

## Ross Township Board

### Regular Meeting / Public Hearing Road Proposal, SAD Public Hearing

#### August 8, 2017 Minutes

The regular meeting/public hearing of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Paul Dykstra, Supervisor at 6:58 pm. Roll Call of Members showed as follows:

Present: Paul Dykstra, Supervisor	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
Monica Markillie, Clerk	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
Sidney Durham, Trustee	Robb Blain, Trustee
Jeff Price, Trustee	Robert Thall, Township Attorney

Absent: None

#### Regular Board Meeting

##### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Durham to approve the agenda, supported by Langshaw and carried.

##### Approval of the Consent Agenda

**Motion** by Langshaw, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the June 2017 Treasurers report, Bills paid and payable Report July 2017, and the Township Regular Board Meeting minutes dated July 11, 2017 and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2017, supported by Durham and carried.

#### Public Hearing Road Proposal, SAD Public Hearing

**Motion** to open the Public Hearing by Genung, supported by Durham and carried.

Supervisor, Dykstra read the public notice and discussed the SAD Proposal along with the requirements to appeal and or protest through letter or public comments.

**Motion** by Durham, to place all public comments submitted prior to the Public Hearing and during the Public Hearing into the record of the public meeting. Supported by Markillie and carried.

##### Public Comments

Lou Bruska, 13757 East C Ave. Mr., Bruska read a letter submitted to the Township that included what are the fees and interest charges? Would like to know the entire scope of the project. What is the role of Kalamazoo County and the State of Michigan, and any cost sharing involved? How are the assessments determined for improved and unimproved parcels? Mr. Bruska believes that the revenue should be placed on a millage proposal not an assessment.

Robert O'Boyle, 1442 Burlington. Concerned about the older parcels that would not be able to rebuild. Mr. O'Boyle has 4 lots; would they be required to pay for all 4 parcels? Also concerned about the project details.

Larry Crittenden, 2026 Midlake Dr. Parcels equal cost, the size of the parcel does not matter. Mr. Crittenden also quoted the notice and asked what does "nearly all roads" mean in the notice. Are all non-profits being assessed? Attorney Thall discussed who is exempt under a special assessment. MSU is exempt as it is owned by the State. Supervisor Dykstra reported that MSU has offered to pay their full share of the assessment.

Diane Charles, 11490 East G Ave. The proposal letter is hard to understand. What is the proposed district as stated in the letter? Is the proposal still a proposal? Attorney Thall discussed that the proposal is to hear public comments of the proposed plan. Ms. Charles also asked how do you define "the district"? Supervisor Dykstra read the published notice to help answer that question.

Brad Warsop, 14750 East EF Ave. If you are assessed a fee for the roads you should pay your fair share. Everyone in the township should pay the same. Not fair that the Village of Augusta doesn't have to pay.

Klass Buurstra, 15076 East C Ave. Feels the Village of Augusta M-89 and M-96 should pay also.

Lou Bruska, 13757 East C Ave. Additional discussion that everyone should pay their fair share. Assessment vs. Millage.

Alec Borden, 1106 East Gull Lake Dr. Are there any plans to open or close any township road? Rumors that 38<sup>th</sup>/39<sup>th</sup> Streets are rerouted. No plans to open or close any township road.

Richard Laninga, 1570 Burlington Dr. Assessment is not fair for small frontage parcels Has never seen this type of assessment.

Sarah Sherman, 14770 East EF Ave. EF Ave, has not been repaired; several potholes, road partly paved.

Mike Ambro, 1341 W Gull Lake Dr, Assessment is unfair. How does the Kalamazoo County Road Commission get its funding? Joanna Johnson from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission stated that they get their funding from the State gas tax. Mr. Ambro also asked about the plan. Is it just to resurface roads? He would like more plan information.

Herman Dozema, 5528 N 37<sup>th</sup> St. What is P.A. 188? Recommends a millage that would assess properties above the median value and a credit for properties below the median value.

Michelle Tracy, 1703 Idlewild Dr. Thanked the Township Board for their hard work. Concerned about equitable payments as per the proposal. Definition of improved/ unimproved parcels. During this process is due process being protected? Has concerns about the protest process. Also, how much oversight will there be over the way the money is being spent. (Township/ KCRC)

John Bishop, 5948 Sara Ave. Private road owner, special assessment is not fair. Requested in the past to have their road improved and was turned down by the township. Submitted a petition to exclude their neighborhood from the SAD.

Rick Coult, 9807 N 48<sup>th</sup> St. In the late 1990's his father paid to improve the roads in Ross Township. How do we make it fair and equitable for all? The roads are not being taken care of. The worst roads are the county line roads, who is responsible?

Kevin Miller, 194 E Gull Lake Dr. supports improving the roads as our roads are a disaster. Mr. Miller questioned the definition of the district. Paying for 9 parcels, recommends that we succeed from Kalamazoo County. How much power is the district going to have? Who controls the district? Attorney Thall answered that a plan is developed once the district is established. The Board hears the public comments and can consider the comments that are made. What is the taxing authority? Also what happens to the roads in 2028? Attorney Thall stated that this assessment is a one time deal.

Christine Russell, 5910 Forrest Beach. Assessment not fair to private road owners. Receives very little benefit. Requested service from the Road Commission and has never received a call back.

Mike Ambro, 1341 W Gull Lake Dr. What is the next step in the long term plan? Is there a maintenance plan? 20 miles of failed roads due to inactivity. Supervisor Dykstra spoke about the township budget of \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year for road improvements.

Sara Sherman 14770 East EF Ave. Semi trucks have torn up their road due to the new golf course construction.

Larry Crittenden, 2026 Midlake Dr. Not enough money in the general fund. Need a millage to fund road projects for the future.

Jon Scott, 6820 N 37<sup>th</sup> St. Spoke as a business owner and previous Township Trustee. A lot of thought and preparation was put into the proposal, from board members and township residents. Fixing the roads is very important. There are many hidden taxes to pay in the future if we do not fix the roads. This is about the community. The roads will be unsafe for EMT vehicles and school buses if not repaired. The golf course will pay its fair share as per the assessment.

Suzanne Widmer , 15850 East B Ave. Paid to have the roads redone 7 years ago. Do we have to pay again for the other roads?

Herman Dozema, 5528 N 37<sup>th</sup> St. What happened to the 20 roads that have failed? Lack of a long term plan. The roads are in terrible shape. Why hasn't the Board considered a Millage? Supervisor Dykstra stated that was looked at but the assessment was a better option.

Jane Baker, 7421 Pinebrook. How did the Board determine the roads in the plan? 48<sup>th</sup> Street has numerous pot holes. Who takes care of 48<sup>th</sup> street since it is on the County line, Kalamazoo or Calhoun County? Joanna Johnson from the Road Commission addressed the questions regarding who is responsible for county line roads. Shared responsibility between counties depending on the location.

Brad Warsop, 14750 East EF Ave. How much is the millage in Climax Township? Mark Worden from the Road Commission stated that it was 1 mill. Mr. Warsop supported a millage solution

Donna Pieracini, 12124 Sherman Lake Dr. How are parcels defined and assessed?

Lou Bruska, 13757 East C Ave. Has two issues. What is equitable? Base the assessment on frontage, more equitable. Has concerns about the process. Is there a process for a millage request? If there is no millage the issue will come up again.

John Bishop, 5948 Sara St. How did the Board gain the authority to assess for road repair/improvements? Few people decide for the township. Attorney Thall stated the Board can act out its own motion.

Kevin Miller, 194 East Gull Lake Dr. Have we explored any matching funds from other entities; State or Federal sources? Is the Road Commission going to address the drain issues. Mr. Miller is concerned about rainfall runoff going directly into Gull Lake. Mark Worden from the Road Commission stated they will address any drain issues.

Donna Pieracini, 12124 Sherman Lake Dr. Why not assess the parcels based on frontage? Can you do a special assessment on property values?

Jim Gorka, 1282 N Burlington Dr. 30% of the Township property is designated non profit. Does the special assessment include non profit properties? Yes.

Michelle Tracy, 1703 Idlewild Why 2 times the price for an unimproved parcel? Supervisor Dykstra answered questions regarding improved/unimproved parcels.

Tammy Woodhams, 12420 East D Ave. Concerns about flooding in the Bay. Will these issues be addressed prior to the road project? What does it mean to maintain roads? Does not approve of the chip and seal road repair. She owns unimproved parcels, can they be merged? Mark Worden addressed some drainage issues. Some fall under the drain commissioner. Joanna Johnson discussed the retention basins relevant to water discharge into Gull Lake. Both Mark and Joanna will look into drain issues as it pertains to our area.

John Bishop 5948 Sara St. ½ mile private road, can we get an answer as to consideration for a private road?

Mike Ambro 1341 W Gull Lake Dr. Do unimproved parcels have to be buildable?

Pam McQuire 15739 East B Ave. 44<sup>th</sup> St. is full of potholes.. Need to use 44<sup>th</sup> street to leave their home. You cannot drive a straight line on the road due to potholes. 44<sup>th</sup> St not scheduled until 2019 for improvement. Concerned we won't have the money in 2019 to fix.

Linda Moore, 8181 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street. What is the total payments for an improved parcel. \$2,600. What is the interest rate? Supervisor Dykstra addressed this issue. It depends when the bond is set. What is

included for the total cost? Administrative fees; attorney fees; federal fees are included in the bond issue.

Larry Crittenden, 2026 Midlake Dr. Questioned the interest rate on the bond issue. Also what is the definition of contiguous parcels? The parcels need to touching or across the street according to Attorney Thall.

Linda Moore 8181 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Baseline Road to 40<sup>th</sup> Street Who is responsible for this road? Barry County is responsible according to Ms. Johnson.

Lyle Showerman, 12406 East D Ave. What is preventative maintenance? Chip n Seal is the preferred method. It is 1/6<sup>th</sup> the cost of reconstruction according to Mark Worden of the Road Commission. Why would someone be required to pay the full amount for chip n seal?

Peter Dykema, 15999 Brooklodge Road. 40<sup>th</sup> St, to 42<sup>nd</sup> St to baseline road is Kalamazoo County not Barry County. If the plan works how can the State of Michigan do all roads in State. Michigan roads are the worst in the Country. Could the State assume more responsibility? Also paid to have 42<sup>nd</sup> Street done by the foot. Supervisor Dykstra answered the above questions.

Alex Stucky, 10544 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Does the plan include maintenance? Can the Road Commission fix the overgrowth of vegetation and lack of shoulders on 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Is there funding to maintain tree trimming, etc? When will the assessment be effective if passed? December 1, 2017.

Jim Smith, 9331 N 48<sup>th</sup> Street. Pot hole repair done by the County does not last very long.

Mike Moore 8181 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Biggest point is don't lose enthusiasm, get involved. Can we have representatives from Barry County at our next meeting? Joanna Johnson from the Road Commission described jurisdictions for county line roads.

Peter Dykema, 15999 Brooklodge Road. Did not receive first two postcard mailings. How can he get new cards/meeting announcements? Road Commission only filled in part of the potholes. How do they decide? Joanna Johnson from the Road Commission described their process.

Mary Carol Wilkins, 2128 Midlake Dr. How can you contact the Road Commission with road issues? Service requests can be phoned to 269-381-3171 or to their website. Potholes on side streets are not being addressed. Joanna Johnson addressed the pothole issues.

Donna Pieracini 12124 Sherman Lake Road. Stated when she has called the road commission they have been very responsive.

Sid Durham, 1348 Burlington Dr. Called in 2 pot holes on E Gull Lake Drive last week, still has not been taken care of.

Motion to close the Public Hearing by Trustee Blain, supported by Trustee Durham and carried at 8:55 pm.

**Board Comments:**

Supervisor Dykstra discussed his resignation from Ross Township and addressed the road issue. Supervisor Dykstra introduced the new Supervisor, Gary Moore starting August 14, 2017.

All Board Members expressed their appreciation of Paul's hard work and contributions to Ross Township over the past 3 years.

**Motion**

Trustee Durham motioned to postpone establishing a SAD district until the next Board Meeting on September 12, 2017. Motion was supported and carried by a unanimous vote from the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Norm Kellogg, Deputy Clerk Ross Township.