

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2016 MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Supervisor Dykstra.

Present: Paul Dykstra, Supervisor Monica Markillie, Clerk
Diana Langshaw, Trustee Sid Durham, Trustee
Jon Scott, Trustee Robb Blain, Trustee

Absent: Cynthia Genung, Treasurer

Also present: Rob Thall, Township Attorney
Doug Bogema, Ross-Augusta Fire Chief
Ron Slagell, Life Care

Additional attendees: See attached attendance sheet

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Agenda as presented. The Motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed which includes the Draft August 2016 Treasurer's Report, the bills paid and payable reports for September 2016, and the Township Board Minutes of September 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) Presentation:

Joanna Johnson and several KCRC Commission Members were present to provide the Township Board and Residents an annual presentation on Roads in Ross Township. Topics discussed during presentation were as follows:

- Ross Township Road ratings and road conditions
- Road funding options
- Road improvement and treatment options
- Future Ross Township Road Projects

Below are questions raised and addressed during the presentation:

- Resident Mike Murphey-Inquired about the status of improving 43rd St.
- Resident and Road Committee Member Barb McAllister- asked if the Township Board plans to pave the remaining portion of 42nd Street in 2017.
- Resident Roger Terryn- Inquired about implementing weight restriction on Ross Township's Roads.
- Resident Connie Bennett-Inquired about the par fund amount Ross Township contributed during 2016 and how that money was allocated.

After extended discussion, the Township Board thanked the KCRC for providing the presentation and further thanked the Residents for attending the meeting and for participating in the annual Ross Township/KCRC Road presentation and discussion.

Reports:**Fire Dept.:**

Fire Chief Bogema was present to provide an update on Fire Department business. Bogema presented a proposal to have the floors in the fire bays painted. Bogema shared pictures of Comstock Township's Fire Department Bays as an example. It was the Consensus of the Board to have Bogema obtain bids for the cost to have the floors painted for the next Fire Board Meeting.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Dykstra reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report for September 2016. Durham requested a status update at the next Board Meeting for the open Ordinance violations included in the report.

Police Report:

Dykstra reviewed the Police Report for calls in the Township for September 2016, (see attached).

Life Care:

Ron Slagell, CEO of Life Care, was present to provide an update on the Ambulance service. Slagell reported Life Care is currently seeking new ways to advertise their membership program.

Planning Commission:

Trustee Scott provided an update on Planning Commission Business. Scott stated the PC is considering the development of a watershed overlay district within the Township. Langshaw inquired about whether the other Townships in the area have watershed districts. Durham suggested the PC consult with 4 township's water Recourses and Gull Lake Quality for guidance regarding the matter.

Parks Committee:

Scott reported the KRVT received donations from two area business for the trail extension from Galesburg to Augusta. It was noted Enbridge donated \$100,000 and Eaton Corporation donated \$50,000. Further, Scott stated the Engineers working on the development of the Trail are considering the idea to have the trailhead in Ross Township next to the Gull Lake View Golf Course.

Supervisor:

Dykstra reported on this item under item (a) of new business.

Road Committee:

Durham reported the Road Committee reached a consensus at the last Meeting regarding the development of a Township wide road assessment District. Durham stated the Committee determined that a Township road assessment is the best option for road funding and improvement. Durham stated the Township Assessor will provide the number of parcels in the Township which will be used to determine the cost. Durham added the Committee will work with Attorney Thall to get the draft language for Township Board consideration. Scott inquired about why the Committee opted for a special assessment and not a Township millage. The Board further discussed the two funding options at this time.

Public Comment: No public comment

Old Business:**Fire Station Update:**

Motion by Durham to postpone moving into the new building until after the 2016 Presidential Election. The motion was seconded by Markillie and carried.

New Business:**Cemetery Discussion:**

The Board discussed an issue regarding the lower section of the Yorkville Cemetery relating to lots that have temporary in ground plantings in that area. Markillie stated the Township Cemetery Ordinance prohibits upright markers and in ground plantings. Markillie submitted a draft letter

addressing the issue. It was the consensus of the Board to mail the letter to the Residents who currently have in ground plantings and upright staked flowers.

Member's Time:

The Board discussed personnel issues during this time.

Motion by Durham to hire a temporary office administrative employee to work part time as needed until January 2016 at \$11.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Blain and carried.

Motion by Durham to increase the Deputy Clerk's hourly wage from \$10.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Scott and carried.

Motion by Durham to hire a temporary Treasurer until further Board Notice is provided. The motion was seconded by Scott and carried.

The Board discussed the Statutory and General duties of the Ross Township Elected positions. Langshaw recommended reviewing the duties and salaries of the elected officials. It was the consensus of the Board to review the duties and salaries during the next four year term.

Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Monica Markillie
Ross Township Clerk