

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2018**

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

Roll Call was as follows:

Present:

Robb Blaine-Trustee
Norm Kellogg-Clerk
Sid Durham-Trustee

Diana Langshaw-Trustee
Gary Moore-Supervisor

Jeff Price-Trustee
Cynthia Genung-Treasurer

Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Absent: None

Trustee Diana Langshaw motioned to approve the agenda, supported by Trustee Durham and carried.

Supervisor Moore opened up the floor for public comment, limited to 2 minutes per individual.

Approximately 34 people spoke to the Board about their concerns. The following is a synopsis of the points discussed.

Speakers for Medical Marihuana Facilities: 6
Speakers against Medical Marihuana Facilities: 26
Speakers Neutral on Medical Marihuana Facilities: 2

Concerns of Speakers against Medical Marihuana Facilities:

Repealing Ordinance(s) 205 and 209, insufficient public notifications to residents and no grow facilities in residential rural areas.

High fences with razor wire around the MMF.

Residents wanted mailers sent to all residents on MMF's. Kalamazoo Gazette public filings were not sufficient as to dates published. Lack of Township transparency on MMF's.

Ross Township Mission Statement concerns and Master Plan not followed correctly.

Request for all Board Members to resign.

Request for Supervisor to resign.

Request for Township Attorney to resign.

Belongs in an Industrial Park.
Concerns about the decline in property values.
Concerns about MMF's odor control or lack thereof.
Concerns about Public Safety and increase in criminal activity.
Concerns about excess Lighting issues and the increase in power consumption.
Also concerns about water consumption/ water runoff and wetland(s) impact.
Are there any monetary benefits to MMF'S?
Concerns about MMFLA-Issues – look at solutions.
Discussions about Board Member recall efforts.
Repeal Ordinances due to Board ignorance.
Request to get everyone's input / public discussion on MMF's.
Let's step back and discuss the MMF issues.
79 Homes surveyed in the Stoney Creek Development – a 67% response rate, 70% not in favor of MMF's

Points taken for Speakers in favor of Medical Marihuana Facilities

Medical Marihuana benefits individuals / prevents seizures and relieves pain.
There is lots of untrue information about MMF's being publicized.
Medical Marihuana provides medical help and alternatives to traditional medicine

There being no further Public comments Supervisor Moore closed the Public comment portion of the meeting at 8:07pm. Supervisor Moore declared a 5 minute recess and the meeting continued at approximately 8:15pm.

Motion to Approve the April Minutes/Treasurers Report and Paid/Payables report by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

Reports:

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department. Officer Christensen stated that the Township had 247 calls for service last month. A complete report was issued to each Board Member. He also stated that there were 2 fraud cases which included a boat slip rental and contractor fraud cases. Their Marine Patrol has geared up for the season and has already had some patrols on Gull Lake. Officer Christensen also spoke of bicycle week and be aware of road cyclists and pedestrians on our Township roads. Trustee Price asked if there is a certain distance a motorist must maintain while passing a cyclist. Officer Christensen said some cities/municipalities have passed a law but no law exists State wide. The State is working on a law to address this issue.

Ross/Augusta Fire Department. Chief Doug Bogema stated that they have had 96 runs ytd vs. 110 runs ytd this time last year. Some detail discussed was 9 fires, 13 vehicle accidents, 15 calls in the Village of Augusta. Chief Bogema thanked the residents of Ross Township for supporting the new Fire Station.

Old Business:

Ross Township Park rentals. The Parks committee discussed renting out the Park to private individuals for parties/ wedding receptions, etc. The Parks committee recommended that the Board not approve Private rentals for Ross Township Park. A motion to deny the private rental(s) of Ross Township Park was submitted by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Price and carried unanimously. Also the Parks Committee recommended the addition of Alex Harris to the Parks Committee. A motion by Trustee Durham to accept Mr. Harris as a new member of the Parks Committee, supported by Trustee Blain and carried unanimously. Also a discussion ensued about the re-roofing of the Park Pavilion building. This is needed badly as the roof is in poor condition. A motion by Trustee Durham, supported by Trustee Blain to re-roof the pavilion building not to exceed \$5,000 was presented to the Board. All Board members agreed and it carried unanimously.

New Business:

An Application for Fireworks was submitted by William Fayling at 12127 East G Ave. Augusta, MI. The date of the fireworks will be June 9, 2018. During a brief discussion entailed by the Board Trustee Durham spoke of supporting this request. A motion to accept this Application for Fireworks was submitted by Trustee Durham, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried unanimously.

Approve Policy Application from Exemption and Property Taxes: This form was submitted by our Assessor Angela Story for Board Approval. A motion to approve was submitted by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Blain and carried unanimously.

Law Enforcement Committee: The Law Enforcement Committee has recommended the addition of Karen Levine to the committee. Requesting Board approval. A motion by Trustee Durham to approve Karen Levine to the Parks Committee, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously. Gene McKay has been named Chairman of this committee. The committee is evaluating many issues and should have a recommendation to the Board within the next few months. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2018.

Treasurer Genung requested that the Township Credit Card be amended as follows: The old Clerks names should be removed and, add Norm Kellogg/Clerk and Cynthia Genung/Treasurer to the Township Credit card. A motion for Board approval was submitted by Trustee Blain and supported by Trustee Durham. It carried unanimously.

Members Time:

Trustee Durham stated that he has lived at his present address for the past 13 years and has no interest in any Medical Marihuana facilities. Mr. Durham also requested to have Attorney Thall and Township Consultant Rebecca Harvey answer questions as to our Medical Marihuana position, via website and or our newsletter. A motion to task this request to Mr. Thall and Ms. Harvey was submitted by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Price and carried unanimously.

Clerk Kellogg spoke of the May 8th election and asked anyone interested in becoming an election inspector to apply at the Township Office.

Trustee Price spoke about improving the communications of the Township on its issues and directives. Some possible solutions are hard copy mailings, expand the 300 foot notification for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals issues. Look at the cost/benefit of each type of communication and make recommendations.

Trustee Langshaw would like an application form to be available to join any of our Township committees/commissions, etc. Not many people have come to our Township Board Meetings in the past. All Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings are open to the public.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was submitted by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Blain and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk