



**Special Board Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:33pm
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- **Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present: Trustee's Michael Bekes; Diana Langshaw, Mike Sulka. Treasurer Cynthia Genung, Supervisor Christina Hutchings, Clerk Alexander Harris, Lynn Harmon arrived 5:48pm
Also Present: approximately 15 interested Residents & Attorney Rob Thall
- **Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Bekes made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Public Comment**
 - Val McDougal – major concern around elections – complex job for the clerk. Training for what duties and responsibilities, what schedule for training, secure voter records.
 - Phoebe Moreo – Speak in support of Ross township & many changes within its borders. Give authority to Supervisor. Thank trustees for their hard work.
 - Herman Doezema * Please see attached – He would like Short term rental to be rezoned.
 - Jean Gemrich – Speed limit on Gull Lake 40mph – The DNR has not enforced. Please have the Ross township Police department enforce this.

- Mary Carol Wilkins – Ross Township Deputy Supervisor, Chaired election precinct. Many changes throughout the years, social media half truths. Would like to discuss nobody should work by themselves.
- Michelle White – Ross Township Deputy Treasurer, Not okay having my back to the front reception window/entry door. While counting money, I don't always hear them come in.* Please see attached
- Mary Stage – Has a concern with checks and balances, between Clerk & Treasurer.
- Melody Rugg – Ross Township Police Chief – We are changing, adding new people, having a group meeting. How should we all meet?
- Jason Weirsma – Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner – Ross Township has 4 County drains, there are 5,000 miles in Kalamazoo County, he offered any training he can give on Kalcouny/GIS or related software.

6:04pm public comment closed. Please submit in writing, your public comment, before the meeting, to be included with the board meeting packet and be included in the minutes as an attachment.

- **Deputy Clerk approval posting.**

The clerk is authorized to hire any chosen applicant to operate ~~against~~ within the current posting, 18.00hr. ~16hrs week

What other jobs do we want the deputy Clerk to do? Budget meetings January and February, discuss full time.

Motion made by Supervisor Hutchings to amend the job posting to include answering phones, help with the front reception window, reduce the number of hours for election season to only 9 days before election. **Seconded** by Harmon to also include other duties assigned by the Clerk.

Aye – 6 Nay – 1, **Passed**

- **Office operations**

Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing

Attorney Thall has suggested to the board to bring in a consultant Susan Radwan to help build the team.

~~Trust – Working towards better trust or not~~

Motion made by Trustee Bekes for \$3,000 to have her come in and talk with individuals, group meetings and get to the norming part. Seconded by Trustee Sulka.

Motion carries unanimously

- **Other office**

Following the state of Michigan's statutorily required duties of Elected Officials, Clerk Harris has asked the board to consider the priorities of his position. Elections, Warrants for checks, Record Keeping, Minutes. As extra duties can not block the clerk from performing his required work.

Rob Thall noted - Elected officials can choose to take on extra duties. ~~most boards give extra compensation for those.~~ A board can only require the Elected Officials to do what the State of Michigan has mandated.

Adjournment :

Motion Made by Mike Sulka, Seconded by Diana Langshaw, passed unanimously.

8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Harris

Ross Township Clerk