



Board Meeting Minutes
~~AUGUST~~ November 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Trustee Harmon.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- **Roll Call**

The following Board Members were present: Treasurer Genung, Clerk Louis, Trustees Sulka, Langshaw, Bekes and Harmon. Supervisor Hutchings absent. Attorney Thall and approximately 30 interested Residents were also present.
- **Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Bekes moved to add Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority to new business as item #1, UBKey as item #5, and Street Lights as item #6. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Draft Board Minutes**
 - B. Treasurer's Report**
 - C. Clerk's Report**
 - D. Ross Township Policing Stats**

Police Chief Rugg was planning to attend tonight's meeting but was called out on an Emergency Call.
 - E. Ross-Augusta Fire Department Update**
 - F. AGS MTD Invoice and Enforcement Service Updates**

Trustee Langshaw moved to approve Consent Agenda with September 19, 20, 28th Draft Minutes removed for review. October 18th Draft Minutes to be removed and reviewed at next Board meeting. Seconded by Treasurer Genung. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Bekes moved to accept draft minutes with corrections/additions as follows:

9-19-22 Draft minutes with correction to Title and #5.

9-20-22 correction to new business motion, #4 fee correction to vote and aye to nay on vote. #6 Trustee correction on motion, addition to #6 to "Grass Truck".

9-28-22 correction in #1 to trustee, #4 add verbiage " to allow the Board to choose a vendor that will align Master Plan with Zoning Ordinances. Finance and experience will be considered. RFP will be brought back to the Board for approval prior to release. Trustee Sulka seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Public Comment (all speakers are of from Ross Township unless otherwise noted)

Frank Gaurisco- attended GLSWA meeting and would like to request a bidding process for services provided by the Authority.

Pheobe Moreno-Thanked the Supervisor and Trustees for defending the residents at the GLSWA meeting and suggested researching other sources for water.

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Nancy Boyd-many residents were informed of the GLSWA meeting by public media. GLSWA has a responsibility to step in and have a contingency plan for water service but has failed to communicate. Thanked the Board for dedication and fighting for the residents' rights.

Dave Hyslop-thanked the members that were in attendance at the GLSWA meeting. 40th street signs have been removed (deer crossing and no passing) and the traffic is very dangerous. He has not observed police patrol whatsoever since County's Contract was canceled.

Kathy Kanuf-reminded board of the need for fire hydrants throughout the Township and that Township news via text is a preferred method of communication.

Vonda Dally- thanked the Board for attending the GLSWA meeting. She felt that Ross Township was being ram-rodged into public water and wondered what the motivation was. She felt the State should intervene to prevent PFAS contamination in wells.

Larry Stahiler of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission noted the sign removal issue and stated that County wide signs are being removed and road markings are now the standard. KCRC is hiring CDL drivers to work plow trucks but, hiring is difficult right now. He noted that service requests are a great way to report problems. Par Funds have slightly increased and they are about a month out.

Alex Harris- stated he was directly affected by PFAS on Gull Vista, his parents' house and at Yorkville Church. He is aware of the test wells and data will reveal itself. He prefers to use a carbon filter rather than public water.

Todd White-stated he was not at the GLSWA meeting but, feedback was 100% against public water and sewer. Sewer bill has doubled in the last 5 years and suggested privatizing the service.

Public Comment closed at 6:45pm.

- **Ross Augusta Fire Chief/LifeCare Comments**

Fire Chief Bogema updated the Board on the following items:

New tanker truck is 2 months ahead of schedule.

The new grass truck is on re-order and cost rose from \$37,000 to \$56,000. Isaac Shumaker passed the 1st test and will join the Fire Academy on January 1st. He advised that hydrants throughout the entire Township are not feasible and if one area wants them the funds would need to be raised for infrastructure as well as back-up generators.

- **Planning Commission Update**

Trustee Bekes forwarded minutes from the last meeting where viewshed, medical marijuana app fee was finalized. He requested the Board schedule a special meeting to approve both. It was discussed amongst the Board and agreed upon that a Special Meeting will be held on November 29th at 6pm.

Trustee Sulka suggested that a Townhall hearing be held regarding viewshed before any language is finalized. It was further suggested that a notice of meeting be sent to residents along with winter tax bills. Trustee Sulka will work with Supervisor Hutchings on coordination of mailing and special meeting.

- **Supervisor Update**

Trustee Harmon reviewed a letter from Gull Lake Ministries who reported maximum occupancy of 556 people.

- **Clerk Update**

Clerk Louis reviewed the success of the November 8th General Election, high voter turnout, high Absent Voter Ballot returns and that it was a smoothly run election. She explained the passing of the baton to the new clerk as being Monday November 21st at 9am. Oath Day (November 20th) falls on Sunday so, electees will be sworn in Monday morning.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. GLS&W Authority**

Trustee Harmon stated that uncalled for comments were made at the meeting and that residents need to fully understand the current situation. Testing for PFAS has taken place but it takes 6 months for results and retest to confirm correct results. She stated that the working relation was not co-operative. Clerk Louis suggested an addition to Ross's Website that included a page that was dedicated to just this subject and included live/real-time results and the areas affected. Trustee Harmon moved to have Attorney Thall draft letter to Supervisor Harma Harmon care of Richland Township Board with concerns of Harmon acting on behalf of Ross Township once asked not to by Hutchings. Trustee Sulka seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Trustee Harmon's second concern was in regard to Director Crumb of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority. She stated she wanted to find out his performance contract, salary schedule, amount of wage increases and, originally wanted to request his resignation. It was further noted that GLSWA is no longer Attorney Thall's client.

- 2. Fire Code Adoption-Ordinance 230**

Trustee Genung moved to adopt Ordinance 230 Uniform Fire Code. Trustee Sulka seconded. Roll Call vote held. The following members voted Aye: Bekes,

Genung, Harmon, Langshaw, Louis, and Sulka. No Nay votes cast. Supervisor Hutchings absent. Ordinance 230 adopted 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, and 1 Absent.

3. Credit Card Use Policy and Resolution #111522-1

A conversation amongst the Board took place regarding current credit card use and one credit card being used. Clerk Louis explained that per Jeff Rood Township Auditor a credit card should be issued to each department. Trustee Bekes moved to adopt Cred Card Policy Resolution 111522-1 with the amendment to add a second credit card for use by the Police Department. Trustee Sulka seconded. A roll call vote was held. The following members voted Aye: Sulka, Louis, Langshaw, Harmon, Genung, and Bekes. No Nay votes cast. Supervisor Hutchings absent. Resolution 111522-1 adopted 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, and 1 Absent.

4. Police Chief Rugg-Full Time Contract

The Board discussed the future budgets and expenses of insurance coverage for Chief Mel. It was agreed upon that insurance premium amount will be confirmed and cost will be reported to the Board for consideration. Trustee Sulka moved to accept the recommendation move Chief Mel to a full-time contract based on the contract that will be executed by Attorney Thall. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. UBKey

Trustee Bekes stated that members without cell phones are not able to receive a multi-factor authentication key that is required to use the Township's email. A solution brought forth by Jason Channell is purchase and issue each person in need a UBKey. Trustee Bekes moved to purchase UBKeys at approximately \$45.00 each for each member in need. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Street Lights

Trustee Bekes stated that at his neighborhood's annual meeting the lack of street lights on newly developed sites were a concern. A short discussion took place as to how the extension to existing street light tax and payments can be addressed. It was agreed upon that the Supervisor is authorized to obtain a quote for the extension of existing service. The quote will be reviewed by the Board in the future.

● **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Vendor Contract Review/Update

RFPs will be shared at the meeting on the 29th as well as feedback and ratings.

2. PC Work Plan Update

Trustee Bekes stated that the PC is handling the last item deemed as High Priority by the Board next month. Clerk Louis stated the PC has done a fantastic job of expediting all of the high priority concerns.

3. Budge Prep for 2022-2023

Scheduling of Budget meetings will take place at the next meeting.

- **Trustee Updates**

Clerk Louis submitted invoice from Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority for a draw on the Sherman Lake Sewer project bond funds (as previously approved during bond council. Trustee Bekes moved to authorize payment of \$618,677.00 to GLSWA. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Louis stated she would issue payment by the end of the week and supply the Board with the check approval report which should be included with the next meeting's Clerk Report. She stated she would do the same with this meeting's Draft Minutes.

- **Adjournment**

Trustee Harmon moved to Adjourn. Trustee Sulka seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carin Louis
Township Clerk