

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

**Regular Board Meeting
November 16, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Syndee Genung
 Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka
 Carin Louis

Absent: None

Also Present: Attorney Rob Thall and approximately 10 interested residents.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CONSENT AGENDA Trustee Langshaw moved to amend Agenda to include 9-21-21 minutes and Kalamazoo County's Road report. Seconded by Trustee Bekes, Unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Draft Board Minutes: 9-21-21, 10-19-21 and 11-9-21. Trustee Langshaw moved to approve minutes, Second by Trustee Beekes and motion carried unanimously.
- B. Treasurer's report.
- C. Clerk's Report
- D. Law Enforcement Stats
- E. Fire Department Update
- F. Life Care Ambulance Q3 Stats
- G. AGS MTD 2021 Invoice & Services
- H. Household Hazardous Waste News

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT Trustee Beekes stated the Planning Commission spent time on Medical Marijuana Ordinance research, Development Agreement as well as Site Plans. He stated he will forward Draft Minutes from the last Planning Commission meeting to Supervisor Hutchings as soon as possible.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT Supervisor Hutchings stated Premier Lawn and Snow is increasing service fees due to the increase in fuel prices. The Ross Township Park Tree trimming bids are in as well as

Certificates for Liability. Duane Chambers resigned from the position of Maintenance and the position was filled by Michael King who will be working Thursdays and Fridays weekly. The Volunteer Recognition Event was a success. ARPA Funding will arrive in December and these funds will assist the Township in paying for security upgrades and improvements to technology to assist in Public Meetings. Overall the funds must benefit the Community as a whole. Per the CPA the funds may unrestrictedly cover any financial loss calculated otherwise funds use is restricted. A *Letter was received from Daniel A. Wallace the Executive Director of Gull Lake Ministries which provided Ross Township with an annual update of the Ministries current occupancy as requested in the 1997 Settlement Agreement. As of November 2021, total occupancy is 558. There was discussion regarding future Townhall meetings to receive ideas from the community for improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENT Supervisor Hutchings opened public comment at 6:16 p.m.

The following residents spoke: Pat Doran of Sherman Lake , a resident of Sherman Lake, John Bishop of Sherman Lake, Jeff Whitcomb of Sherman Lake, Chris Humbold of Sherman Lake, Chris Russel of Sherman Lake, Karry Lynn Elieff of Sherman Lake, Tom Boyd of Sherman Lake and Paulette Humbold of 39th Street. Public Comment closed at 6:41 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ross Township Master Plan-Public Hearing is delayed until January Planning Commission hearing. A discussion was held regarding Medical Marijuana and Conditional Development Standards. Trustee Bekes moved to have the Board accept the Master Plan as is so it may move forward to a Public Hearing and citizens will be notified via a mailer (will go out with Winter Tax Bills) and email push to citizens in addition to required postings. Seconded by Trustee Langshaw, motion passed 5 yay , 2 nay.
- B. Short Term Rental Ordinance-Pending with Attorney Thall. The board was informed by Attorney Thall that the Ordinance is in the Senate and he will have more details at the next meeting hopefully.
- C. No Parking Ordinance in South Bay-Pending
- D. Update Ordinance: Marijuana Caregiver Business in Residential Zoning-Pending with Atty Thall.

Fire Chief Bogema spoke regarding the Fire Board meeting held on November 8, 2021 at which the Board decided to allow an increase of a 5 mile radius around Ross Township to open up eligibility for Firefighters. He stated that there is need for more Firefighters and this will allow for increased eligibility as well as increase the ability for mutual aid from and for neighboring Departments. He also stated that the Richland Board wants to sit down with our Fire Board to discuss future and the possibility of Full Time Responders. He noted as well that there are talks with the local school districts regarding the possibility of offering First Responder Vocational Classes to Students . He also updated the Board that the new Rescue Truck's equipment is currently being transferred from the retired vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. PC will be removed from New Business
- B. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreements were approved by both The Village of August and Richland. The contracts are be reviewed by all of the parties Attorneys.
- C. ARPA funding will be available very soon and the Federal Government is still in the process of issuing a list of approved spending for the approved municipalities. The Kalamazoo County

Commissioners are in the process of approving the opportunity for local Grants through Kalamazoo County.

MEMBERS TIME Trustee Langshaw stated she is stepping down from the Park Committee . Treasurer Genung held a discussion regarding the mailing of Winter Tax Bills and the written notification regarding the Public Hearing regarding the Master Plan. Supervisor Hutchings spoke to the commentary of Nancy Boyd and the Sherman Lake Petition that was provided to the Board at the November 9th 2021 meeting is confirmed by Assessor Story as not valid. Less than 20 signatures were valid. Clerk Louis provided the Board with a copy of the Kerry Lynn Elieff FOIA* request filed on November 9, 2021 with Ross Township. A conversation was held regarding the members of the board and the need for FOIA documents to be provided to the Clerk. Attorney Thall spoke to reach of documents, conversations, emails and text messages the Board members are responsible to provide. Trustee Harmon moved to cancel the December Board Meeting, seconded by Treasurer Genung. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Harmon spoke to the fact that Kerry Lynn Elieff had indeed reached out to her directly regarding the Sherman Lake Septic hook up, to which Trustee Harmon stated she would refer any direct correspondence to address Supervisor Hutchings and the Board in writing as a whole. Trustee Harmon stated while she disagreed with the process and wanted a Town Hall meeting for residence to be heard she stood behind the decision made by the Board at the November 9th 2021 meeting and Supported Supervisor Hutchings. Trustee Sulka stated that he wanted to confirm the final numbers for the Sherman Lake Sewer hook up and if there was a future mandate in a vote he would generally be opposed to a mandate.

Trustee Bekes moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm seconded by Clerk Louis. Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned.

Carin Louis
Township Clerk

*Indicates document attached to minutes.