten (10) \$5,000 license applications from another single entity within the next few weeks. These 10 licenses will be for 10 Class 3 growing licenses.

February 26, Supervisor Moore and Larry Greer Chairman of our Board of Review will attend training for Board or Review responsibilities.

SAD Assessment Update: Treasurer Genung stated that we have \$923,000 in Road Assessment payoffs so far. She also received an additional \$10,000 today that is not reflected in the \$923,000 figure.

Parks Report: Given by Supervisor Moore

The Parks Committee Master Plan was approved by the Board and the committee will move forward to start the process. The first order of business will be to apply for a grant through the DNR for a new automated entrance gate. This will increase revenue and decrease primarily payroll expenses at the Park. Two members of the committee attended a grant writing seminar and the recommendation is to hire a consultant to write the grant for the Park. The estimated cost for a new gate will be \$30,000. \$23,000 for the gate and \$7,000 for site prep and the installation of a new concrete pad. The fee to write the grant is \$5,000. The deadline for the Grant is April 1, 2018. The total cost of the project if the grant is approved will be paid 75% by the DNR and 25% by the Park. The Parks committee has asked the Township to loan the Park \$2,500 with the Park budget covering the additional \$2,500 to pay for the grant writing consultant.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

Budget timeline as outlined above. March 1 meeting at 2pm to finalize and approve next year's budget.

Newsletter update: Making progress to publish Mid-March 2018. Articles to include the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRD) on the Road project in the Township. Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority to pay tribute to retiring Director Rich Pierson. The Parks department will show its Master plan and the Summers Trucks and Tunes activities. Life care will also provide an article on the Township service and commitment.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

In our meeting with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) they suggested that Ross Township appoint a Road Commissioner for our SAD Road construction project. Paul Dykstra our previous Supervisor has agreed to become the Ross Township Road Commissioner for the duration of our 3 year project. **A Board motion to Appoint Mr. Dykstra to this position was presented by Trustee Blain and supported by Trustee Price and carried unanimously.**

Parks Committee appointments: **A motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Langshaw to appoint Jay Garside and Rusty Fry to a new 4 year term. Carried unanimously.**

Bond Resolution: A Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Special Assessment Bonds and Other Matters Related Thereto was presented to the Board. **See Attached Resolution.** A motion was made to approve this Resolution by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Langshaw. A Roll Call vote was taken by the Board: Trustee Price – Aye, Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye and Trustee Durham via teleconference – Aye. Nay votes: None. The Motion was carried unanimously.

Members Time:

Rob Blain – Inquired about the date/deadline to file the necessary papers to run in the August election for Township Trustee. Clerk Kellogg to supply a timeline to Trustee Blain.

Cindy Genung – Busy with Taxes

Jeff Price – Planning Commission working with Rebecca Harvey on the Township Master Plan.

Diana Langshaw- can the Township provide minute briefs for Motions etc. M.C. Wilkins to provide?

Norm Kellogg – Audit Prep and Auditor Engagement Letter. Please review for approval at the next Board Meeting.

Sid Durham – No comment

Gary Moore – Six months on the job, and thanked everyone for all the support provided.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Treasurer Genung and supported by Trustee Price and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk