

**Special Board Meeting
Approved Meeting Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
September 11, 2023**

Attendee Name	Title	Roll Call Status
Christina Hutchings	Supervisor	Present
Syndee Genung	Treasurer	Present
Diana Langshaw	Trustee	Present
Michael Bekes	Trustee	Present
Lynn Harmon	Trustee	Present
Mike Sulka	Trustee	Present
Robert Thall	Attorney	Absent

Also in attendance were about 5 interested people.

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm with all rising to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

A Moment of Silence was conducted for 911 Remembrance for the 3000 lives lost and to pay a special tribute to the first responders who showed bravery in responding to the attack.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Trustee Langshaw motioned to approve the agenda as written. Trustee Harmon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Lauderdale gave his deepest appreciation and a thank you to board members for having a very difficult decision to make and making it based on defensible information and data.

Trustee Bekes read an email to all from Michael King, who shared his thoughts to the board via email as he was not able to attend the meeting. Michael King asked the board for their vote to approve Mary Stage as our next township clerk. He asked the board to remember the primary was a tie and she lost out in the draw. Mary's attempt as a write in candidate failed because she wasn't able to reach as many people she hoped to in his opinion. He believes it to still be the will of the people of Ross Township to have Mary Stage as their township clerk.

Connie Lavender shared the website Next Door always has pros and cons with people putting in their comments. She congratulated the board, congratulated Mary Stage and wished all the best to the board in having Mary join the group.

There being no further people approaching the podium, Supervisor Hutchings closed public comment at 5:20 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointing Clerk/Discussion/Action

Trustee Bekes moved to appoint Mary Stage as our next Ross Township Clerk. Trustee Langshaw supported the motion. Board discussion confirmed the position would be filled until the general election. Also noted was she applied for the position previously, after Clerk Linda Walters passed away and she has gained even more experience and knowledge as she attended all the board meeting while campaigning, continued to attend board meetings after the election and is now a member of the Planning Commission. Trustee Sulka shared concern about the posting coming down one day early and asked for an amendment to the motion to only move forward if we have no further candidates apply by noon on Tuesday. The amendment to the motion was not seconded. The motion to appoint Mary Stage as our next Ross Township Clerk passed 6-0 by a role call vote.

After the vote, the board outlined the process to onboard Mary Stage including swearing her in on her start date, most likely after she gives her current employer a two-week notice, and having her put on the checking account signature card giving her authorization to sign checks once she is sworn in. Mary Stage also shared that she might have opportunities to source a Deputy Clerk.

Trustee Harmon moved to support Supervisor Hutchings request for ARPA dollars to cater and serve dinner to our Fire Fighters at their training night on September 19th with a \$500 budget plus the cost of the cake. Trustee Sulka supported the motion. Board discussion zeroed in on having the event at 5:30 pm with our regular board meeting to begin at 6:00 pm on September 19th. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Trustee Langshaw moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Harmon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Michael Bekes
Township Trustee
Temporary Acting Recording Secretary