

**Ross Township  
12086 M-89  
Richland, MI 49083  
Board Minutes  
March 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                | Norm Kellogg – Clerk     |
|               | Gary Moore- Supervisor                | Cindy Genung – Treasurer |
|               | Sid Durham-Trustee-via teleconference | Robb Blain – Trustee     |
| Also Present: | Rob Thall – Township Attorney         |                          |
| Absent:       | Jeff Price                            |                          |

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

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

### Reports

**Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority:** Supervisor Moore introduced Rich Pierson to speak to the Board about their request for various Board Approvals. Supervisor Moore stated that he was very grateful of Rich’s leadership at GLS& W for the last 33 years. Rich is retiring this year and handing over the Director duties to John Crumb. Rich gave a brief history of the GLS&W Authority they started out with 900 customers and now service 2400 customers. They started with \$10,000,000 in capital, adding \$14,000,000 to increase their infrastructure. The purpose today was to ask the Board to approve and amend their Articles of Incorporation to fix Board voting issues, plus a rate increase to fund a \$7,000,000 cost to repair and maintain their infrastructure. They are requesting a 3.5% increase per year for 4 years. Trustee Durham also thanked Rich for his service to GLS&W Authority and the local community.

**Fire Department:** Chief Bogema stated that Ross Township had two house fires on back to back nights. One on G Ave. and the other on Ft. Custer Drive. The V.A., Galesburg, Bedford and Richland fire departments assisted on these structure fires. Doug presented to the Board the Fire Departments 2018/2019 budget for Board approval. Salary expense remains the same as last year at \$80,000. This is the last year the salary expense will be \$80K, due to the increase in runs every year. The Fire Department is also looking at a new Fire Truck through Spartan Motors in Charlotte, MI. Estimated cost is \$435,000. Doug said they will evaluate the budget going forward to see if this is possible. Doug also stated they have applied for various FEMA grants to pay for 90% of new equipment needs. This includes turn out gear, breathing units and thermal cameras.

**Police Report:** Supervisor Moore gave a brief report to the Board. The County Sheriff supplied a monthly Sheriff's report that was review by the Board.

**Parks Committee:** Supervisor Moore gave the report in Jon Scott's absence. The Parks Committee has engaged a Grant Writer to apply for a \$2,500 grant to help fund the installation of an automatic gate for Ross Township Park. Also the Board approved the addition of Gail Hurn to the Parks Committee to replace the seat of a departing committee member. Supervisor Moore also stated that he had gotten two requests to rent out the Park facilities. He asked the Board to think about this issue for a discussion at the next Board Meeting.

**Supervisors Report:** Mr. Moore stated that the Board has had three budget meetings to work through our 2018/2019 fiscal budget. Highlights were starting a contingency fund to fund on an annual basis to get the Township to have a fund balance of 4 to 6 months operating expenses. Supervisor Moore also talked about the new Police Committee. They have had two meetings since the last Board meeting. They are scheduled to meet every three weeks. March 28<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting to be attended by a retired Battle Creek Police Officer to speak on relevant issues. This Committee is charged with coming up with three things for police protection. Better coverage, lower cost and possible collaboration with local townships/villages/cities. A year end decision will be given to the Board for approval for 2019.

**Public Comments:**

Patricia Frohnafel: 3828 Heights Dr. Ms. Frohnafel wanted clarification of four items about the zoning in our neighborhood by Ross Township Park

1) Now that you are opening the park 24 hours a day 365 days a year, with the automated gate, who will be in charge of keeping the park grounds clean and tidy for all those days? Who will be there to enforce the no alcoholic beverages and no drugs on park property all those days? This nice quiet, relaxing family park is now becoming an entertainment venue and could be a source of criminal activity.

2) The property at 3840 E Gull Lake Drive has a pending short sale to become an assisted living facility for up to 5 clients. My understanding is that the backyard will be paved for parking. If we are now zoned for multiple residents, and commercial business, does that mean that I can now rent one or two rooms in my home to non-related individuals to increase my income?

3) How do these items relate to the mission statement that you will provide a safe environment in which to live and will maintain and enhance the rural character and quietude of our community as well as protect all the natural resources?

4) Are these zoning changes going to be effective for all township properties on the lake and near the lake?

Scott Hershberger 6789 N. 35<sup>th</sup> St. Scott introduced himself as CFO of Symponia Farms. A new Medical Marihuana facility that is going through the approval process to open a facility in Ross Township. They are a Veteran owned entity that is looking forward to being a great community asset to Ross Township. He gave each Board Member a one page synopsis of their mission and future plans. They plan on opening a location on property purchased on N. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. John Carras, Chief Information Officer of Symponia Farms also introduced himself to the Board.

Kyle Barker ( 7 Points Supply) Mr. Barker introduced himself to the Board. He represents the group, 7 Points Supply that has purchased land on 44<sup>th</sup> St. for a Medical Marihuana facility. They are presently going through the approval process to open a facility in Ross Township.

**Old Business:**

The Ross Township newsletter went to the printer today as stated by Supervisor Moore. It should be mailed by Wednesday of this week. The Township plans on a twice a year newsletter going forward. Supervisor Moore also thanked Melissa McKay in her assistance in getting the newsletter formatted and printed for publication.

**Other Old Business:**

Treasurer Genung stated that we still have two road assessments owned by Kalamazoo County that have not paid their assessment. Attorney Thall stated that there is case law that supports the County's position for nonpayment. We will still approach the Kalamazoo County Commission to pay the two parcels. A Board Resolution to partially vacate the two County parcels from the Road Improvement Special Assessment roll was moved by Trustee Durham and supported by Trustee Langshaw. Roll Call vote was : Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Moore-Aye, Genung-Aye, Blain-Aye, and Durham-Aye and passed. This will allow Treasurer Genung to remove these from the Special Assessment roll and release the tax roll for next year's taxes.

Attorney Thall stated that we have 27 appeals in front of the Road Assessment Tax Tribunal. These should all be heard by the end of June in Battle Creek, MI.

**New Business:**

Approve Gail Hurn to the Parks Committee, motion by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

Approve preliminary 2018/2019 Budget. Motion by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw. Roll Call vote: Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Moore-Aye, Genung-Aye, Blain-Aye, Durham-Aye, via teleconference. Nay- None. Motion carried. The Board will formally approve our 2018/2019 budget at a public hearing meeting scheduled for March 29, 2018 at the Township Hall.

Approve 2018/2019 Board Meeting Dates. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month. Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried.

Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority Resolution for rate increase. Motion to adopt by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Blain. Roll Call Vote was: Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye, Trustee Durham, via teleconference- Aye. Nays- None. Motion was carried.

Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority: Resolution to Amend Articles of Incorporation. Motion to adopt by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Clerk Kellogg. Roll Call vote was: Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Clerk Kellogg – Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain – Aye, Trustee Durham, via teleconference- Aye. Nays- None, Motion Carried.

## **Approve Outside Vendors fiscal year 2018/2019**

Approve the Township CPA/Auditor. Siegfried Crandall P.C. Motion by Trustee Blain, Supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

Approve Township Attorney-Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber et al. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

Approve Township Engineer-Prein & Newhof. Motion by Clerk Kellogg, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried.

Approve Building & Zoning company-Associated Government Services. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

Approve Financial Institutions – Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried. This includes having the ability to choose the Financial Institutions for Ross Township.

Approve Ross Township Fire Department 2018/2019 Budget. Motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

Approve 2018/2019 General Appropriations Act 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Resolution. Motion by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Blain. Roll Call vote is as follows: Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Supervisor Moore-Aye, Treasurer Genung-Aye, Trustee Blain-Aye, Trustee Durham-Aye, via teleconference. Nays- None., Motion carried.

Approve 2018/2019 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting dates. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

Approve 2018/2019 Planning Commission meeting dates. 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

Approve 2018/2019 Parks Commission meeting dates 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month. Motion by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

### **Members Time:**

Sid Durham: Spoke about spring arriving in Ross Township

Norm Kellogg; May 8<sup>th</sup> Election and using our new election equipment for the first time.

Cindy Genung: Tax Season over, Township has collected over \$1,000,000 in Road Assessment payoffs.

Gary Moore: Thanked everyone for their contributions to the Township

Motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg  
Ross Township Clerk

