

**Ross Township  
12086 M-89  
Richland, MI 49083  
269-731-4888**

**Regular Board Meeting  
November 10, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting is called to order at 6:01pm 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		
	Kelly Largent – AGS		

A motion to approve the agenda was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:**

**Public Hearing on the Sherman Lake Assessment District Roll.** The public hearing is now open. Mark Rodgers presented his protest of the apartment complex assessment for: Beatty Apartment Complex located at 12301 S. Sherman Lake Drive. Five buildings on the property, House, Triplex and Duplex (3) Current assessment is the same for Mr. Rodgers' property (one structure) and the Beatty property. A detailed map and explanation for his request is included in the Board packet. Proposed assessment from Mr. Rodgers accordingly to value and benefit units of the Beatty property would be 5.5 benefit units. Beth Gilmer – supported Mr. Rodger's assessment based on value. Nancy Boyd spoke as a member of the Sherman Lake SAD Board. She agrees with the present assessment based on parcel number only. There being no further public comments, a motion to close the public hearing was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Sulka. The motion carried unanimously, and the public hearing was closed.

Attorney Thall discussed the Sherman Lake SAD roll. There is no scientific formula to base assessments. They are done on a per parcel basis. Any multiple structures or docks must pre date the Sherman Lake ordinance to be in compliance. Attorney Thall does not look at the value of the property, but access to the land/lake issue. \$550 per year will be the single benefit assessment for the proposed new Sherman Lake SAD. 115 parcel benefits in total. Attorney Thall also stated that it is hard to quantify multi benefit

per parcel. (Proportionality to value) There is also court cases supporting this valuation. Trustee Senkewitz inquired as to, could be use waterfront footage as a basis? A discussion ensued as the Beatty property being zoned commercial or residential. Kelly Largent of AGS stated that it is presently zoned residential. It could be in non-compliance as to the 5 docks on the property. There being no further discussion a motion to approve the Sherman Lake SAD roll as written was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Treasurer Genung. A roll call vote was as follows: Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

#### **Local Watercraft Control Ordinance**

Supervisor Baker talked to Corporal Perez at the DNR. There is still public comment until 11/19/2020 at the DNR. After this date a discussion will be made and a full written explanation will be provided to the Ross Township Board.

#### **Residential Rental Ordinance**

Committee to meet 11/24/2020 at 6pm at the Township Office. Rob Baker, Dave Senkewitz, Mike Sulka, Rob Thall and Bert Gale from AGS to attend.

#### **Tax Tribunal**

No additional information from Attorney Thall. GLV's attorney has not provided any type of basis for their request yet.

#### **Township Park Ordinance**

Park Committee working on a resolution. Trustee Langshaw stated that this should be completed by March 2021 for Board review and possible adoption.

#### **Private Law Enforcement at the Sand Bar**

\$20,000 pre funding to the Township has not been made as of today. Waiting for the funding to move forward.

#### **Private Road (LaBelle) Repair Funding**

Petition is in the hands of the residents to get the required signatures to proceed.

#### **Full Time Employee Compensation**

A question on insurance premium costs for older employees. Trustee Harmon discussed a serious need to look at this as a total compensation package for the required skill set. Supervisor Baker discussed handouts showing compensation full-time employees received in lieu of taking health benefits from Richland and Bedford Townships. Supervisor Baker stated that our Office Manager, who is not receiving health care coverage from Ross Township, is paying approximately \$5,000 a year for personal health care premiums. Clerk Kellogg stated that this needs to be equitable to all full-time employees, such as salary increase, pension payments and shared cost of health insurance, much like Richland Township has. A further discussion of costs, using stipends, salary, pension as a total package. Budgeted items vs. YTD costs need to be reviewed. Equity for all full-time employees. Trustee Senkewitz – a plan is needed to get equitable compensation for full time employees. Trustee Harmon suggested a document to review and amend to get to a resolution.

Information needed is YTD budget for all Revenue and Expenses. Trustee Harmon has agreed to facilitate this project going forward during the budget process.

**No Parking Ordinance**

Gull Lake bay area – a walking tour was attended by Supervisor Baker, Jean Hansen, Tom Cole and Lyle Showerman – bay residents. They plan to work with bay business owners and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County to get input and suggestions.

