

Ross Township

12086 M-89

Richland, MI 49083

Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2019

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

Roll Call was as follows:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Rob Thall – Township Attorney

A motion to approve an amended agenda was presented by Trustee Langshaw, supported by Trustee Senkewitz to add under new business: letter E., Hazardous Waste proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda: A discussion ensued by Trustee Sulka to have the Board packets sent earlier so that the Board can have a chance to read and review before the scheduled Board meetings. He would prefer an email with digital copies at least one week prior to the Board Meeting. Supervisor Baker stated that copies could be available sooner. Any agenda item needs to be presented to him prior to one week before the Board meeting. If he receives it after the one week deadline it will not be put on the agenda. Board packets can then be sent via email by the Thursday prior to the Board meeting. Hard copies will also be available before the Board meeting if needed.

A discussion of the previous Treasurer’s reports of November and December of 2018 and January of 2019. Various questions were answered by Treasurer Genung. Also is it possible to get a vendor report on a monthly and year to date basis.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was presented by Trustee Sulka, supported by Trustee Langshaw and carried.

Reports:

Fire Department – Chief Bogema gave an update as to the activity. 21 runs in January and 5 so far in February. A decline from last year’s figures. The new fire truck is next door, so please take a look if interested. New training for the new truck is ongoing. Doug hopes to have the truck in service by March 2019. He has sent the old truck information to Bidergy to sell on their web site. Hoping for \$15K sales price. 3 Firemen are in the officer class, it is a State Association. He hopes that an additional 3 or 4 more will attend this year. The Fire budget will be worked on Sunday, with final Fire Board approval soon. \$133K is still in their Capital account after the new truck purchase. The Lucas machine (CPR)

purchase is \$10K short from the Stryker Corp. donations. The Fire Department will need an additional \$4,900 to purchase these machines without additional donations.

Life Care:

Steve Frisbee presented the LifeCare report. The average bill for LifeCare use is \$950. 252 families have signed up for a LifeCare Membership. It costs \$42 per year for this insurance.

Associated Government Services (AGS) - The Ordinance enforcement report was presented by Supervisor Baker and reviewed.

Police Report- Officer Christensen reviewed the handed out report for Ross Township. Additional Township reports are available if requested. Spring shift bids will be finalized within the next couple of months. Officer Christensen and Supervisor Baker attended a Road Commission meeting to address the road speed studies that have been completed as well as possible future road speed studies.

Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority- John Crumb the Executive Director of GLSW presented the capital improvement plans for 2019. These will include the replacement/ repair of lift and force main stations around Gull Lake. The only site in Ross Township is the area around E. Gull Lake Drive and Baseline Road.

Planning Commission Report – Trustee Sulka stated that the PC did not meet in January due to severe weather issues, so no report available.

Cemetery Committee – Supervisor Baker stated that the Cemetery Committee has met once and will focus on maintenance issues for Yorkville and Day Cemetery's.

Parks Committee – Trustees Senkewitz and Langshaw presented an update. They are getting background information on the history of Ross Township Park. The scheduled Parks meeting Feb. 7th was cancelled. Their intent is to have meetings to discuss written guidelines, budget and activity for Board review in March.

Supervisors Report - Brook Lodge- no visit yet, but has talked to AGS. Their new fence has a permit. The property is zoned Agricultural Preservation. Small business is allowed and possible residence/ site manager?

No influx of employees is allowed as of yet. The Township general insurance is being reviewed.(Ted Hartlieb Agency) A bid has gone out to the Decker agency and possible getting one additional quote. If residents have road issues, please contact RCKC directly via phone(381-3170) or email. Speed limit issues on the south part of Gull Lake will be reviewed again. The present speed limit is 35mph. Another survey will be completed in May of 2019. The school zone on 40th Street will have a 35mph limit.

Public Comments – a resident thanked the Board for the discussions/ input and questions answered during the Board Meetings.

Old Business:

Roads – Planned projects for 2019 are on track. RCKC will send out Bids for work in the next couple of weeks.

Residential Marihuana Ordinance – Trustees Harmon and Sulka are working with Attorney Thall on this issue. Attorney Thall discussed the current State Law, that is pending before the Michigan Supreme Court. The issue is having local zoning control what happens in your Township/City. Until the Supreme Court rules on this issue, should we wait to see what the Court decides and adapt our ordinance(s) to reflect their decision? We can use the general provisions on noise, light and odor in our ordinance for nuisance issues. An additional topic is the Industrial Hemp status. It looks like the State will set up regulations to deem it an agricultural crop under the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

Budget Workshop – This is scheduled for 2/13/19 at 6 pm in the Community Room. Discussions for the 2019/2020 budget will commence. Residents are welcome to attend.

Any Other Business – None

New Business:

PFAS: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has expanded the PFAS sampling into Ross Township. Filters are available for all effected properties at the County. Info will be put into the Ross Township website as updates are received. Most of the new testing will be Southwest of the initial site.

Authorization to Engage Siegfried Crandall for our annual audit for 2018/2019. Motion by Clerk Kellogg, supported by Treasurer Genung to authorize the engagement of Siegfried Crandall to complete our annual audit. A brief discussion ensued to possibly getting three quotes in the future for fees etc. The motion was carried unanimously.

Application and Escrow Fee Schedule Basic Fee Amendment: As presented, the Board reviewed the addition of an Administrative Site Plan fee (\$350) This site plan fee is an addition to our Escrow fee schedule. Discussion centered on the Township cost from AGS. This issue was tabled until the next Board meeting under Old Business.

Law Enforcement Committee nominations: Trustee Harmon and Officer Jeff Christensen will be advisors to this Committee. Supervisor Baker nominated the following to individuals to this Committee. Peter Plummer, Mike Boehme, Greg Huggett, Christina Hutchings, Terri Raymond, Karen Levene, and John Bowden. A motion to accept these nominations was presented by Trustee Senkewitz and supported by Trustee Sulka. A roll call vote is as follows: Sulka- Aye, Langshaw-Aye, Kellogg-Aye, Baker-Aye, Genung-Aye, Senkewitz-Aye, and Harmon-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Hazardous Waste Proposal – This is the annual contract/agreement with the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Department. This money pays for our Ross Township residents to use this facility to dispose of household hazardous waste. The County wanted a signed agreement by March 8th for the initial \$5,300 cost. This item is tabled until the March 12th Board meeting for discussion and possible approval.

Any Other New Business: None

Members Time:

Lynn Harmon – What is the status of our website? Can we send blanket emails to residents. We need to produce a newsletter soon. Can we address the R-1 residential zoning as to chickens allowed in the R-1 district? A Planning Commission issue.

Dave Senkewitz – Can we get newsletter volunteers to publish this? Put this request on our website to see if any residents have an interest in helping.

Mike Sulka – Does the Township need to have a 30 day advance for annual salary increases? We do not, as we do not have to have an annual meeting.

Rob Baker – New blinds installed in all of the Township offices as well as the southern portion of the Community Room.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Kellogg
Ross Township Clerk