

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

**Special Board Meeting
May 26, 2022
1:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Approximately 16 interested residents.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Langshaw moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Harmon. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Harmon thanked the Board and the Residents for assembling for the Special Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Supervisor Hutchings opened the floor to Citizen Comment at 1:02pm.

The following residents spoke: Rebecca Odell, Pat Doran, Kerry Lynn Elieff, Karen Levine and Tom Boyd. Citizen Comment closed at 1:10.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Police Chief Selection Committee Recommendation and Board Selection.
Trustee Sulka introduced himself, Trustee Harmon and Supervisor Hutchings as the three members of the Law Enforcement Committee. He proceeded to explain that 4 applicants were reviewed and the Committee's top two candidates were interviewed. After that process was completed, the Committee felt that one candidate clearly stood out as their top choice. This person being Ms. Melody Rugg. He explained that she has a twenty-two-year career in Law Enforcement which includes diverse experience, training and working as a K-9 unit. The Committee unanimously agreed that she was the candidate that would be recommended to the Board.
Clerk Louis moved to appoint Ms. Melody Rugg as Ross Townships Chief of Police. A conversation was held amongst the Board members regarding the other candidates and interview process.

Trustee Harmon seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was held and the following members voted Aye: Genung, Louis, Langshaw, Hutchings, Bekes, Sulka and Harmon. No Nay Votes cast. Motion carried Unanimously.

Supervisor Hutchings introduced Chief of Police Rugg to the Residents. Congratulations were given.

2. Police Boat update.

Supervisor Hutchings stated the boat that was previously approved for purchase by the Board was not purchased as there was an issue with the Title for the boat. She continued to explain that a different boat was located. This boat had only one-hundred and forty total use hours and was listed at \$29,990.00 by the seller. She explained that the donations that were previously collected from the Gull Lake Ministries (\$10,000.00) and the Sand Bar Group (\$16,000.00) are to be used for the purchase of this boat. After the donations the remaining balance to be paid by Ross Township's ARPA Fund is \$3,990.00. The Board members held a discussion as to the additional costs for outfitting the Boat for use in patrol. It was agreed upon by the Board that approximately \$5,000.00 would be needed for upgrades and Registration. Trustee Bekes moved to purchase this Boat (trailer included) in the amount of \$29,900.00, he specified that donation funds totaling \$26,000.00 and \$3,990.00 of Ross Township's ARPA fund would be utilized for the purchase. Additionally, \$5,000.00 of Ross Township's ARPA fund will be used for upgrades and Registration for a total of \$9,000.00 of Ross Township's ARPA fund being allocated to this Boat. Trustee Langshaw seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was held and the following members voted Aye: Bekes, Genung, Harmon, Hutchings, Langshaw, Louis, and Sulka. No Nay Votes cast. Motion carried Unanimously.

Member's Time

Clerk Louis swore In Melody Rugg as the Chief of Police for the Township of Ross as of May 26, 2022. Pictures were taken, congratulations were given and applause was noted.

Trustee Sulka moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:25pm. Treasurer Genung seconded and the Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carin Louis
Township Clerk