

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

**Regular Board Meeting  
February 15, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 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 60 interested residents.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Clerk Louis stated “As of 4:00pm today Ross Township and Attorney Thall received a letter from Halvas Law Firm threatening on behalf of some (undisclosed) Sherman Lake residents. “

Clerk Louis moved to remove Agenda item number one from new business. Seconded by Treasurer Genung. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda was further amended to include the Consumer’s Energy Gas Ordinance under New Business Item number eight as well as addition of the Ross Township’s Agreement with Kalamazoo County Health and Community Service Department’s 2022 Hazardous Waste Agreement as New Business Item number nine. Lastly, the Agenda was amended to remove Notice of Right of Referendum from New Business Item number seven and place on March’s Agenda as New Business. Trustee Harmon Motioned to include amendments. Seconded by Trustee Sulka. Motion passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A discussion was held regarding approval of Draft Minutes by Board members when absent from the meeting. Trustee Harmon moved to approve Consent Agenda without the January 18, 2022 Draft Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sulka. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Harmon moved to approve January 18, 2022 Draft Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Langshaw. Trustees Sulka and Bekes abstained. Motion passed unanimously by voting Board members.

**FIRST PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:**

John Crumb of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority presented a proposed Amendment to GLSWA's Articles of Incorporation to include Cooper Township as a member of GLSWA as well as appoint Supervisor Jeff Sorenson as the Cooper Township Representative to the GLSWA Board. Trustee Harmon moved to Amend Articles of Incorporation to include Cooper Township and appoint Supervisor Sorenson as Representative. Seconded by Clerk Louis.

Roll call vote was held.

Bekes aye, Genung Aye, Harmon Aye, Hutchings Aye, Langshaw aye, Louis Aye, Sulka nay.

Motion passed five Aye to one Nay.

John Crumb then presented a Resolution regarding Sanitary Sewer Charges and Schedule A: Direct Connection Fees Per District. Trustee Bekes moved to adopt Resolution 2152022 Sanitary Sewer Charges and Direct Connection Fees Per District. Treasurer Genung Seconded.

Roll Call vote was held.

Sulka Nay, Louis Aye, Langshaw Aye, Hutchings Aye, Harmon Nay, Genung Aye, Bekes Aye.

Resolution 2152022 adopted 5 Ayes, 2 Nays.

**SECOND PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:**

Caitlyn Parr from Seber Tans presented her findings of the 2021 mid-year Audit of Tax remittances and filings. Caitlyn will provide the Board copies of her Summary/presentation. (Board copies will be included in next meeting's packet.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The floor was opened to Public Comment at 6:42pm.

Speaking publicly:

John Bishop of Sherman Lake, Debbie Sutton of Sherman Lake (provided the Board handouts), John Tucci of Sherman Lake, James Darwin of Sherman Lake, Roger Schweitzer of Sherman Lake, Tom Saad of Sherman Lake, Jim Corstange of Gull Lake, Bill Sikkema of Gull Lake, Shirley Blakely of Sherman Lake, Christine Russell of Sherman Lake (provided handouts to the Board), Kerry Lyn Elieff of Sherman Lake (provided handouts to the Board), Scott Boyd of Sherman Lake, Todd White of 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Jeff Whitcomb of Sherman Lake, Mike McCarthy of Sherman Lake, Gerry Geiger of Sherman Lake, Rodney Weir of Sherman Lake, John Blakely of Sherman Lake, David Vaughn of Sherman Lake, Chris Helmbold of Sherman Lake, Phillis Youse ¼ mile from Sherman.

Public comment closed at 7:29pm

**FIRE CHIEF/LIFECARE UPDATE**-Report included in the Board Packet

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT-**

Trustee Bekes stated that there were no new reports to present as January 24 2022 Meeting was the Public Hearing regarding the Master Plan.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Hutchings presented a Resolution of Support- Road Commission of Kalamazoo County , Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) 2022 Scrap Tire Market Development Grant.

Trustee Harmon moved to accept the Resolution. Seconded by Trustee Langshaw.

Roll Call Vote: Bekes Aye, Sulka Aye, Harmon Aye, Genung Aye, Louis Aye, Langshaw Aye, Hutchings Aye. 7 Aye and No Nays.

Resolution 2152022-2 was adopted unopposed.

### **CLERK UPDATE**

Clerk Louis stated that the Deputy Clerk Position was still vacant. Tim Snow offered his assistance to Ross Township until a permanent replacement is found. He would be under contract as previously approved by the Board. Trustee Sulka motioned to temporarily employ Tim Snow with a \$6,000 cap for services rendered between February start date and completion of the upcoming May election. Trustee Harmon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Master Plan- Public Hearing was held on January 24, 2022.
2. Short Term Rental Ordinance-passed the Senate.
3. No Parking Ordinance in South Bay-Pending
4. Marijuana Caregiver Business in Residential Zoning-Attorney Thall and Planning Commission are working on updating language in Ordinance.
5. Ross Township Law Enforcement/Mutual Aid Agreements-contracts are being reviewed by all parties involved.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- ~~1. Board Consideration-Sherman Lake Residents in opposition-~~  
**Removed from Agenda-Halvas Law**
- 2. Board Agenda Request regarding Solar Panels-**A discussion was held by the Board about the role of AGS and Planning Commission and the outcome of the Planning Commission meeting. Attorney Thall stated that the is residents/neighbors didn't agree with the decision made by the Planning Commission an Appeal can be filed in Circuit Court. Further discussion was held regarding comments made by a Planning Commission member. Trustee Beekes stated he would investigate this further with the Planning Commission members and submit a report of his findings back to the Board.
- 3. KCRC Resolution-**adopted under Supervisor's Report.
- 4. Establish Budget Meeting dates and Budget Public Hearing Date.**  
Board discussion was held regarding upcoming schedules. Dates were agreed upon. Trustee Harmon moved to schedule Budget Workshop Dates for February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> both at 6:00pm. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing Date will be discussed during Budget Workshop Meetings.
5. Sigfried Crandall Audit- Scheduled May 16-18 2022
6. Establish Township Board Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023-Trustee Harmon moved to adopt the same schedule being the third Tuesday of every month for the 2022-2023 year with the exception of December, no meeting to be held in December 2022. Clerk Louis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Notice of the Right of Referendum- Clerk Louis moved to postpone this discussion until the March Board Meeting. Trustee Harmon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Consumer's Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance-Trustee Bekes moved to adopt the Consumer's Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance as drawn up by Attorney Thall. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Roll Call Vote was held.  
Langshaw Aye, Genung Aye, Louis Aye, Hutchings Aye, Harmon Aye, Bekes Aye, Sulka Aye.  
The ordinance was adopted unanimously 7 Aye-0 Nay votes.
9. Amendment to the agreement between the County of Kalamazoo and its Health and Community Services Department and Environmental Health/Hazardous Waste Program. Trustee Harmon

moved to extend the agreement for the upcoming year 2022 as stated in the agreement. Trustee Sulka seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEMBERS TIME**

Trustee Harmon thanked the residents for attending and for their input.

Supervisor Hutchings reiterated that the Township Board has the final say on any Public Water connection projects within Ross Township.

Trustee Sulka moved to Adjourn the meeting. Second by Trustee Langshaw. Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carin Louis  
Township Clerk