

## **ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING JANUARY 13, 2015 MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Paul Dykstra, at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present:	Paul Dykstra, Supervisor	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
	Monica Markillie, Clerk	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
	Jon Scott, Trustee	Robb Blain, Trustee

Absent: Sid Durham, Trustee

Also in attendance: Township Attorney, Rob Thall

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Scott to approve the Amended Agenda which includes the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Adding to New business (A) item #1- Approval of the 2015 KCRC Par Funds;
- Adding to New Business (F) #1-The 2015 Board of Review Resolution and #2- Approval of the 2015 Board of Review Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

### Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Scott to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the December, 2014 Treasurer's Report, the Bills Paid and Payable Report and the Minutes of the December 9, 2014 Township Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

### Ron Slagel-Life Care Ambulance Service:

Ron Slagel, CEO of life Care, was present to discuss the quarterly reports October-December 2014. The Board received a handout that included a list of the most frequent emergency response types and response times for those calls. The Board thanked Slagel for attending the meeting and providing the information for the Board to review.

### Public Hearing – Island Cove Acres (ICA) Bridge Improvement Project Special Assessment

#### District Roll resolution:

#### Open Public Hearing:

Motion by Markillie to open the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

#### Public comments and questions:

No Public Comment

#### Board comments and questions:

Attorney Thall discussed the proposed Island Cove Acres Private Road (Bridge) project and the proposed Resolution confirming the 2015-2017 Special Assessment Roll. Thall inquired about the billing process included in the language of the proposed Resolution under item #2 of the second page. Genung stated it is her understanding she would mail a separate special

assessment invoice to the subject property owners rather than include the special assessment on the regular tax bill. Thall discussed the option of mailing a separate special assessment bill to the subject property owners on March 1<sup>st</sup> annually for a three year period with May 15<sup>th</sup> being the due date. Thall stated interest of 3% would apply to any unpaid balance and any payments made before such date would not bare any such interest. Further, Thall suggested having any special assessments unpaid after September 1<sup>st</sup> placed on the December winter tax bill as delinquent and subject to interest of 6%. Scott inquired about a timeline of the construction. After extended discussion it was the overall consensus of the Board to consider modification of the proposed ICA Resolution. Attorney Thall requested a copy of the Notice for review.

Close Public Hearing:

Motion by Langshaw to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Motion by Scott to approve the proposed Island Cove Acres Resolution Confirming the 2015-2017 Special Assessment Roll with the following modifications:

1. The Special Assessment will be billed out separately on March 1<sup>st</sup> and due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. The Special Assessment will become delinquent if not paid by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The same billing dates will apply annually.
4. Add to bullet point #3: The Township Board will presume its prerogative to terminate the involvement in the proposed Island Cove Acres Bridge Improvement project at its sole discretion.

The motion was seconded by Genung. Roll Call Vote Showed: Blain-aye, Genung-aye, Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Langshaw-aye and Scott-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes**.

Fire Dept.:

No new business to report.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Dykstra reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report for December, 2014. Dykstra provided an update on the status of the Rubick property relating to the demolition process. Dykstra reported the proper permits have been filed and fees have been paid. He added the Rubicks are currently waiting for Consumers Energy to sign off on the utility disconnection. Dykstra reviewed the remaining items included in the report.

Police Report:

Captain Bowen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. was present to review the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. Report consisting of calls within the Township for December, 2014 (see attached).

Supervisor's report:

Dykstra reviewed the Supervisor's Report for January, 2015. Dykstra reported the Township Recreation Plan has been approved by the State of Michigan and noted a copy of the approval letter is included in each Board Member's packet.

Parks committee:

Scott provided an update on the Parks Committee. Scott reported the Committee Meeting scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to bad weather. He reported the Meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Old Business:

Installment Purchase Plans-Rob Thall:

Attorney Thall provided a packet to the Board which included a report on financing improvement projects through installment purchase agreements. Thall discussed the process for this type of funding option as well legal requirements to consider. Thall stated a major benefit with the Installment purchase option is that the township can borrow the money at a very low interest rate due to the interest being tax exempt. Thall also provided a proposed timeline of the Township Hall project and two amortization charts which included monthly principal & interest amounts based on a 15 year loan at 3.2% interest and a 10 year loan at an interest rate of 2.74%. Thall inquired about the amount in the building fund. Dykstra reported the Township currently has approximately \$750,000 in the building fund. The Board discussed the two interest rate options presented by Thall.

Building Architectural Services-RFPs:

Dykstra provided RFPs submitted by three different Contractors as requested by the Board at its regular December, 2014 meeting. Dykstra requested feedback from the Board regarding the next step in moving forward with the proposed Fire Barn and Township Building. Genung expressed concern regarding moving forward with construction of a new building due to the Fire Millage increase that will be on the May, 2015 ballot. Further, Genung stated if the Fire Millage doesn't pass, the Township would have to fund the Fire Department's operational costs. Scott expressed his support in proceeding with the selection of an Architect and moving forward. Scott discussed the condition of the current building & fire barn. Dykstra stated he would like to move forward with the process as building costs will continue to rise and the interest rates available are the lowest they have ever been. Thall inquired about the total cost of the proposed building project. Dykstra reported the Board has considered \$1.2 million for the proposed project. Thall suggested \$750,000 as the additional amount the Township could borrow. After extended discussion the Board thanked Attorney Thall for providing the information regarding the installment purchase agreement options and addressing questions from the Board.

Motion by Scott to proceed with the selection of an Architect at the February Township Board Meeting. The motion was supported by Markillie and **carried**

Rubick's Property-Dangerous Building Update:

Review of this agenda item took place during the Ordinance Enforcement report discussion previously in the Meeting.

New Business:

Approve 2015 KCRC Par Funds:

Motion by Langshaw to approve the 2015 KCRC par funds in the amount of \$54,589. The motion was seconded by Markillie and **carried**.

Motion by Scott to accept additional KCRC Par Funds that may be available to the Township due to 2014 funding that wasn't used by other Townships in the County. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

Approval of 2015 Local Road Projects:

Postponed until the February Township Board Meeting.

Approval of Kalamazoo County GIS Agreement:

Motion by Markillie to approve the Resolution to allow Kalamazoo County Access to Existing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Approval of Ross Township Cemetery Fees-2015:

Motion by Genung to approve the 2015 Ross Township Cemetery Charges which includes a \$50.00 increase to all of the Cemetery Services. The motion was seconded by Blain and **carried**.

Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Program:

Motion by Genung to approve the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Agreement for 2015 which authorizes the Township to fund \$2500 to the County for services at the HHW Center. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Ross Township Fire Millage Resolution to adopt Millage Increase Ballot Language:

Motion by Genung to approve the proposed Fire Millage Resolution 2015-01 to adopt the Fire Protection Millage ballot language which imposes an increase of up to 1 mil for 5 years, 2015-2019 with the following modification per the recommendation by Township Attorney, Rob Thall:

- Adding housing to the language in the last paragraph of page #1 after equipment.

The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call vote showed: Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Langshaw-aye, Blain-aye, Scott-aye and Genung-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes**.

2015 Board of Review Resolution:

Motion by Genung to approve the 2015 Board of Review Resolution to Accept Alternate Dates and Protests by Mail for the March 2015 Board of Review. The motion was seconded by Scott. Roll Call Vote showed: Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Genung-aye, Blain-aye, Langshaw-aye and Scott-aye. The motion **carried with all ayes**.

Americans with Disabilities Notice and Poverty Guidelines for 2015:

Motion by Genung to approve the 2015 Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice and the Resolution approving Poverty Guidelines for the March 2015 Board of Review. The motion was seconded by Markillie. Roll Call Vote showed: Dykstra-aye, Markillie-aye, Blain-aye, Genung-aye, Langshaw-aye and Scott-aye. The vote **carried with all ayes**.

Member's Time:

Dykstra presented a proposal to the Board which included a request to designate funds in the amount of \$3500 to have the Township Website redesigned, a Township Logo developed and a Township newsletter and survey processed by the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal years.

Motion Langshaw to approve the proposal presented by Dykstra for the request to designate funds in the amount of \$3500 to have the Township Website redesigned, a Township Logo developed and a newsletter & survey mailed out before the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Scott and **carried**.

Motion by Scott to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Markillie.

Respectfully submitted:            Monica Markillie, Ross Township Clerk

