

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
269-731-4888**

**Ross Township Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 20, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 6:02 P.M.

Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Mike Sulka Diana Langshaw Norm Kellogg
 Rob Baker Cindy Genung Dave Senkewitz

Absent: Lynn Harmon

Also Present: Rob Thall Township Attorney

Agenda: Trustee Langshaw had questions on the Park Committee report and Firefighters Ordinance, i.e. can Ross Township firefighters live outside the Township boundary?

A motion to approve the agenda was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

Sherman Lake SAD for Weed Control and Water Quality – 1st Public Hearing. Attorney Thall discussed the project and timelines. Project cost is estimated to be \$439,725. The YMCA property is not included in the proposed SAD along with a small DNR parcel. The second public hearing, scheduled for November 10, 2020 will discuss how the cost is spread over the affected parcels in the SAD designation. Dr. Jones presented Sherman Lake’s management plan which included a history and future plans, to be funded by the proposed SAD. Blue green algae have caused some concerns, but is something that the Lake Restoration Program will address.

A motion to open the Public Hearing for the Sherman Lake SAD for Weed Control and Water Quality was presented by Trustee Sulka, Supported by Treasurer Genung. The motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Public Comments:

Roger Schweitzer: N. Sherman Lake Dr. Wanted everyone to know that Dr. Jones has received the highest award in Lake Management circles. Mr. Schweitzer is a 40-year resident of Sherman lake. He spoke about Milfoil infestation and how it had increased every year. Since the mitigation it has reduced from 55 acres to 10 acres of the Lake. He supports the new SAD.

Mark Rodgers: Sherman Lake Dr. resident. Contests the spread of property parcels. This is a subject the next Public Hearing and will be addressed at that time. Information to be provided.

Nancy Boyd: Secretary of the SLRA Board. Many hours spent preparing and planning for the new SAD request. 71% of the owners support the SAD. One voice against this new proposal should not sway our determination to move forward.

John Succhi(sp?): Sherman Lake resident. President of Ever Blue Lakes, that has new technologies for lake air aeration systems. They have installed many systems in the past 10-15 years, including Sherman Lakes aeration system. It is now the standard approach for Lake Restoration projects.

Tom Saad: Sherman Lake resident and past V.P. of the SLRA Board. They have looked at competitive bids on Lake restoration as well as other options in the past for weed control and water quality. There is a limited amount of companies that had the technology to supply this kind of service. The YMCA has been a good steward of Sherman Lake. The SLAR Board have done their due diligence for Sherman Lake.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0. **The Public Hearing is now closed.**

At issue: A Resolution to adopt the Petitions and Boundaries of the assessment and authorize the assessment roll. Future challenges of the assessment roll can be made at the next Public Hearing on November 10, 2020.

A motion to approve the: Sherman Lake Improvement Project – Resolution Creating Special Assessment District and Granting Approval to Proceed with Project. The motion to approve all 6 (six) points was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw. A Roll Call Vote was as Follows: Sulka – Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye. The motion carried 6 ayes to 0 nays.

Residential Rental Ordinance(s) A future meeting to discuss issues will be attended by Rob Baker, Dave Senkewitz, Mike Sulka and Attorney Thall. Proposal to the Board in the future.

Tax Tribunal Planning Meeting: Copies of the court documents filed were included in today's Board packet. (23 parcels) Attorney Thall discussed his discussion with the clients Attorney for the Gull Lake View Golf Club. None of the proposals had any appraisals or any basis for the claimed reductions in property values. A meeting to be scheduled when specific information is available between Attorneys. We may have some updated information by the next Board meeting scheduled on November 10, 2020.

Property Maintenance Violation Ordinance: Supervisor Baker could not find a specific nuisance ordinance for Ross Township. Last month a reduction of 2/3rds from previous months issues. AGS has been more aggressive on-site visits and violation citations. Attorney Thall stated that the Township can enforce the State Building codes in the absence of a specific ordinance. This item will be removed from the future agenda, but will be included in the future if appropriate.

Township Park Ordinance: Park Committee will work on at their November committee meeting.

Private Law Enforcement at the Sand Bar: Jim DeKruyter spoke to the Board about the enforcement fund. They plan on raising \$20,000 to fund an annual ordinance enforcement officer(s) on the Gull Lake Sand bar. This will be a donation to the Township for the special enforcement during the spring and summer lake season. No enforcement will be done unless the money is on deposit at the Township prior to the annual season. The Enforcement committee will appoint officers, set hours of employment, etc. They will be Township employees. The Township will set up a budget for the funds in a restricted account only for the Sand Bar ordinance enforcement. **A motion** to approve the Action of the Township Board to authorize the Private Enforcement at the Sand Bar, not to exceed the donated funds, was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.

Private Road (LaBelle) Repair Funding: Martin, resident on Labelle Ave. was in attendance for information gathering. Any repair funding has to be born by the residents. Ross Township cannot spend funds on private roads. Residents, (road frontage) can petition for SAD repair. More than 50% of the residents have to agree to approve SAD funding. Two quotes have been submitted so far for cost estimates. The Township could set up a revolving fund to pay the up-front costs to repair Labelle Ave. A follow up meeting with LaBelle residents will be held tomorrow 10/21/2020 in our Conference room to discuss options, etc.

Full Time Employee Compensation: Estimates from an adjoining Township show the costs and cost savings for future discussion.

Any Other Old Business: Life Care Ambulance status. Supervisor Baker stated he received a letter today as to their present staffing status. To schedule a meeting with interested parties to get a follow up and information for Board review.

NEW BUSINESS:

November 2020 Board Meeting: A motion to move the November Board meeting from November 17th to November 10, 2020 was presented by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously. The new date will be posted on our website and Township Hall at least 3 days prior to the new date.

No Parking Ordinance: A copy of the Richland Township's Parking Ordinance was included in the Board packet for review and reference. Attorney Thall discussed how the Board can approve a Parking Ordinance. We would need to describe the defined area and the Road Commission would then post signs along the defined roadway. Deputy Sheriffs can enforce the new ordinance if passed. How to move forward: Form a committee to review. Get residents and business owners input. Bring any proposal to the Board, with Attorney Thalls prior review to consider a new parking ordinance. Lyle Showerman a resident stated that he would be glad to start the committee for recommendations. Lyle, Rob Baker, Jean Hansen, and Tom Cole and at least one business owner will form a new committee and set up a future meeting.

Wood Burner Ordinance: Issues discussed as to our Planning Commission review. Section 4D the 125-foot setback from the nearest property line, may be an issue. This setback may be a compliance issue due to parcel size on some properties. Any existing outdoor furnaces would be grandfathered into the new ordinance. Or the resident can ask for a variance if justified on a case by case basis.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 120 was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw. A roll call vote was as follows: Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye. The motion carried 6 to 0.

Eagle Scout Project Memorial Fund: Postponed to a future Board Meeting.

Any Other Business: None

Members Time:

Cindy Genung – dog licenses, the Township will continue to sell these to residents. No income for the Township.

Rob Baker – Duane Chambers- Township maintenance employee is laid up with back surgery for 6 to 7 weeks.

Norm Kellogg – November election, will be challenging.

Diane Langshaw – Newsletter needed.

Mike Sulka – Brook Lodge property sold to local resident.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:21P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk

