

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

Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019

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	Cindy Genung	Dave Senkewitz

Absent: Lynn Harmon

Also, Present: Rob Thall Township Attorney

Agenda:

Motion by Trustee Sulka to add Police Selection under C. in Old Business supported by Trustee Senkewitz and carried.

A motion to accept the agenda as amended by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried.

Consent Agenda:

A motion by Trustee Senkewitz to remove the September 17, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes from the Consent Agenda, supported by Trustee Sulka, all ayes except for Supervisor Baker who abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Request to remove the decision to move forward with a decision tree matrix for Police protection and also the sentence to move forward on a millage or special assessment ballot proposal. Both sentences to read: The Board discussed these issues, i.e. no decision had been made at this time.

A motion by Trustee Senkewitz to approve the 9-17-19 meeting minutes as amended, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried.

Reports:

Police- reports handed out that included time of day calls, etc.

Fire Department- Chief Bogema handed out an up to date fire report. The Fire Board discussed their upcoming millage renewal as a spring ballot issue. (After April 30th) Can the Fire Department have a special assessment? The Village would not be included in a special assessment per Attorney Thall. Our present Life Care Ambulance service needs to be discussed. Dave Shirley the Assistant Fire Chief is resigning March 1st of 2020. Replacement will be named prior to his resignation date. Runs have been similar to last year at this time.

Planning Commission- draft minutes will be sent via email per Mike Sulka

Cemetery Committee- Supervisor Baker stated that the crushed asphalt has been installed in Yorkville Cemetery's road way. Eagle Scout projects are on going for both Yorkville and Day Cemetery. Ethan Sandum Troop 239 is proposing to install 50 Juniper trees at Day Cemetery's perimeter. Cost is \$30 per tree plus \$125 shipping charge. A work day of 10/26/19 is scheduled for planting the trees. On 10/25 Rob Stafford will dig 50 holes for the planting of the trees. Also Mr. Sandum would like to add a bench at the cemetery at a cost of \$125. They are accepting donations to fund the costs. He is asking for Board approval to fund \$1,625 of the upfront costs. A motion to approve this funding request was made by Treasurer Genung, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried unanimously.

Parks Committee – The park closed on 10/6 for the season. Reports were distributed to all Board Members. Future plans are to expand the parking to green space parking, install playground equipment and new beach plans expanded and implemented. The Gilmore grant of \$17,000 was approved and will need to be spent within a one-year time period. Nolan Greenwood from Troop 294 in Richland proposed his Eagle Scout project to the Board. Budgeted items would include playground equipment (swing set), Spinami and new benches installed, to be completed by August 2020. Donations will be accepted for this project. Mr. Greenwood thanked Donna for her help in getting this proposal off the ground. A motion to approve this Eagle Scout GLARC project for Ross Township Park as presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Sulka and carried unanimously.

Law Enforcement – Police protection update. Trustee Harmon was not in attendance to discuss the updated information.

AGS Report – Ordinance enforcement report is included. Attorney Thall discussed two on-going court cases involving short term home rentals. Attorney Thall stated we have strong cases against both parties.

Supervisors Report- Thermostats fixed in the Community room. The Village of Augusta opted out of recreational marijuana businesses. Brook Lodge may have a possible sale to another owner. EEE Kalamazoo County spraying has been on hold. There was some spraying up in Barry County. A no wake ordinance is being looked at through the DNR in the Bay at Gull Lake. The DNR office in Lansing has responded as to the procedures of what to do to move forward. A public hearing is needed as well as a new ordinance adoption to approve. SAD tax tribunal Nov. 1, 2018 questions- no appeals in the tax tribunal cases as per Board decision.

Bret Padgett – Comstock Township Treasurer presented an MTA handout for information. He is our representative to MTA.

Life Care Report – Steve Frisbee handed out the quarterly report – Response time, etc. Ross Township presently does not have 24/7 coverage out of our Township Hall due to a shortage of paramedics. They have had a 15% turnover rate which below the normal range. They have implemented 7 to 9% pay raises and \$4,500 retention bonuses to keep their present staff. They have pulled their Ross Township staff to their Battle Creek station. They hope this is a 6-month temporary solution. They are in the process of hiring 6 new people to address some of the staff shortages.

Public Comments- None

Old Business

- A. Township semi-annual budget review and amendments. Jeff Rood our CPA will be available for one on one meeting for Board Members, 10/30 or 10/31 to answer any questions. Specific budget amendments to be presented in the November Board Meeting. Tax revenue will show in Feb. 2020. Questions for Mr. Rood are Township Board-Repair and

Maintenance, Cemetery-supplies and perpetual care funds, Roads - \$85,100 par funds allocation and Park-Repair and Maintenance fee.

B. Additional Law Enforcement

Trustee Sulka – LEC’s recommendation on millage discussion. Primary concerns are Fire Millage approval and we would not provide police coverage in our General Fund budget presently Trustees Sulka and Senkewitz worked together for their thoughts and recommendations for police protection and road funding in the future. We also need to pay for a Township Master Plan and review (Est. cost of \$50,000) next year. They are reluctant to say that the extra money will be used for road improvements.

Trustee Senkewitz- more home work needed for LEC funding issues. The Fire millage needs to pass. Road or Police millage funding needs clarification. Supervisor Baker – Par funds and extra money for road maintenance needs discussion for future use(s).

C. Police Selection

Postponed with Additional Law Enforcement.

A motion to Postpone both B and C under old business until next months Board Meeting as Police Protection (combined) to discuss next month was presented by Trustee Sulka and supported by Trustee Senkewitz. Discussion ensued, LEC what information from the Board members to make a decision on who provides police protection in Ross Township. Another question is how we pay for it. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A and B see Reports, Cemetery and Park Committees.

C. Ross Township Recreation Plan 2020 to 2025. Five-year recreation plan was presented to the Board. Report included in the minutes. This plan was presented to the Board for approval and adoption. A public hearing and comment are required. A posting of the plan has to be posted for 30 days on our web site. A motion by Trustee Langshaw and supported by Trustee Senkewitz to put the plan on our website for the 30-day required period and publish as presented. Carried unanimously.

- D. Role of Board Representatives on Advisory Committees Trustees Langshaw and Senkewitz the Board representatives on the Park Committee was not appointed by the Board. Advisory committee members have no voting rights or can present motions, etc. We need to have a consistent role for all committee advisory members for all committees. What are their duties and responsibilities? i.e. vote/no vote on motions. This item will be postponed until the November Board meeting and put under Old Business.

- E. GAAMP Analysis – Trustee Sulka discussed this item. Agricultural activities through the Department of Agriculture. Unlikely any changes will be made to re-consider controls over local government agencies. Attorney Thall discussed GAAMP’s rule. Is our local zoning in agreement with GAAMPS and what we can still do at Ross Township-changes to our zoning. Attorney Thall to review the Township Zoning vs. GAAMPS rules. (ex. Intensive livestock operations) Will this effect the Planning Commission difference for review and will it effect the P.C. budget? Attorney Thall that the maximum cost to review would be \$1,000

- F. Ross Township and GLSWA annual audits. Clerk Kellogg stated that they are both available for review if needed. Copies can be attained at the Ross Township office.

- G. Any other business – none

Members Time

Trustee Senkewitz- LE meeting not posted on Facebook page – remove the Facebook page.

Treasurer Genung-MTA rethinking Township Board decision – mission statement in MTA magazine – Ross Township’s was cited as an example.

Supervisor Baker – looking forward to his 11/3 to 11/13 trip.

Trustee Langshaw-thanked the Eagle Scouts and Committee members for their contributions, Send out emails before the meetings for information review.

Trustee Sulka-website behind in posting, newsletters still linked to the spring publication.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk