

Ross Township Regular Board Meeting

August 14, 2018

12086 M-89

Richland, MI 49083

The regular meeting of the Ross Township Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor Moore.

Roll Call was as follows:

Present:

Michael Bekes	Diana Langshaw	Norm Kellogg
Gary Moore	Cynthia Genung	

Absent:

Robb Blain	Sid Durham
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Also Present: Rob Thall, Township Attorney

Michael Bekes, our newly appointed Trustee gave a brief bio and introduction to his work history. Supervisor Moore introduced Sheriff Fuller from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's department

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of adding the meeting minute approval for June 8, 2018 was presented by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Treasurer Genung and carried.

A similar motion was presented by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Treasurer Genung to approve the consent agenda and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Bogema stated that they have had 155 runs YTD, down 45 runs from last year. They had to back up the VA fire department due to the large apartment fire in Battle Creek. 12% of the calls have been structure/ vehicle fires. The Fire Department participated in the Rose Run on July 4th, a summer reading program at the McKay Library and assisted in traffic control for the Sherman Lake Y's Terminator triathlon.

Chief Bogema would like to replace their oldest truck housed in the Augusta fire station. It is 25 years old and has had significant repairs to keep it functional. A new truck will cost approximately \$500K. The Department promoted Rob Leatherman to Captain. Additionally the fire department will have their annual car show fundraiser in August this coming Saturday August 18th.

Trustee Bekes had a question as to the definition of Fire Runs (structure fires) and their definition. Also the mechanical failures of the old truck, \$6K in recent repair costs. Supervisor Moore Thanked Doug and his crew for all the work they do both privately and publicly.

Police Report: Both Sheriff Fuller and Asst. Sheriff Christensen were in attendance to our Board Meeting. Officer Christensen gave the monthly report to the Board. July saw an uptick in Larcenies In Ross Township. A jet ski was stolen, a break in at the Dock at Bayview, with a possible suspect being charged. The Sheriff's department had 3 death investigations, one an opioid overdose. Pirate's day on Gull Lake went very well this year with no major complaints. Some minor noise ordinance violations, etc. Mardi Gras on the Lake should be a similar experience. The Sheriff's department broke out the Augusta Village stats on this month's report. The Sheriff's department wants to present to the full Ross Township Board their services provided to support keeping the Sheriff's department as the primary law enforcement entity in Ross Township. Trustee Bekes asked has the full Board seen the presentation from the Sheriff. No, only the two Board members on the Police Committee. Are our trends similar to other townships, generally yes. All townships have opioid issues. Gull Lake has an officer in their school system. B&E's and larcenies, PFAS involvement in Parchment. Their emergency management division handles the PFAS issues in Parchment. Their marine division covers Gull Lake and the shoreline for any issues. Their marine presence ramps up during the busy party (Pirates Day) occurrences. They had 17 people on staff this year for Pirates day. The Sheriff stated that on a per capita basis, we have the same occurrences for opioid issues. A resident asked, If the Township contracts with other police providers, we do not lose Kalamazoo County Sheriff coverage for Ross Township? Feels we need more coverage. Supervisor Moore stated that many residents have said thank you for the Marine Patrol, good job on the water. Dave Brevy, Richland Village President, said that Richland could serve Ross Township and provide better coverage as presently done by the Sheriff's department. The Sheriff also presented a written report to the Board that will be included in the Board meeting minutes.

Life Care: Steve Frisbee from Life Care provided a report to the Board. Calls have been down on medical emergencies. There have been 38 deaths in Calhoun County from opioid overdoses. The age range is as young as 8 and as old as the mid-70s. Fentanyl calls are down, this is a very dangerous drug. Most of their calls have averaged a 7 to 11 response time. No locations of specific call reasons are shown on the report map, due to HIPPA concerns. Fire Chief Bogema added that many of the opioid issues started with people getting addicted to pain killers through a prescription from their doctor.

Supervisors Report: Supervisor Moore stated that we have filled the Trustee and Planning Commission openings and it has been a challenging two months.

Public Comments:

Don Lavender: hold board members accountable for holding the residents hostage, many residents are disappointed in the Board. Asked for the Board to defer ordinance changes, law enforcement, Park issues and Master Plan. Purchase a new fire engine for the fire department.

Diane Charles: Old business, road issues

Michael Moore- asked the Board to involve citizens in law enforcement decisions for future decisions.

Tim Walters- encourage Board to hear the Sheriff Fullers presentation and open an invitation to Bedford Police for possible collaboration.

Angela Walters – learn from the past, More transparency

Mike Sulka- Town hall meetings for police decisions, Questions and answers.

No name – warranty on road repairs for 43rd Street.

Laura Williams- Public comment both before and after Board decisions., Planning Commission, change in the Master Plan. Place making issue, has a concern about Master Plan changes. Law enforcement committee lacking in meeting minute details. Listen to the Sheriff, Medical and Recreational Marijuana

issues, who is being pro-active to protect the community? Slow the process down on Police issues with measurable terms. Town hall sessions on issues.

David - Slow down decision making- educate details and analysis to the residents. Full and transparent discussion.. Police and Master Plan discussions needed for full disclosure before changes implemented. What is the status of Brook Lodge? Supervisor Moore addressed this, they plan on rehabbing many of the buildings and have a business development center and community used facilities. They need to come to the Planning Commission for a site plan, etc.

Old Business:

Kalamazoo County Road Commission: Every Monday morning Supervisor Moore meets with KCRC staff and Lakeland Asphalt to review issues and complaints from our road construction in Ross Township. Good progress is being made and the entire project could be completed in two years instead of the three year plan. Resident complaints of the lack of a road shoulder were addressed. A separate company does the road edging. It will be completed, just be careful while driving on these newly paved roads.

