

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

**Regular Board Meeting
September 21, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

1 The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.

2 Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Fire Chief Bogema, Rob Thall – Township Attorney and approximately 15 interested residents.

3 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4 Approval of Agenda

Bekes moved to amend Consent Agenda to include Info Safe’s presentation of security assessment as well as to add as 11-D (Old Business) Clerk’s Quotes from CPA firms and approve Agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Harmon. Motion passed unanimously to approve amended Consent Agenda.

5 Consent Agenda

PRESENTATION BY INFOSAFE

Andy from InfoSafe presented the findings of his Company’s Security Assessment.

Recommendations for remediation and Risk Assessments were made. A discussion was held with Sulka regarding devices. Copies of report will be made available to the Board members upon request.

- A. Harmon moved to approve Draft Board minutes from August 17th and August 30th. Bekes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Treasurer’s Report.
- C. Clerk’s report and Park Income Statement.
- D. Sheriff Department’s report.

- E. Fire Department Update. Fire Chief Bogema stated that there were more runs this year than last. FC Bogema stated he was working with Seelye Ford to purchase a new fire truck. FC Bogema suggested researching a possible subscription to MiBuy for future purchases.
- F. AGS MTD 2021 Report and Invoice.

7. PARK COMMITTEE JUNE REPORT

Harmon spoke to the rave reviews received online by the public. Harmon stated that the Park Committee will proceed in identifying main focuses for next year's projects. Langshaw stated she is working on getting bids for tree trimming and removal. Bathrooms and Picnic tables need to be winterized. Hutchings suggested that the Park Committee utilize volunteers for some labor as the Cemetery Committee does. Langshaw stated it was important to maintain the improvements that are in place.

8. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Bekes stated the PC completed the Master Plan on 8/23/21.

Harvey will capture all of the top 50-60 ideas and present the top 10 or so in a Special Board Meeting in October regarding the Master Plan.

The PC and ZBA approved plans on 9-15-21 to a storm damaged house on the island.

There was discussion regarding future land use within the new Master Plan and the process of the Boards approval of projects.

It was suggested that a special Board meeting be scheduled to discuss changes in Master Plan and allow the Board to assess approval process for large projects.

9. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a. Hutchings stated an Appeal has been filed in the AGS decision regarding the Carr matter. She also stated a need to appoint a Construction Board of Appeals and set a fee of \$100 per meeting. Sulka motioned to elect a Construction Board. Seconded by Harmon. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Hutchings stated she has been reaching out to surrounding municipalities regarding Mutual Aid agreements (examples found in Meeting packets).

10. PUBLIC COMMENT-opened at 7:00pm

Peggy Sattler spoke re: grant funds for park.

Gerald Houvener spoke re: volunteer chain saw work and thought it would be wise to have multiple risk assessors re: security and to not rely on just one. He also added that Grassy Island should be a new summer/lake law enforcement patrol need.

Connie Lavender spoke to the time of the park closing (7pm) during the longer summer hours.

There was Board Conversation regarding the logic of not allowing two-way conversations with the public during Public Comment.

Supervisor Hutchings explained that Board of Director meetings are business meetings and run according to Robert's Rule of Order. During a Board of Director business meeting, the public sits in attendance to watch and hear the business of the Township being managed by the elected Board, to ensure transparency with government decisions. The public may comment on any topic they choose during public comment, and if seeking a response or explanation can meet with Supervisor Hutchings or any other elected Board member.

Supervisor Hutchings stated the placement of “Public Comment” has not changed on the Agenda since she was hired, it is the same location as where previous Township Supervisors placed it. Attorney Thall commented the Public Comment positioned where it is in the Agenda is appropriate and suggested based on time allotment at the conclusion of Board of Director meetings, a second Public Comment could be granted given the business decisions for the Township were concluded prior to 8pm.

Additional dialogue took place within the Board of Directors explaining that under the prior supervisor, Board of Director meetings were two-way discussions with the public. Supervisor Hutchings reminded the Board that two-way discussions are welcomed in Town Hall meetings and Public Hearings. Board of Director meetings will follow Robert’s Rule of Order.

Jean Hanson stated that she thought that security updates were a good idea.

Public comment closed at 7:20pm

11 OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ross Township Master Plan (63 day review period started June 2021)-Pending
- B. Short Term Rental Ordinance-Pending with Attorney Thall
- C. No Parking Ordinance in south bay-Pending
- D. Quotes for Clerk’s Mid-year Audit.

Louis spoke to quote provided by Seber Tan’s CPA firm and recommendation received by other municipalities for the work provided. Sulka moved to approve the quote amount of \$3,500.00 plus and added \$1,000.00 if needed for additional filings. Langshaw seconded motion, motion carried unanimously.

12 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Board of Directors to PC Recommendation: To include Contingencies on Large Projects. Attorney Thall stated that large projects are not part of Ordinance Provision that require a Development Agreement. For some info-structure an escrow is in effect now. Provision can be set by the Board for Approval of large projects such as site condos and developments can return to the board for final approval. As an example, special land use permits funnel through the Planning Commission and then onto the Board for final approval. Sulka moved to have the Planning Commission develop language for special land use projects that will include the Board and give the Board final approval on special land use projects. Seconded by Hutchings motion passed unanimously.
- B. Select date of joint PC + Board of Director’s meeting. October 19th 5pm meeting agreed upon with a 2-hour time frame.
- C. Analyze Marijuana Caregiver Businesses in Residential Zoning . Attorney Thall provided handouts that explained the new Legislation which will require a 2/3 vote to pass the floor; it will allow up to 72 plants in any area in twp. The change to caregivers will be 24 plants per patient/person. He stated that legally any adult can have up to 12 plants in

their possession at this time. There was discussion re: Ag zoned vs RR zoned in Byron Township case that is pending judicial decision. Attorney Thall will continue to provide the Board with updated Legislation.

- D. Ross Township Law Enforcement Program: Harmon spoke to feedback received by the Board at the previous Law Enforcement Town Hall meeting, how we are reaching out to surrounding municipalities and Authorities re: Mutual Aide contracts. The Clerk can negotiate agreements for mutual aid alongside Attorney Thall.

Hutchings moved to allow the clerk to generate mutual aid agreements and prepare contracts to bring before the Board. Seconded by Harmon. Motion carried unanimously.

Harmon motioned to accept the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department early termination date of September 30th, 2021. Seconded by Bekes, motion carried unanimously.

Law Enforcement Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday October 11th, 2021 from 6-8pm.

MEMBERS TIME

Clerk Carin Louis: Budget entered in system for current fiscal year. Report provided in board packet.

Treasurer Syndee Genung : Summer Tax season is over.

Trustee Diana Langshaw: Need to be sure there is carry over for 22-23 Park budget year and need to discuss budget for next year.

Sulka moved to adjourn the meeting. Harmon seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Carin Louis
Township Clerk