

Ross Township Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 21, 2019

6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 6:01pm

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 – Representing Ross Township in Gaylord, MI for the 2019 Organization Award - Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council - Honors. For Demonstrating Outstanding Achievement and Collaboration in Implementing the Core Principles of Asset Management.

Note – Trustee Mike Sulka had to leave at 6:45pm.

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

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

Reports:

Fire Department – Physicals for the fire crew were being done today from a company called Bio-Care. The past month there have been 23 calls, including a garage fire, medical calls false alarms, burn complaints, etc.

Life Care Report – n/a

Police Report – Preparing for events and other summer activity in the area, with regard to the lake, the Sheriff's Marine boat "Buster" is now docked at the Kellogg Biological Station on Gull lake. Also there are plans to have the deputy Sheriff make regular patrols at the Ross Township Park.

Planning Commission – We had a joint Township Board & Planning Commission meeting on 5/20/2019. Associated Governmental Services & the Zoning Board of Appeals were in attendance at the joint meeting. This will be a once a year annual meeting.

Mike Sulka - A question whether Township Trustee's and or Elected officials should be able to attend a PC meeting?

Attorney Thall – You can come & observe, could not have more than two of you discuss.

Cemetery Committee Report— Through volunteer work on Friday's at Yorkville, Day, Ross Center, Howlandsburg Cemeteries, including one day working with Gull Lake Gateway students. Cleaned out old pots, fence & stump's. Planted daylilies, boxwood shrubs with mulch. Painted all cemetery signs.

-Cheryl Morrett "I have been in this community since 1985 and this is our chance to give back"

Trustee Sulka " Thank You"

Parks Committee Report – Volunteers and the Gull Lake Rotary met 2 Saturdays to work on various projects, including Picnic tables, clear half woods. The North Beach has been regraded by Stap Bro's. The New Well has been installed with a new tank. The 7 buoys have been replaced & installed by a local dive club. A new grill has been purchased.

Donna Tellam "Thanks to many special people"

Supervisor Baker "The office will be creating a sheet with the date, location and hours. To recognize all our Volunteers in various committees, who have donated their time and talent. So the community knows."

Law Enforcement Committee Report –

Rescheduled from yesterday for the coming Thursday.

Supervisor Report – D ave speed study April or May, the last one was 35mph, were hoping this one will lower that with all the activity walking/biking in warmer weather.

Yorkville cemetery \$1,300.00 to remove a sycamore tree that had grown so big, it impeded two residents who had plots near.

Short term rentals – This has been on ongoing problem with neighbor complaints. The State Township ordinance may have no authority for anything less than 28 days.

Attorney Thall - Depends on how legislative turns out, couple different proposals, is our area a high need?

Trustee Senkewitz – Ordinance just like anything else on the books, we should enforce it.

Public Comments:

Michael Morrett – How do you know if people are putting their house up on BNB for less than 30 days?

Supervisor Baker – neighbor complaints.

Attorney Thall – Some municipalities actually have permit requirements. The state has – rental registration ordinance.

Trustee Harmon -How quickly is the state going to move on there short term rental compliance. Can we send a letter to inform homeowner's.

Alex Harris – Regarding Roads Special Assessed District – LaBelle/Fairview has 28 homeowners who have been assessed, the majority of these residents own two lots on each side of the road, yet the ¼ mile drive is not being redone.

Attorney Thall – Too late, the time to go to the tax tribunal is over. The township can not spend money on private drives. Best to try and turn the road public.

Old Business:

Roads- Supervisor Baker & Clerk Kellogg met with the Road Commission to discuss what was scheduled and how to spend leftover funds. We did come in under budget about \$600,000 last year and about \$500,000 dollars this year. Cost about 200,000 dollars a year to maintain these roads.

Treasurer Genung – We have the Bonds for a minimum of 5 years.

Attorney Thall – Argue in favor, as long as you are doing the same roads, better construction and better repair. Contact the bond council.

Trustee Harmon – We need to have a public hearing on the matter, to find our best option, to refund residents or use the leftover 1,000,000 to maintain the roads.

Also contacted MDOT about distance to M-89, the county needs a permit to take county roads right up to state roads. The Clerk and Supervisor approved to do work this year that was supposed to be done next year.

Newsletter – Good feedback, the cost was over \$2,000 – we look to send it out with the tax bills next time.

Budget Meeting – A motion by Treasurer Genung to amend the January 29th, 2019 minutes to reflect the actual January 8th, 2019 meeting. Supported by Trustee Senkewitz. Carried unanimously.

New Business:

Gull Lake Quality Organizations (GLQO) Contribution –

Objective: \$1500 contribution – annual

Rationale: Four Township financial contribution

Requested board action: approve \$1500 annual contribution.

- POSTPONE TO NEXT BOARD MEETING. –

Attorney Thall - Not allowed to donate funds, can contribute funds for service provided. This is a request for marine patrol, a service we could provide but contract this out.

Trustee Harmon We need to show where the money is coming from, any idea which fund it came from last year?

Gull Lake Dam Association Contribution –

Objective: to discuss Ross Township making a donation towards a new dam.

Rationale: current dam located in Ross Township affects many residents

Requested Board Action: Make a donation to the Gull Lake Dam Association to be used in constructing a new dam

- Amend motion from Supervisor Baker to pull funds from contingency fund, supported by Treasurer Genung. Passed unanimously, for a contribution of \$3,000.

Supervisor Baker – the Ross Township Park has 300 feet of water front, the request is \$10.00 per foot. The last dam was built in 1883.

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

- Table this to see if this is perpetual care funds or funds that have been set aside.

Attorney Thall – if it is an actual perpetual care fund, you can only spend the interest, or are these funds that have just been set aside as savings.

Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Definition (LEAC) Definition and Rules of Procedure -

Objective: Create LEAC Definitions and Rules of procedure document

Rationale: Guidelines needed for LEAC

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

- Motion by Trustee Senkewitz to approve the LEAC definitions and rules, supported by Trustee Langshaw. Carried 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. –

*subcommittee Rob, Lynn & Norm will meet with insurance agent to create a proposal to forward to Attorney Thall.

Pension Ordinance –

Objective: to discuss and create a Pension Ordinance

Rationale: Township Pension Ordinance is required by Law.

Requested Board Action: Approve Ross Township Pension Ordinance

- POSTPONE TO NEXT BOARD MEETING. –

Planning Commission Zoning Ordinance 213 Text Amendment

Objective: To clarify definition for yard reference front, rear and side.

Rationale: Confusion exists with current yard definitions

Requested Board Action: Approve Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments submitted by the Planning Commission.

- Motion by Trustee Senkewitz to approve the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments, Supported by Trustee Langshaw.
- Roll Call Trustee Langshaw - Aye, Supervisor Baker – Aye, Treasurer Genung - Aye, Trustee Senkewitz – Aye, Trustee Harmon – Aye

Members Time:

Treasurer Genung – Very impressed with the Joint meeting, this is the first time we have all been together like that.

Trustee Harmon – We have approval to purchase and install a projector in the community room. Ill find some quotes, if anyone else finds a quote please send it via email.

Trustee Langshaw – Do we need additional tables for larger meetings like the joint meeting last night, we needed more table space.

Meeting Adjourned 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Harris

Ross Township Deputy Clerk