

Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019

The Meeting was called to order at 6PM by Supervisor Baker

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

A motion by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to approve the Agenda, carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except the Police Report that was pulled from the Consent Agenda. All Ayes, carried unanimously.

A discussion of the Police Report ensued by Trustee Sulka to request that a breakout of the 911 calls is needed. Officer Christensen described the 911 emergency call protocols. Half of the calls are 911 based to their dispatch. Each call receiving a priority to respond to. Robberies and Break-ins received a Priority 1. A future report can reflect 911 calls. Officer Christensen said they can dig deeper into the report to assess additional information. Trustee Sulka asked how many priority one calls they received from Ross Township last month. Trustee Harmon wanted to know the average, mean and standard deviation of call response times. Officer Christensen went over the heat index report (calls for

service by time of day) for Ross Township. There are 6 to 28 officers on duty at all times in Kalamazoo County from the Sheriff's department.

Concerns stated were:

Marine Patrol: Officer Christensen stated that the Marine Patrol is somewhat funded by a DNR grant, but mostly out of the KCSD general fund. There is no obligation for a Marine Patrol in Ross Township through the KCSD contract. The primary Police Agency for the Township is responsible for the Marine Patrol.

Response Time: Officer Christensen stated that the closest car responds to emergency calls. If there are no close cars the call is automatically routed to the on-duty supervisor to ask for assistance from other Police departments. The Richland and County Sheriff's departments work well together.

Supervisor Baker stated that the Central Dispatch will be funded by all Townships/Cities in Kalamazoo County. Supervisor Baker also went on a ride along with our assigned Deputy Hoffman last week.

Being no further discussion of the Police report, a motion by Trustee Harmon supported by Trustee Sulka to approve the Police report as given. All Ayes, the motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- A. Fire: Chief Bogema state that they had 25 to 26 runs for the month of September already. They will exceed the run total for 2019 vs. 2018 figures. They expect to be busier with Life Care(s) cut back in hours at the Ross Township location. (time gap from 1am to 10am shortfall) The Fire Department purchased 10 portable radios and 12 pagers, 90% covered by a FEMA grant. The Fire Department has two people attending the emergency medical class presently.
- B. Planning Commission: draft notes of the past P.C. meeting are included.
- C. Cemetery Committee: Handouts of the report were given to all Board members. An Eagle Scout project is being reviewed for both Day Cemetery and Yorkville Cemetery. A group of Portage Wrestlers helped to clear brush on the hillside of Yorkville Cemetery on Sept. 14th. Ground cover was also planted on the hillside. Leslie and Win Howard (Ross Township residents) volunteered their time and tools/equipment to facilitate this improvement.

- D. Parks Committee: The Gilmore Foundation Grant request was approved for \$17,000. The funds have to be used within a year with no restrictions as to what it is used for. The Park will close October 6th for the year. Clean-up and winterization will be performed after the closing. An enclosed report from the Committee will need Board approval for playground and Eagle Scout projects. The DNR Master Plan is completed and has been sent to Supervisor Baker for review. This plan will also need re-approval from the State of Michigan.
- E. Law Enforcement Committee: Trustee Harmon stated that last night's LEC meeting (9/16) had lots of input and comments that were appreciated. A more detailed report will be given under New Business.
- F. Supervisors Report: Township roads mostly complete as to the 2019 schedule. Mid-Lake/Burlington areas will be finished by month end. The C Ave. bridge has a completion date of October 15th. A No-Wake zone is being pursued in the Bay at Gull Lake. The DNR has responsibility and will look into this request. Life Care- Steve Frisbee met with Supervisor Baker and Clerk Kellogg to state that their staffing will be cut back at Ross Township. They hope this is a temporary issue (6 months). TBD. Short term rental issues for Lake homes – the Township has an informal hearing in court September 30th for two residences. Attorney Thall stated that we have good cases against both properties for a positive Township outcome.

Public Comments:

A question on the SAD road assessment legality for two properties. Why did the Township not appeal the tax tribunal decisions?

Bret Pagett – Comstock Township's Treasurer distributed an MTA handout to all Board Members on Kalamazoo County issues.

Officer Christensen: Reminded all residents of the concert next Friday September 27th at the Horse Trial properties located west of the Village of Richland. They expect 6500 cars to attend. The concert starts at 6pm, ending at 11pm. Doors open at 2pm in the afternoon. Be wary of the increase in traffic expected.

LEC: Immediate call priorities and the necessity of more Police protection. Speed limit signs on D Ave.- when can we expect them to be installed?

The Taylor family expressed their gratitude to our Fire Department during a family emergency. They will make a donation to our Fire Department as a Thank-you for their excellent service.

Colin Rose Run: Also, will donate to the Richland and Ross Fire Departments from the proceeds of their July 4th race.

Old Business:

- A. Health Benefit Resolution. A motion by Trustee Sulka and supported by Trustee Senkewitz to approve the Ross Township Health Benefit Resolution as stated. A roll call vote was as follows: Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye, carried unanimously.
- B. Prohibition of Marihuana Establishments in Ross Township. Ordinance No. 216. A motion by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Langshaw to approve the amended Ordinance No. 216 as stated. A roll call vote was as follows: Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye. Carried unanimously.
- C. Deviations from Budget – tabled until the October Board meeting to discuss the 6month ytd budget figures.
- D. Any Other Business: None

New Business:

- A. Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) – follow up and request. Trustee Harmon discussed the 9/16 meeting. It was a good meeting with information given from all parties involved. The Committee has decided to pause and do more research. They will delay any changes to our Police protection until March 2020. A millage request (ballot proposal) will be reviewed to fund Police protection in Ross Township. Ross Township is one of a very few municipalities that fund Police protection out of our general fund. A possible ½ mill request that would generate \$175K in tax revenue for Township Police expenses. Ballot language is due at least 82 days before an election. Possible May 2020 election date. Most millage requests are for 4 to 5 years for Police Protection. A decision tree handout was given to all Board Members for review. The

Board discussed to use this decision tree as an example of our future decision. The Board discussed the funding types for Police protection (millage or special assessments). Preliminary ballot language is to be provided by Attorney Thall. A Township newsletter article to be published by mid-October to all residents as to law enforcement funding choices and information. A possible public hearing on October (Oct. 14th?) to discuss alternatives with our Township residents.

- B. Kalamazoo County Sheriff's contract extension – our contract does not expire on 12/31/19. It can be extended and continue into 2020 with any dollar changes as needed. A motion by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to continue our Kalamazoo County Sheriff's contract as written with the 90-day cancellation option into year 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Any Other Business – None

Members Time:

Trustee Sulka – thanked all committee members for their dialogue and contributions

Trustee Langshaw – echoed Trustee Sulka's remarks.

Clerk Kellogg – Election coming up on November 5th. Reminded everyone that you can now get an absentee ballot with no reason declared.

Supervisor Baker – good input from residents and committee members and it is appreciated.

Being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk

