

Regular Board Meeting
Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083

October 9, 2018

Members Present:

Diana Langshaw
Gary Moore

Michael Bekes
Norm Kellogg

Cynthia Genung

Members Absent:

Sid Durham

Robb Blain

The regular board meeting of Ross Township was called to order by Supervisor Moore at 7:00pm.

A motion to approve the agenda was given by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Bekes and carried.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was given by Trustee Bekes, supported by Clerk Kellogg and carried.

Reports:

Life Care: Ron from Life care gave a synopsis of Life Care's last quarter activity. 86 emergency call during the last quarter vs. 66 calls the previous quarter. They have had a 6 to 12 minute response time for all calls. Trustee Bekes asked are calls up due to a population increase? Ron's response was it is primarily due to an aging population.

Fire Department: Chief Bogema said Ross Township was a host for the regional fire grant (\$650K) to purchase new portable radios. The grant has been approved and will be shared with adjacent fire departments. (Galesburg, Comstock, Richland, Bedford and Battle Creek) They were turned down for two other grants this year. One of which for new turn out gear. They will re-apply next year. The turnout gear should be replaced every two years. Their equipment is past this point and in need of replacement. The other grant that was turned down was for new air packs. To reapply next year. They are also working on fire protection for Gull Lake Island for next year. Applying for a grant to fund a new fire boat/pumper. Fire prevention week has been successful. They went to Galesburg schools last week and Kellogg school this

week, with the CDC the following week. Ross/Augusta Fire also supports Operation Safe that supplies smoke detectors to lower income people of need. This also includes installation. They received a \$500 donation from the Rose Run to support active shooter training. Chief Bogema also stated that a resident called to say they received a solicitation call from the fire department for donations. Ross/Augusta Fire Department does not call for donations. Recent Fire Department activities were a road clean up at River Road to County Line (Ft. Custer) The department finished the required Fit and Pump testing. A reminder that the Fire Department has their annual fund raiser, the haunted house on October 27th. Please attend with your kids and grandkids, it is a fun event.

Police Department:

Officer Christensen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's department gave a report: He also stated that the Sheriff's department does not do phone solicitations to raise funds. It has been a quiet month for the Sheriff's department in Ross Township. A CSC complaint in the Fort Custer area by a known suspect. 2 larcenies by known suspects and one home invasion by a known suspect. Fort Custer has installed game cameras to monitor wildlife. They have had a few stolen. The Marine Patrol has stopped for the season. They generally had a good season, giving out primarily noise abatement tickets. The new Central Dispatch is now ready to start operations. Located in Oshtemo Township on Stadium Drive it will have an open house on Thursday at 6:30pm. They have also scheduled a town hall meeting to discuss the Marijuana updated at the Methodist Church in Richland.

Supervisors Report:

Supervisor Moore stated that last month we had the usual standard issues crop up. He asked Clerk Kellogg to discuss the Augusta Village ballot problem. The original ballot listed the school board election for Gull Lake Schools. It should have been Galesburg Schools. Replacement ballots have been mailed to all voters who got the wrong absentee ballot.

Public Comment:

Diane Charles: Discuss her view of the SAD and tax tribunal issues. Stating she thinks there are flaws in the implementation of the SAD district for Ross Township. Diane won her appeal to the tax tribunal for her one parcel.

Mike Sulka: Talked about recreational marijuana – the 12 plants per person allowed to grow if the proposal passes. He talked about having a neighbor negotiator for the Township to protect the township. Also opting out again on the township level. Can we write the opt out to show a neighbor negotiator?

Unknown resident: Asked if is legal to have a cross walk at 39th St. and M-89. Would it not be safer to have a tunnel under the road.

Old Business:

Kalamazoo County Road Commission: Supervisor Moore along with KCRC representatives has toured all of the new roads in Ross Township.

Speed Limit Signs: the 25 mph speed limit signs – The County and Township do not rule on these speed limits. The Kalamazoo County Sheriff patrols speed limit enforcement. Any 25

mph signs posted (i.e. by Mac's Garage) were not legal signs. Signs are only legally posted after the State Police complete a speed study and determine the correct speed limit.

MSU Road Assessment Payment: Supervisor Moore included a written agreement from MSU to pay \$40K now and \$40K next year to pay their \$80K pledge to support our Road SAD.

Law Enforcement Committee:

Supervisor Moore stated that due to a couple of resignations, we will seat a new committee after the November elections.

Household Hazardous Waste request:

This is a request from the previous month to increase our contribution in the amount of \$1,800 to cover the increase cost of our residents using the County facility to dispose of their hazardous waste. A report was requested to show the users. This report showed 311 unique users of the service from Ross Township. It showed no individuals using the service more than anyone else. Due to this report Trustee Bekes motioned to approve the \$1,800 increase contribution, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried with all ayes. An additional motion by Trustee Langshaw to amend the budget to reflect this change, supported by Trustee Bekes and carried with all ayes.

Other:

Also discussed, was future town hall meetings, code of conduct at all Township meetings and putting Planning Commission information on the township website.

New Business:

A) Planning Commission posting on the township website – Best Practice survey

B) Planning Commission/Township Board joint meeting in December.

C) 2019 Budget – to include a projector and screen for presentations

D) MMF opt out ordinance to be supplied for review for all Board members and residents.

E) Road SAD statement. Attorney Thall to appeal all decisions at the Tax Tribunal. An additional issue was the Township received a letter from our Bond Counsel stating the Township was within the legal parameters to approve. An appointed official is an elected official.

F) Kalamazoo County Sheriff's contract is under review. Attorney Thall has reviewed the contract and needs to revise some issues before final approval. Final copy to be reviewed and signed with the 90 day cancellation option still valid.

G) Victor Ezbenko – Planning Commission resignation affective October 1st. A motion to accept this resignation was given by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Bekes and carried with all ayes.

H) Township has 4 cemeteries under management. There are four trees, three in Yorkville cemetery, and one in Day Cemetery that need to be cut down. Abel Tree Service has given the Township a bid of \$3,450.00 to remove the trees. A motion to accept this bid by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried by all ayes.

I) Boundary line change – existing plat from Ed McCarty. Lori Davis a landscape architect presented a plan to change boundary line with the required 5' set backs on the Gull Lake bay

property. A motion to accept this request, pending the approval of both AGS and Angie Story our assessor to change the property line. Motion by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried with all ayes.

Also discussed was our November Board meeting, there may not be a quorum so the meeting will be determined at a later date.

Members Time:

Treasurer Genung: Summer taxes were due by September 14th

Trustee Bekes: Want to make sure our new Opt out ordinance includes all business for marijuana issues.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw was presented and carried by all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Norm Kellogg
Township Clerk