**Dock Length and Screening**

Planning Commission request- summary included in the Board package. Have we (Township) ever enforced any dock length issues in the past. (Carr's case) A Monday or Tuesday joint meeting with the Planning Commission, Zoning Board and AGS to discuss will be scheduled in the near future. Topics of discussion will be dock length and site line issues and enforcement.

**Eagle Scout Project Memorial Fund**

Trustee Harmon proposed to set a Memorial fund named the J. Allen Harmon memorial fund. To be seeded by the Harmon family initially (\$1,000) for Township Park and other projects. A motion to approve this memorial fund was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Sulka. The motion carried unanimously.

**Any Other Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Sherman Lake Pressure Sewer Special Assessment. John Crumb from GLS&W discussed the present and possible future plans to hook up Sherman Lake residents to the GLS&W system. In 2013, 27 homes were connected, in 2020 approximately 35 homes are connected. There is a significant cost savings in hooking up as a group. Interest rates are low – possible spread out over 40 years. A draft copy of the GLS&W Board meeting is included in the Board package. This could mitigate the rising future fees. Setting up a Sherman Lake SAD for sewer installation could accelerate the hook of all homes around Sherman Lake. Roger Schweitzer and 42-year resident of Sherman Lake spoke about the history and discussion of past SAD request for the sewer project. 17% were in favor the first time they canvassed the residents. 37% approved the second time they asked the residents about hooking up to the sewer system and 50% approved during the 3<sup>rd</sup> request, approximately 3 years ago. New people moving to the lake seem to support the Sherman Lake Pressure Sewer Special Assessment. Attorney Thall stated that the residents would need a petition of over 50% of the parcels that were not hooked up to proceed with any SAD request. A map of Sherman Lake hook ups was provided by GLS&W.

**Sheriff Contract Extension**

This contract expires 12/31/2020, a new annual contract is proposed for 40 hour per week coverage for Ross Township. A discussion as to the Deputy not enforcing Park rules. A motion to accept the new annual contract was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

**Michigan Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement**

Our annual Comcast franchise agreement renewal. A motion to extend our contract with Comcast was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Appointments**

*ZBA members*- Jim DeKruyter from 01/01/2021 thru 12/31/2023 and Dave Carpenter from 01/01/2021 thru 12/31/2021

Motion by Trustee Sulka to approve ZBA appointments, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously

### *Appointment of Planning Commission members*

Pamela Sager and Michael Moore to serve from 1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2023.

A motion to approve the above Planning Commission member was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

### *Board of Review members*

Larry Greer, Zach Klipsch, and Chris Gottwald to serve two-year terms, with Mary Carol Wilkins as an alternate member from 2021 thru 2022. A motion to approve the BOR members was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

### *Cemetery Committee*

Approve the addition of Stan Sager to the Cemetery Committee. A motion to approve this appointment was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

## **Any Other New Business**

Trustee Dave Senkewitz submitted his Board resignation affective December 1, 2020. He has moved out of Ross Township and can no longer serve on our Board. A motion to accept his resignation was presented by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Baker recommended that Diana Langshaw be named to replace Mr. Senkewitz on the Ross Township Board. A motion to accept this recommendation was presented by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried unanimously.

## **Members Time**

Trustee Sulka – looking forward to the new year. Congratulated Trustee Langshaw and Clerk Kellogg for their service to Ross Township

Trustee Langshaw – looking forward to remaining on the Ross Township Board.

Clerk Kellogg -looking forward to retirement when his term ends 11/20/2020. He has enjoyed serving the residents of Ross Township.

Trustee Senkewitz- thanked Trustee Langshaw and Clerk Kellogg for their service to Ross Township.

Supervisor Baker – awarded a plaque to Trustee Langshaw, for 30 years of service, and Clerk Kellogg to thank both of them for their service to Ross Township. Also, a park manager will be hired for next summer, possible increase in salary for this new hire vs. this year. Also, a Planning Commission and alternative ZBA appointment needed within the next 60 days. New elected officials will be sworn in Nov. 20 at noon at the Township office.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amended by Linda Walters, Township Clerk  
December 17, 2020