

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

Ross Township Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00P.M. by Supervisor Baker.

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Absent: Mike Sulka

Also, Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

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

A motion to approve the Board Minutes of November 19, 2019 and January 7, 2020 was presented by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

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

A motion to approve the Bill Paid and Payable was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried unanimously.

**Reports:**

Fire Department: Chief Bogema stated that the Fire Department had 317 runs last year, this was the most they have done. Previous year was 270 runs. 2 people have passed the MFR test, with 3 more started the class tonight.

Fire millage renewal request is possible for the May ballot or August ballot if needed.

Jim Gould retired after 51 years of service. Party to follow in April  
Assistant Fire Chief to be determined in the next couple of months.

Life Care: Report included.

Police Department: Officer Jeff Christensen was in attendance. Reports included. No questions asked on the report. Possible 5 to 8-hour shifts for our weekly coverage might be proposed for the new annual police protection contract with the County Sheriff.

Cemetery Committee: plantings at Day Cemetery, notify Boy Scouts for maintenance issues.

Parks Committee: Michigan DNR Master Plan is completed. Report submitted by Donna Tellam.

Law Enforcement Committee: Possible disbanding of this Committee, to be determined. Trustee Harmon to discuss with Greg and Supervisor Baker.

AGS: 6 ordinance violations were noted.

Planning Commission: Last month's meeting minutes included.

Supervisors Report: Report included. Township Sirens were tested, one is not functioning correctly. RCKC is requesting a meeting with Township Officials to discuss our 2020 and future road projects. Geoff Lansky our Insurance Agent needs the Drivers Licenses of all elected officials for Insurance coverage while on Township business. The first fiscal 2020/2021 budget meeting is scheduled for 1/28/2020.

**Public Comment:**

Sarah Joshi, election specialist for Kalamazoo County presented their election worker recruitment program. She left handouts and brochures for Ross Township.

**Old Business:**

Gull Lake Watercraft Ordinance scheduled for a February 18, 2020 public hearing at 4:30 P.M. the public notice will be published two weeks prior to the meeting in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Role of the Board Representatives for Advisory Committees. Trustee Senkewitz reviewed the voting rights, motions etc. These need to be in alignment with other committee guidelines. Have Board approval for any Board members on committees. Trustee Senkewitz to amend the guidelines for Board approval.

**New Business:**

Sheriff Mitigation Plan – Andrew Alspach – mandated by FEMA and State of Michigan. Briefing document report included, 6 points for consideration. Local units of government must participate in the process to qualify for any funding. Mitigation = Resilience. Asking for the Board to participate in the planning process. A motion to participate in the Kalamazoo County hazard mitigation planning was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried unanimously.

Speed Studies: East Gull Lake Dr., Yorkville Lane, and FG Avenue was presented as a resolution to approve the speed studies for these three streets. A motion to approve was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Senkewitz: A roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Cindy Genung, Diana Langshaw, Norm Kellogg, Rob Baker, Dave Senkewitz, Lynn Harmon

Nays: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Health Savings Account (HSA) insurance coverage for covered employees. Begins February 1, 2020 This is to cover the deductible under covered employee health insurance plans. To bring the HAS accounts up to this year \$2,000 deductible. Cindy Genung \$2,000 contribution, Norm Kellogg \$900 contribution. Discussion of Trustee Senkewitz to look at long term plan of salary vs. benefits. A motion to fund these HSA accounts was presented by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Harmon and carried unanimously.

RCKA Local Road Participation Fund (PAR Funds): Kalamazoo County's 2020 contribution is for \$93,326. A Board approval to utilize PAR funds and matching funds from RCKC for 2020. A motion to accept PAR funds was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

Observed Ross Township Holidays: See attached holiday schedule. A motion to amend Ross Township's holiday policy to include all State of Michigan dated was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Supervisor Baker and carried unanimously.

Police Protection Agreement: Annual contract with the Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Department. This is a 40 hour per week agreement. A motion was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Clerk Kellogg to allow Supervisor Baker to negotiate the new 40-hour Police Protection agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

House Hold Hazardous Waste annual contract: \$6,000 annual contract for 2020 to allow Ross Township residents to use this resource for remediation of household waste. A motion to approve this contract by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Treasurer Genung and carried unanimously.

Budget Workshop: January 28, 2020. Jeff Rood our Township CPA will attend this first budget meeting.

Property Tax Payment Designee Appointments:

Resolution for 2020 to allow The Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Clerk and Deputy Clerk and Office Manager to collect property taxes for Ross Township. A motion to approve by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Treasurer Genung.

A Roll Call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Harmon, Senkewitz, Genung, Langshaw, Baker, Kellogg.

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session Motion: To move into closed session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 8(e), To consult with its attorneys regarding trial or settlement strategy where an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation, or settlement position of the Township in connection with the following specific pending litigation:

Ross Township v. Lange Family Properties LLC – Case No. 19-RO-5004  
Ross Township v. Allison and Robert Credit – Case No. 19- RO-5003.

A Motion by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to go into a closed session.

Roll Call Vote is as follows:

Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, Harmon-Aye.

All Ayes, motion carried. The Board went into a closed session.

A motion to come out of closed session by Supervisor Baker, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion carried with all ayes., unanimously.

**Members Time:**

Cindy Genung – Going to the MTA conference in Traverse City

Rob Baker – skirts for board tables

Lynn Harmon – went to MTA training session with Supervisor Baker last week.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg  
Ross Township Clerk