

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

**Special Board Meeting
March 02, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The Ross Township Board held its meeting on **March 02, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** The Township Special Board meeting was conducted through electronic remote access due to State Agency Rules and Orders.

The special meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Hutchings

Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Cindy Genung
 Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka (Zoom/Utah)
 Linda Walters

Location: All present at the Township Hall except Trustee Sulka. Attended via Zoom in Utah.

Absent: None

Also Present: Josh Thall – Zoom Coordinator

Public Comments:

- *Dick Boris* (270 E GL Drive) – Opposes the No Wake Zone. There should only be two reasons for a no wake zone; they are (1) safety and (2) erosion. This is not the case.
- *Dan Buzz* (1638 Burlington Drive) – Not totally opposed; if wake zone not moved then against the ordinance. We need to educate people on the lake and post signs.
- *Hal Sanger* (277 Lewis Street) – Put the wake zone opposite Avery avenue. Read the letter from the DNR dated 07/07/2020 and 07/30/2020.
- *David Scott* – Traffic on the lake is too congested. There is no room for safety. The North bay has more room for waves.
- *Kevin Miller* (194 E GL Drive) – I am a neighbor of David Scott. To enforce the no wake zone is an “overreach” of the DNR. I am against the no wake zone.
- *Jim Marolt* (124 E GL) – Concur with David Scott. I am in favor of the no wake zone. Lake is congested.
- *Leigh Blackport* (172 E GL Drive) – In favor of the no wake zone. Bay is narrow.
- *Peter Asch* – Been on the lake for 70+ years. DNR is not appropriate. I am against the no wake zone.
- *Larry Carter* (263 E GL Drive) - Infringes on his dock. I am against the no wake zone.
- *Mac Waldorf* (Franklin Marine) – This will cause an economic hardship. The DNR has overreached.
- *Liddell* (238 E GL Drive) – Against the no wake zone.
- *Valli McDougle* (660 E GL Drive) – For the no wake zone.
- *Jack Gesmundo* – The use of the lake is way up. The wake zone would constitute a very small area of the lake (2%).
- *Liddell* (238 E GL Drive) – Sounds like a threat by Gesmundo.
- *Phil Eisom* – Asked about the number of buoys, costs, and servicing of the buoys.
- *Steve Duvall* – Government overreach. Is against the no wake.
- *Kevin Miller* – Refer to the letter of July 07, 2020.

- *Mike Rozewicz* – Looking for safety on the lake.

Ross Township Parks and Recreation Ordinance:

An ordinance to provide rules and regulations for the use and enjoyment of the Township parks; and to provide enforcement and penalties for violations of this Ordinance. The new change to the ordinance is now people who walk into the park must pay a \$5.00 fee and the car fee remains the same. Veterans will be able to enjoy the Park free of charge. Neighbors who reside near the Park will get volunteer passes as they do provide service to the Park. The Park has a limit of 100 people.

A motion was made by Trustee Harmon to adopt the ordinance as written, with exceptions, and will communicate with the Sherriff's Department on nuisance only; supported by Trustee Bekes and carried unanimously.

Gull Lake – Ross Township – WC-39-21-001 – Slow-No Wake Speed Ordinance:

An ordinance to provide for a slow-no wake speed on Gull Lake pursuant to Act 451 of 1994 as amended.

Trustee Harmon stated that the no wake situation is a challenge. With the proposed no wake zone it is either all or nothing. The DNR will not change the line. Would Enforcement be another option? It would cost approximately \$40,000 for 15 weeks and where would the funds come from?

Trustee Sulka stated that the last two meetings showed a public split of 50/50. This is an interesting learning opportunity since emails have been significantly favorable.

Supervisor Hutchings stated that the wake zone area is dangerous and congested. We can't negotiate with the DNR. The nearest landmark is Avery. The issue did not start at the Township level. For every one person that opposes the no wake, there are five in favor of it.

Trustee Bekes stated this is a safety issue. The no wake has to extend to the North and not just the South.

Clerk Walters stated that she feels this is a safety issue as well and trusts that the DNR has made the right decision in proposing the no wake zone.

Trustee Langshaw asked how many hours are being policed. It was answered by Supervisor Hutchings with "not enough."

A motion was made by Trustee Bekes; supported by Trustee Langshaw. The vote was 6 ayes and 1 nay (Treasurer Genung). The ordinance passes.

Adjournment: 07:42 p.m. adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Walters

Linda Walters
Township Clerk
March 03, 2021