Richland Village Police Update: December 31, 2018 our contract expires with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff. The Law enforcement committee has had numerous meetings with the Sheriff and village police departments. Gene McKay is not present tonight as committee chair to discuss the details. The committee has recommended to the Board to partner with the Richland Village Police department for 80 hours per week coverage. The committee stayed with the same recommendation even after the Township Board opted out of the Medical Marijuana ordinances. The preliminary survey results show the Township residents wanted to stay the same 40 hours of coverage (50%), increase to 60 hours coverage (35%) and have less coverage than present (5%).

A short discussion ensued with Trustee Bekes asking about can the Sheriff give us a 30 day grace on the 90 day agreement to cancel the annual Sheriff's contract. No 30 day grace period is available, but the Sheriff stated that the Township can cancel the contract at any time with a 90 day notice to both parties. Trustee Langshaw still has questions she wants answers to. Sheriff Fuller wants to be here for any town hall meeting to present their law enforcement package. He is available the 3rd week of September for a presentation. A motion was presented to have a town hall meeting the 3rd week of September by Trustee Bekes, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried. Date/ time and venue to be determined at a later date.

The Road Assessment tax tribunal had some parcels invalidated. 15 appeals to the tax tribunal, we are still waiting for the final order from the court on these properties. What is the status of the Michigan State University payment as to their road assessment. Supervisor Moore stated they have still not paid but is in contact with Andy Widenar of MSU.

New Business:

Jesse Zamora's resignation from the Planning Commission. Supervisor Moore read the resignation letter to the Board effective immediately. A motion by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Treasurer Genung to accept Mr. Zamora's resignation. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion to appoint Mark Markillie to the Planning Commission was presented by Treasurer Genung, supported by Clerk Kellogg and carried unanimously.

Prein and Newhoff: New address fee has been raised from \$35 to \$45. A motion to accept this new fee cost structure was presented by Trustee Langshaw, and supported by Trustee Bekes and carried unanimously.

Four Water Township Water Resources Council. Contribution of \$500 annually. Benefit to the Township is the Water Quality testing. A motion to approve this contribution was presented by Trustee Bekes, supported by Clerk Kellogg and carried unanimously.

Planning Commission Master Plan update: A minor revision to the plan will cost \$4800. This will allow the PC to wait until the 2020 census for a major revision in 2021. The estimated cost of a complete revision will be in the \$35K to \$50K range. Trustee Bekes asked about the review process. The PC has to review the plan every 5 years. What does the \$4800 buy the Township? It will provide a minimum but still effective revision to do a complete revision in 2021. The timeline for a complete revision is a 10 month period. A full Master Plan revision will have Township Hall meetings, surveys and expert witnesses are part of the cost to revise. A short explanation of Rebecca Harvey's (Township Consultant) hiring process was discussed. A motion to support the \$4800 expenditure for minor PC revisions was presented by Trustee Bekes, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried unanimously.

Fire Escrow withholding Program: This is a no cost option for the Township. The program is a State of Michigan supported way to address Burned down homes where the owner does not have the means to pay for cleanup and debris removal. 25% of the cost, with a \$6700 maximum is put in escrow to help pay the cleanup costs. A motion to accept this program in the form of a resolution was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Bekes. A roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Bekes, Aye, Trustee Langshaw-Aye, Clerk Kellogg-Aye, Supervisor Moore- Aye, and Treasurer Genung-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Possible future opt-out ordinance for Medical Marijuana. If the November ballot proposal to approve recreational marijuana passes, each local community needs to opt out or opt in again if the referendum passes. Whatever happens the opposing party can petition for a ballot referendum to opt in / opt out. A discussion ensued that the Ross Township Board needs to prepare for an opt out ordinance after the November election bill passes for Recreational Marijuana. A motion was presented by Trustee Bekes to prepare this ordinance in advance, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried unanimously.

Refund of Medical Marijuana License Fees – Treasurer Genung proposed that we refund 75% of the license fees back to the appropriate Marijuana entities, with the Township keeping 25% to cover Township Costs of the licensing process. Attorney Thall stated that we cannot charge a fee above our cost structure. If accepted by the Medical Marijuana entities, they would also need to sign a waiver of liability back to the Township. Treasurer Genung will prepare a cost breakdown to support this request. A motion to cover the Township costs and refund the difference back to the Medical Marijuana entities with a signed liability of waiver was presented by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

Trustee Bekes wanted the Board to consider additional Town hall meetings for question and answer periods and to discuss survey results, etc. Trustee Bekes agreed to help Supervisor Moore come up with an appropriate venue for such Town hall meetings.

Members Time:

Clerk Kellogg stated that at the September Board meeting he will have the annual audit results for review and approval. The audit will, with some general ledger adjustments needed per our auditor for specific corrections and adjustments.

Trustee Bekes had questions on election issues, the drawing of names and election questions. These were addressed by Clerk Kellogg as to the process of a re-count, ballot storage and tracking of the sealed ballot bags and ballot security.

Supervisor Moore encouraged everyone to assess the Kalamazoo County site for an upcoming PFAS issues and future testing into Ross Township. The recent Township Survey results will be available to the Board this week. Supervisor Moore also stated that Gene McKay was not in attendance at tonight's Board Meeting due to the fact he has been threatened both in person and with a note left on his car and did not feel safe in attending the meeting. Supervisor Moore stated that this intimidation and threats needs to stop immediately and is not acceptable.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Bekes and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk