

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 6:03pm.

Roll Call was a follows:

Present: Mike Sulka Norm Kellogg Rob Baker
 Dave Senkewitz Lynn Harmon

Absent: Diana Langshaw Cindy Genung

Also, Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Agenda:

A motion by Trustee Sulka to approve the Agenda, supported by Trustee Harmon and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: As discussed, the AGS report was not included in the packet. Discussion ensued, Trustee Sulka requested priority call (911 calls) breakout on the Police report. Does the statistics show Marine patrol calls (yes). Trustee Harmon had a question as to the Treasurers report on Estimated Revenues of \$182,605 vs. \$182,305. To be determined after the meeting. MLive publication expense for public meetings, are they always a Sunday (more expensive) publication date? Township to use a Tuesday publication if a low priority public notice.

After the discussion a motion by Trustee Harmon to approve the Consent Agenda, supported by Trustee Sulka and passed unanimously.

Reports:

Fire – Chief Bogema did not attend the meeting so no Fire report was discussed.

Planning Commission – Trustee Sulka provided the previous P.C. minutes and agenda to review by the Board.

Cemetery Committee – Crushed asphalt was used to repair the Day Cemetery entrance and road through the Cemetery. Yorkville Cemetery will get a similar treatment in the near future. Clerk Kellogg stated that a resident had recruited the Wrestling teams of Gull Lake and Portage to clear the hill of brush at Yorkville Cemetery. Tentative work date is September 14th.

Parks Committee – A printed report was submitted to the Board. YTD park revenues at \$27,612.86. A slight increase from last years figures. The men's stalls in the restrooms will need replacement in the near future. A small discussion ensued in looking to install an automated gate at the Park for next year.

Law Enforcement Committee – Trustee Harmon discussed the printed report provided to the Board Members. The report included a recommendation to hire The Richland Police Department for Ross Townships police coverage. Trustee Harmon went over the metrics for their decision and discussed with the Board and interested residents in attendance. The board will move forward on the recommendation from the Law Enforcement Committee. One additional public hearing will be conducted before a Board decision is made.

Supervisors Report – Printed report is included in the packet that included a Road construction update, PFAS update and possible “no wake” zone in the Bay of Gull Lake. Additional last Friday a Magistrate handed down a court decision on 2 properties using their residences as short-term rentals. (Less than 30 days) The magistrate ordered a compliance within 10 days for one property and 30 days for the other property. 3 more sites were sent to AGS for review of compliance.

Public Comments:

Law enforcement Meeting on 8-19-19 gave good feedback to the community. Wanted to see more empirical data for police protection, i.e. perceived needs of the community. Have a contract with a baseline standard, and a good reporting mechanism.

Old Business:

- A.** The Ross Township Health Benefit Ordinance was reviewed by Attorney Thall. A consensus to remove section E, payment in lieu from the resolution for final approval. The Board will decide in the September or October Board Meeting to approve this amended resolution.
- B.** Cemetery Advisory Committee Definitions: The Committee does not have the authority to appropriate funds. Supervisor, and or Board approval is needed to fund any requests. A Motion by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Harmon to approve the Committee Definitions, but to exclude the second sentence in section 7.2. Passed unanimously
A second Motion by Trustee Sulka and supported by Senkewitz to authorize the Supervisor to spend up to \$1,000 without Board approval, subject to being within the approved budget of the Cemetery Department. Passed unanimously.

Any Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- A.** Recreational Marijuana Revisit – Trustee Senkewitz asked does our Ordinance cover the new LARA rules? Attorney Thall reviewed this and on Jan.1st we opted out for recreational Marijuana. Ross Township prohibits any marijuana establishments in the Township. Mr. Thall to review the new M.C.L. site to possible amend our Ordinance for clarification. Brook Lodge’s status to be reviewed by AGS. (Associated Government Services)
- B.** Group Seasonal Park Pass request – this will be passed back to the Parks Committee for recommendations. Some organizations have requested to

use the Park for their gatherings. Church groups, etc. A possible \$50 fee for 10 cars as an example.

- C. Yorkville Cemetery Drive maintenance – approve up to \$3,000 for crushed asphalt to repair and maintain Yorkville Cemetery’s drive. A motion by trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Sulka to approve this request. Passed unanimously.
- D. J.B. McKay platted lot line review – His existing lot frontage of 122.98 received a 2.02 variance from our ZBA. This request would move the lot line over from Lot 50 to create a conforming parcel of 125 feet of frontage, made up of lots 48,49 and 50. The other subject parcel of 122.98 feet made up of lots 50, 51 and 52. Resident Greg Smith discussed his concerns and the possible precedent this would create in the future. This request was tabled by the Board. The Board has requested AGS and the Mr. McKay to be present to clarify his intentions for the two named parcels. Also requested is a larger map, possibly color coded for easier review by the Board.
- E. Deviations from our annual Budget process – Trustee Sulka wants to know what a cost center is defined as. Also, the procedure for budget review and amendments if required. This will be addressed at the September Board meeting with a full 6-month Y.T.D. review of our budget and amendment recommendations.
- F. Any Other Business: None

Members Time:

R. Baker – attorney update for Sherman Lake Special Assessment. (Weed control) Also a Salary comparison of like Townships to review for possible raises next year for the elected officials. Our Police Enforcement is not budget driven. Looking into a possible ballot millage request to fund our Police protection.

N. Kellogg – reviewed our Consumers Power LED street light credit. After paying for the new LED street lights our credit of approximately \$5,000 will pay our utility bills for about two months.

M. Sulka – Law Enforcement Committee – reporting problems, has appreciated the work the Committee has done so far.

Attorney Rob Thall – confirm with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff that they will deputize any Village Officers in Ross Township. Be careful about this issue.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Clerk Kellogg and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk