

Ross Township
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday January 8, 2019
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Baker at 6:00pm.
Roll Call was as follows:

Present:	Mike Sulka	Diana Langshaw	Norm Kellogg
	Rob Baker	Dave Senkewitz	Lynn Harmon
Absent:	Cindy Genung		

Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

Before the approval of the agenda Supervisor Baker requested an amendment to the Agenda to include Board of Review Resolution under letter G in New Business.

A motion to approve the amended agenda was put forth by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

A correction on the previous minutes to reflect the total dollar amount of the fire department millage to show approximately \$320,000 collected per year, split between the operating and capital equipment funds.

A motion to approve the consent agenda to only include the approval of 11-29-2018 minutes (as amended above) and bills payable was offered by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Trustee Sulka. This motion did not include the Treasurers Reports of November and December. These were postponed until the Board has a chance to review these reports. The motion carried to approve the consent agenda, less the Treasurer reports.

Reports:

Fire Department – Chief Bogema stated that they expect to pick up their new fire truck on Saturday. The down payment was remitted to Spartan Motors on Monday. They will not have a new hose installed on the truck until mid-February due to supply shortages. They expect the truck to be in service by March 1st. They have received some donations from Stryker employees to fund new CPR machines. These will be funded for both Richland and Ross Township’s fire departments. They have received \$22,000 in donations so far. Each machine costs \$15,000. They still have donation coming in to help make up the difference. Ross Fire Dept. had 17 structure fires for the area that they responded to. 271 calls for year-end 2018, down 26 calls from the previous year. Of these 271 calls, 155 were medical

calls, 25 accidents, and the previous 17 structure fires. They have had two calls so far this year. Doug will provide a written report in the future for Board review.

Ordinance Enforcement – Supervisor Baker stated that the Township had a recent Deck permit issue, some maintenance code violations (site clean-up) and the House fire that destroyed the structure and required the debris to be removed by Feb. 1st. The Township now has insurance coverage for these problem remediation issues.. This is provided by our Fire funds agreement back in August of 2018. Brook Lodge fencing issues – No permit has been issued for the fence per AGS. They have boarded up 11 of the 16 buildings on the site.

Police Report – Officer Christensen from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Department gave an oral report on the activity in Ross Township the past month. A written report was not available yet, due to the new dispatch system working out their reporting capabilities issues. The November and December reports should be available soon through their Central Dispatch. The complaint volume was 114% of the average (reports filed) for 2018. This would include accidents, larcenies, etc. Calls for service (motorist assist) are not included in the above totals. One notable item was in Comstock Township, they have responded to many alarms were dozens of business break ins. Officer Christensen stated that they have made an arrest and are sure that they have stopped this specific crime spree. Also Office John Hoffman who services Ross Township will be on an extended vacation for the next 6 weeks. The County Sheriff will provide a substitute officer for coverage during this time. Most likely it will be Officer Jeff Nichols and Mark Kaley who both know our area.

Supervisors Report- Supervisor Baker stated that any road issues should be referred to RCKC connect on line for service request or other issues. We will post this information on our website and include in any future newsletters and emails to residents. D avenue at the South end of Gull Lake had a recent speed study done. The local residents wanted a 25 mph speed limit, but the survey stated the new speed limit will be 35mph. New signs will be up by the end of February. Life Care Services did not have a written report available; Steve Frisbee will be at our February Board meeting to give an update. They did have 54 emergency calls for October to December. Additionally Supervisor Baker stated that the office needs a new color printer, to be discussed as a new budget item for the next fiscal year.

Public Comments:

Barb- Does AGS enforce ordinances? Is there a fence permit for Brook Lodge? Why wouldn’t AGS force Brook Lodge to comply?

44th Street, dirt and re-pavement questions. Repair and reconstruction due for the 2019 project.

General Comments:

If you have a complaint-talk to your neighbor first to resolve. D ave speed survey, speed limit to increase to 35mph. Can it go down?

County and State maintained roads – State roads not assessed in SAD, County roads assessed. Road maintenance needed Baseline road to 39th street.

Old Business

Planning Commission nomination for Board approval. The Township received 5 applications/ 3 resumes. Pam Sager is nominated to the planning commission. Ms. Sager gave a brief Bio of her past history. Motion by Lynn Harmon, supported by Diana Langshaw and carried unanimously to appoint Pam Sager to our Planning Commission.

Cemetery Committee – 4 applications were received by the Township. 3 appointments needed to fill this committee. A motion to appoint Mary Carol Wilkins, Mike and Cheryl Morrett to the Ross Township Cemetery Committee was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

Parks Committee – 2 nominations were presented to the Township Board. Peggy Satler and Donna Joslin-Tellum. Motion presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

This will bring the total of 5 members to the Parks Committee. Alex Harris, Gail Hurn and Zach Klipsch are the present members of this committee. In the past the committee had 7 members. Two new members may be added in the future.

Law Enforcement Committee – 8 applications were received by the Township for 7 positions. January 12th will be the cut off for receiving applications/resumes. Supervisor Baker has requested resumes for the 8 applicants. A decision to fill this committee will be reviewed prior to the next Board meeting.

Trustee Mike Sulka – Can we add Hemp additions into our ordinance 212? Rob Thall our Township Attorney to review.

New Business

A. Guidance for sitting Committees. Board to create guidelines for the future. Follow the Township Mission Statement and Masterplan.

D. Senkewitz and D. Langshaw – Parks Committee Board liaisons

R. Baker – Cemetery Committee liaison

L. Harmon- Law Enforcement Committee liaison

* Are there any legal requirement for the above committees?

* What are the priorities for the above committees?

* Community concerns for the above committees.

By the March Board meeting, seek feedback from residents and return this feedback to the appropriate committees. Committee minutes available to all residents.

B. Ordinance 212 Amendments – information was provided from Office Christensen and Rob Thall, Township Attorney. Mr. Thall has reviewed the Colorado Ordinance and finds it very helpful and likes some of the provisions in the Ordinance. Michigan Court cases have not been beneficial to local Township regulations. (No local control) Two cases are pending in the Supreme Court. Any Appeals Court decisions are binding Statewide. The question posed by Mr. Thall is do we take action now and possibly lose in court – per precedents in Public Health, Safety and Welfare issues.

The Township will need a separate Ordinance for Recreational Marihuana issues. Mr. Thall suggested that we use the Colorado Ordinance and common sense to craft a new recreational Ordinance. Mike

Sulka and Lynn Harmon are the designated Board Members to work with Mr. Thall to construct and possible Ordinance.

C. 2019 SAD Road Work update

Supervisor Baker stated that 5 projects scheduled for 2020, RCKC wants to accomplish these in 2019 to complete our Road Improvements in 2 years instead of 3 years.

Attorney Thall gave a brief history of the Township SAD

3 year construction project, paid by a Bond issue with a 15 year payment payback. The Township received the funds by a Bond Issue, with the payments being made by the SAD tax revenues. This is also supported by the Township annual PAR funds. (Presently \$75K from RCKC, matched by \$75K from the Township) This would total a \$150K assessment per year for a 3 year commitment. Michigan State University and the Bible Conference are also donating funds to this project.

D. Road Commission Kalamazoo County – PAR fund update for 2019. \$85,100 is available for 2019 as the matching PAR funds from RCKC. Board approval is needed to accept this new amount to match the funds from RCKC. A motion by Trustee Langshaw to accept this new amount supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

E. Window Treatments of Offices – Supervisor Baker stated that window blinds are needed for the office and community room. 3 bids were received for all of the offices and the front part of the community room. Budget Blinds was the low bidder at \$2,526.80. A motion to accept this bid was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

F. Budget Workshop 2019-2020 will follow the Board Meeting.

G. Board Resolution – Property Tax Poverty Exemption- Guidelines for tax year 2019. A motion to adopt this Resolution was presented by Clerk Kellogg, supported by Trustee Langshaw. A roll call vote was as follows:

Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye

Nays: None

Motion carried with all Ayes.

A separate resolution to adopt the dates for our Board of Review was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Senkewitz. A roll call vote was as follows:

Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye

Nays: None

Motion carried with all Ayes.

H. Any other Business – None

Members Time

Lynn Harmon – R-1 and Light Residential Zoning areas. Are chickens allowed in these zones? Can it be changed to allow in R-1? The Planning Commission has to address this issue. A Township Newsletter is needed, at least quarterly. Past, present and future issues. We should seek volunteers to assist with any future newsletters. Ms. Harmon requests that meeting dates are posted on the Web site, current plus next month's meetings.

Dave Senkewitz- Would like to see a Web site upgrade. Post the draft meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Also have the Board Packets on the Web site.

Mike Sulka – Email the Board packets in the future. Work on communication – Law, Cemetery, Park Committees. Make our home page “live” and active. Is our email list working?

Rob Baker – Attending a February 21st Board of Review Seminar in Kalamazoo.

Being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk