

**Ross Township  
12086 M-89  
Richland, MI 49083**

**Ross Township  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday September 15, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**Virtual Zoom Platform**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Supervisor Baker

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Absent:        None

Also Present: Rob Thall, Township Attorney  
                 Bert Gale and Kelly Largent – AGS

A motion to accept the agenda was presented by Trustee Harmon, supported by Trustee Langshaw. Roll Call vote- Senkewitz-Aye, Genung-Aye, Harmon-Aye, Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye. Carried 7-0

A motion to accept the consent agenda was presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Langshaw. Roll call vote – Senkewitz-Aye, Genung-Aye, Harmon-Aye, Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye. Carried 7-0

**Reports:**

Police – new schedule in October

Fire Dept – Chief Doug Bogema July runs 24, August runs 61. So far 11 this September. Total runs one month ahead of last year (265 YTD) Projected 350 by year end. Life Care issues, still not staffed 24/7 at Ross Township. They seem to have a Battle Creek focus. Some delay in

getting to Ross Township residents 20 to 25 minutes wait time. Meeting to discuss Life Care status and future. Question, can fire fighters live outside the Township to work for the Fire Department? Attorney Thall to review

Park – Dedication Oct 17, 2020 from 1pm to 2pm for new play ground and upgrades. Trustee Senkewitz resigned from the Park Committee effective 9-3-2020. Eagle Scout projects for Benches and on-site Library and trail clean up. Lynn Harmon possible replacement on the Park Committee. A motion to accept Lynn Harmon as Board Representative to the Park Committee was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz. A roll call vote was all ayes, carried 7-0 to appoint Trustee Harmon to the Park Committee.

**Public comments:**

Jeff Christensen – Kristy Prahin (Deputy Sheriff for Ross Township) will continue for 6 months. Marine Patrol is wrapping up the 2020 season. Nancy Boyd – support for the Sherman Lake SAD. Tom Saad, support for the Sherman Lake SAD.

**Old Business:**

Sherman Lake SAD for Week Control and Water Quality. Dr. Jones presented budget details and expectations. Roger Schweitzer – weed, (milfoil) infestation issues. Chemical herbicide mitigation, up to 4 treatments per year. Air infiltration/herbicide mitigation. 76% of land residents support the new SAD. Trustee Sulka requested a breakdown of per parcel basis. YMCA contract agreement by next Board Meeting.

Resolution of Intent to make improvements: Tentative Designation of Special Assessment District; notice of hearing. Set the next hearing for October 20, 2020 for public comment. A motion to adopt the Resolution of Intent was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Treasurer Genung, with date change to October 20, 2020. A roll call vote was as follows: Senkewitz-Aye, Genung-Aye, Harmon-Aye, Sulka-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye. The resolution carried 7-0 and was adopted.

Public Hearing Local Watercraft Control Ordinance- scheduled for October 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Rezoning 156 and 160 E Gull Lake Dr. – postpones to October 26 Planning Commission Meeting.

Rental Ordinance (short term) Residential Rental Ordinance(s). Mr. Gale of AGS reviewed his experience in ordinance implementation and enforcement. Trustees Senkewitz and Sulka along with Supervisor Baker to form a committee to pursue options with information from Bert Gale and Attorney Thall.

Tax Tribunal Meeting – Original petitions to be distributed to the Township Board for review.

Any other Old Business: None

## **New Business:**

Burlington Drive dock and fence dispute- Trustee Harmon reviewed the issues/ordinance 17 section, point 2 requirements- Review and rework ordinance language. Bert Gale – vegetation barriers need new ordinance enforcement. Trustee Harmon recommended that the dock/fence issues be sent back to the Planning Commission for review and suggestions. Two issues discussed: 1) remove dock length wording in the ordinance-hold public hearing. 2) fence construction issues – vegetation vs. metal/wood or dirt wall barriers.

Boundary Line Adjustments – 2 requests from our Assessor, Angie Story

Robert and Cynthia Poth: 1477 Burlington Dr. and 1508 Midland Dr. Motion by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw to accept the recommendation from Assessor Story. A roll call vote was as follows: Senkewitz-Aye, Genung-Aye, Harmon-Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Sulka-Aye, Kellogg- Aye, Baker-Aye. The motion carried 7-0

Stephen and Wendy Robbins: 3482 Oakdale and 3500 Oakdale Ave. To adjust the boundary line of 3482 Oakdale. A motion to accept the recommendation of Assessor Story was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Sulka to adjust the property line. A roll call vote was as follows: Genung – Aye, Harmon-Aye, Sulka-Aye, Langshaw- Aye Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye. Senkewitz- Nay. The motion carried with a 6 to 1 vote.

A motion to accept a new Agenda sequence was presented by Trustee Senkewitz, supported by Trustee Harmon. A roll call vote was all Ayes- carried 7-0 to amend the agenda.

Private Law enforcement at the Sand Bar – Jim DeKruyter presented privately funding a police patrol/ private enforcement of noise and trespassing ordinances at the sand bar. This would be fully funded by the Ross Township residences that abut the Sand bar location. Estimate of 13 weeks, two people equates to approximately \$8,000 salary expense plus equipment \$2,000. A discussion with the Township Insurance Agent for liability issues to present at the next Board Meeting. Also meet with interested parties to move forward for further discussions for the next Board Meeting.

Private Roads: Fairview and LaBelle repair funding to address mostly LaBelle roads dis-repair. There are presently 18 residents on LaBelle that would be affected. Can there be a new SAD set up for a 5-year payback. Attorney Thall reviewed the issues involved. The SAD starts with a petition, the SAD needs more than 50% of the residents to approve. A 5-year payback is possible. The payback would include all development fees, attorney fees, etc. An estimate of \$5000 for possible admin/legal fees for up front costs. More discussions to follow.

Property Maintenance Violation Ordinance – weed enforcement was used in the past. Set a new ordinance so that it can be enforced. Check on nuisance ordinance wording in place. Review and amend for future ordinance enforcement.

Township Park Ordinance- Drinking and Smoking. The Park Committee to recommend a path forward at future Board Meeting(s).

Employee Compensation – Health insurance may be taken by the new Clerk. Payment in lieu of not taking insurance discussions to continue. Discuss in annual budget process.

Any other New Business – Trustee Langshaw suggested that we move the October Road Commission presentation to the November Board Meeting. Supervisor Baker to see if this can be accomplished.

**Members Time:**

Lynn Harmon – concerned that the ZBA minutes were not correct – rubber stamping all requests.

Cindy Genung – Revenue sharing down \$9000 YTD

Rob Baker – Thanked Attorney Thall for his contributions. Dock rental issues to be addressed next year-enforcement issues. Parking on Township roads, public right of way in the Bay area district. Board of Review replacement for Joy Brown and ZBA alternate replacement for Jim Gilbert.

Norm Kellogg – Deputy Clerk resignation

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg  
Ross Township Clerk