



Ross Township Board Meeting Minutes

12086 M-89

Richland, MI 49083

Tuesday June 18, 2019

6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 6:01pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Mike Sulka Diana Langshaw Dave Senkewitz
 Rob Baker Cindy Genung Lynn Harmon

Also, Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney, Alex Harris – Deputy Clerk

Absent: Norm Kellogg

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda made by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw. Carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda: A motion to approve consent agenda made by Trustee Langshaw supported by Trustee Sulka. Carried unanimously.

- Trustee Sulka - Is the \$100,000 building fund an annual payment?
 - Treasurer Genung – Yes
- Trustee Sulka – Why is there income from the 8th district court?
 - Attorney Thall – The township gets 1/3 of all tickets written.
- Supervisor Baker - Future consent agenda’s will include the quarterly budget report.

Reports:

Fire Department – Fire Chief Bogema - 74% medical calls, car accidents, help ambulance transport people, power lines down on highway, assist in Galesburg apartment fire, false alarms. Sold old fire truck to a department in Kentucky for \$25,000. Met in Evansville, IN. The lease payment for the new fire truck has come through, the thought is to pay it off this year.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in conjunction with the Fire Fighters Training council (FFTC) are trying to mandate extra training, they don’t approve of our training, we would need a state approved instructor.

- Trustee Harmon - Put out an official notice to keep our fire department, they may be unable to comply with these rules. TO CONTACT LEGISLATORS
 - Senator Sean McCann SenSMcCann@senate.michigan.gov
 - State Representative Matt Hall MattHall@house.mi.gov



Police Report – Directed Patrol 63, Liquor Investigation 1, PR/PRB/PRS 1, Property check commercial 14, Property check residential 3, Traffic stop 56.

Planning Commission – Have not met since the last board meeting.

Parks Committee Report – Park Opened Memorial Weekend, the big brush pile has been chipped, more debris has been cleaned out of woods and MSU-KBS allowed us to bring this debris to there “burn pile”. The chipped mulch will be spread around the newly created trail. Thank you Gull Lake Area Rotary for all the volunteer hours at the park and for the donation of the swim area buoys.

Don Diebler Rotarian – GL Rotary has grants to be given May 31, 2020. Projects that will be within our mission and beneficial to the Ross Twp Park, something like a Jungle Gym.

Supervisor Report –

- Roads Special Assessed District (SAD) – The projects for 2020 will not be done in 2019 due to PAR funds (\$75,000) committed for 3 years. The Road commission figures in mid-July reassess how much we are coming in under budget this year. Baseline being paved as an approach into 39th gravel road. B ave pavement approach into gravel road 45th street were not included in the first estimate.
 - Attorney Thall – Excess money has to be in the scope of the SAD project.
 - Trustee Harmon – Would you consider initial pavement and then a chip and seal the following year within the scope of the project? To get the maximum life possible out of those roads.

Summer rentals – Ordinance enforcement

- Attorney Thall - For now if we need to take them to court, we can pursue it.
- D ave bridge was replaced two years ago, RCKC will be painting the bridge this summer.
- Still waiting to hear the results of the May 2019 Speed Study on D ave from the State Police. Last November 2018 speed study was 35mph. Were hoping for a slower speed than that.
- C ave - July 8th road will be closed for 12 weeks. Changed from a culvert to a bridge.
 - Trustee Langshaw - Some of the pot holes on the primary road C ave are dangerous, call them to address this?
- Waste Management was audited by our Deputy Clerk Alex Harris, we were being charged to much for trash pick up last season at the park. We have a credit balance of -\$2,593.73

Public Comments:

- Judy Geary - Be very careful, people are expecting a refund from the road project.
 - Trustee Sulka – The SAD should be the main focus of our next fall newsletter.
- Fire Chief Bogema – The sirens inspection, revealed that the tree’s around the poles need to be cut down, both the Island Landing and on 38th st.
 - Trustee Sulka - Some communities are shutting these sirens down.
 - Fire Chief Bogema – The recreation on Gull lake & Sherman Lake may be a good reason to keep them active.
 - Supervisor Baker – We had a volunteer take down the trees at the park, he burns the wood, Ill ask.

- Rob Poth – The noise complaints need to be more evenly enforced. Most of the tickets written are at the sand bar, yet the noise occurs many other places. Hear anything more than 50 feet. The sheriff no long has a noise decibel meter.
 - Trustee Harmon - Have a permit for pirate day, marti gras, bike night, etc. ?
 - Trustee Sulka – Noise ordinance should be consistent with everyone on the lake, Prairieville Township, Barry Township & Richland Township.
 - Fire Chief Bogema – Sound decibel signs used to be posted for 86 decibels.

Old Business:

Gull Lake Quality Organizations (GLQO) Contribution –

Objective: \$1500 contribution – annual

Rationale: Four Township financial contribution

Requested board action: approve \$1500 annual contribution.

- A motion by Trustee Sulka to approve the \$1500 GLQO contribution out of the police budget, seconded by Trustee Harmon.
 - Passed unanimously.

Improvement Day Cemetery Driveway –

Objective: to build up drive in Day Cemetery with crushed asphalt for guidance and access.

Rationale: current drive is mainly grass over gravel and tires sink in when wet and sometimes drive off into cemetery plots on corners.

Requested Board Action: Approve spending up to \$6,000 for driveway improvements at Day Cemetery

- A motion by Trustee Harmon not to exceed \$5,000 for improvement to Day Cemetery, seconded by Trustee Langshaw.
 - Passed unanimously.

Health Benefits Ordinance –

objective: to discuss and create a health benefits ordinance

Rationale: Township Health and Benefits Ordinance is required by Law

Requested Board Action: Approve Ross Township Health Benefits Ordinance

- POSTPONE TO NEXT BOARD MEETING
 - Attorney Thall – By law required to have an ordinance. The resolution will carry out the terms and can be updated throughout time.
 - Have Jeff Lansky, our insurance agent come to next board meeting to answer any questions, and explain the resolution.

Pension Plan Ordinance 214–

Objective: to discuss and create a Pension Ordinance

Rationale: Township Pension Ordinance is required by Law.

Requested Board Action: Approve Ross Township Pension Ordinance

- Attorney Thall – Generalized Ordinance. The Resolution says what you are going to provide. The current plan through One America. Defined Contribution 10% of salary every year (similar to a 401k).

- A motion made by Trustee Harmon for the Pension Ordinance 214, and was seconded by Trustee Sulka.
 - Roll Call – Trustee Langshaw - Aye, Trustee Sulka – Aye, Supervisor Baker – Aye, Treasurer Genung – Aye, Trustee Senkewitz – Aye, Trustee Harmon – Aye.
 - Passed unanimously.

New Business:

ZBA Alternate Removal of Roger Schweitzer

Objective: Maintain Alternates who are willing and have time to serve.

Rationale: Roger is very busy and wants to resign as an Alternate

Requested board Action: Removal of Roger Schweitzer as Alternate on ZBA.

- A motion by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Trustee Senkewitz to remove Roger Schweitzer from the ZBA alternate position
 - Passed Unanimously

ZBA Alternate Appointment Blake Hawk

Objective: Maintain Alternates who are willing and have time to serve.

Rationale: Need 2 Alternates and Blake Hawk wants to serve.

Requested Board Action: Approve Blake Hawk as ZBA Alternate.

- A motion by Trustee Langshow and seconded by Treasurer Genung to appoint Blake Hawk to the ZBA Alternate position
 - Passed unanimously

Parks Committee Removal of Zach Klipsch

Objective: Maintain members who are willing and have time to serve.

Rationale: Zach has been very busy and unable to attend past and future meetings.

Requested Board Action: Remove Zach Klipsch from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

- A motion by Trustee Harmon and supported by Trustee Senkewitz to remove Zach Klipsch from the Parks Committee Board.
 - Passed unanimously

Irving S. Gilmore Grant

Objective: Review application being complete by Park committee for a grant to be used for the township park. Submission deadline is July.

Rationale: Enhancement of the township park (benches, play equipment, exercise equip, etc.). No matching funds required.

Requested Board Action: Approve grant application for submission.

- A motion made by Trustee Sulka is seconded by Trustee Harmon to accept the Irving S. Gilmore grant as written.
 - Passed unanimously

Cemetery Advisory Committee Definition

Objective: Create CAC Definition and Rules of Procedure Document

Rationale: Guidelines needed for CAC

Requested Board Action: Approve CAC Definition and Rules of Procedure Document

- POSTPONE TO NEXT BOARD MEETING

RT/RC District

Objective: Educate and align board members regarding this topic

Rationale: Opportunity is needed for discussion at Board level

Requested Board Action: Determine what, if any, further information is needed from PC. Determine if Board is aligned on this topic, and if guidance should be provided to Planning Commission.

- A motion made by Trustee Harmon to Suspend any article 14 RT/RC resort recreational because it is not consistent with the current Ross Township Masterplan, seconded by Trustee Senkewitz.
 - Passed unanimously

Members Time:

- Trustee Langshaw – Are we going to have an issue with MSU-KBS composting chicken’s again?
 - Supervisor Baker – I talked to the farm manager & they will never do that again.
- Trustee Harmon – The timeline for the law enforcement proposal will go out to the Village of Richland and the Village of Augusta to collect information for the July 12th police meeting.
 - 8/12/19 There will be a Q&A for the public at 6:00pm.
 - 8/20/19 The police committee will give a proposal to the township board.
 - The September meeting to vote on it.
- Treasurer Genung – The summer Taxes will go out a week from Thursday or possibly July 1st.
- Supervisor Baker – Bronco Asphalt did a good job on filling the cracks on the driveway at the Township Hall/Fire Station, to make it last a long time. Need to reseal & paint parking lot in 2020.

Motion made by Sulka to Adjourn and was seconded by Harmon.

Meeting Adjourned 8:46pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Harris

Ross Township Deputy Clerk