

**Regular Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
March 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Roll Call Status</b>
Christina Hutchings	Supervisor	Present
Mary Stage	Clerk	Present
Amanda Wiersma	Treasurer	Present
Diana Langshaw	Trustee	Present
Michael Bekes	Trustee	Present
Lynn Harmon	Trustee	Present
Mike Sulka	Trustee	Present
Rob Thall	Attorney	Present

There were several ~~was serval~~ interested residents in attendance.

**Call to Order:**

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion
Trustee Bekes motioned to approve the agenda, with one additional item, to discuss Rebecca Harvey's hourly rate, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Supervisor Hutchings	Aye	Trustee Bekes	Aye
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to accept consent agenda, supported by Trustee Langshaw.

Trustee Bekes moved to pull the draft minutes from 2/20/2024 Budget workshop **minutes**. Clerk Stage moved to pull GLSWA Board Packet for review.

Motion
Changes were made to the minutes. Trustee Bekes moved to accept Draft with changes, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

Motion
Discussion over the GLSWA draft meeting packet. John Crumb answered questions posed. Clerk Stage moved to accept the GLWSA meetings, supported by Trustee Bekes. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

John Crumb, GLSWA Director addressed the Board concerning the rate increase for 2024. The rate increase is \$2.00/month. If the rate is voted down, the Township is still responsible for covering that expense.

Trust Harmon requested a delay in the vote on the rate increase until after Citizen Comments.

**Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen comment at 6:20 pm.

John Thomas, Village of Augusta President. Would like to work with the Township on the Interlocal Fire Department Agreement and Millage ~~age~~.

Mary Wilkins, the rate increase for the sewage is only \$2.00/month increase, and she is ok with that expense.

Barb Ritter, was concerned that the rates continue to climb, however she was grateful for Mr. Crumb's explanation. ~~Crumb's explanation~~.

Christine Russell, when GLWSA installed her sewer line, it was installed on the wrong property. She has been trying to get the situation rectified for a year. With GLSWA no results.

Michelle Labedis, she is supporting Rich Cutshaw for State Representative for District 44. She will be contacting members of the community, requesting ~~to~~ support for Mr. Cutshaw.

Supervisor Hutchings closed public comment at 6:36 pm.

Resolution
Trustee Bekes resolved to accept the rate increase, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.

Before the vote Trustee Harmon requested that the following be put into the record. A 'yes' vote means that the people currently hooked to sewage will pay the new rate, a 'no' vote would require all Township residents to bear the cost of the new increase.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Board:** Trustee Langshaw gave the Board members a copy of the retyped Interlocal Agreement with the Village of Augusta, to review and any comment or changes they recommend should be sent to Trustee Langshaw, within the next ten (10) days. There will be a Fire Board meeting in the next couple of weeks to review changes made and then a joint public meeting will be held with the Village of Augusta's Council and Ross Township Board.

**Police Department:** Chief Brown updated the Board; the State of Michigan audit went well last month. There were a few areas that require addressing, and he is in the process of handling those items to satisfy the State requirements. Chief is also working with the DNR, to study possible on possibly expanding **increasing** the no wake zone in the bay. Trustee Sulka, noted that the last time this was done, there were several public hearings involving the Township Board and the DNR, with both proponents and opponents present.

**Fire Department:** Chief Bogema updated the Board; the Department had seventeen (17) calls over the past month. On April 14, 2024 the Fire Association is having a retirement party for Sydnee Genung and Craig **Fred** Perkins. They will also celebrate Brandon Shirely and Isaac Schumaker becoming full Firefighters. The siren in the Village of Augusta is repaired and he is getting a quote on repairing the siren by the Island landing.

Motion	
Trustee Langshaw motioned to have the Fire Board, Police, and Fire Department report put into the minutes, supported by Clerk Stage. The motion carried unanimously.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

**New Business:**

Motion	
Trustee Bekes motioned to approve \$85.00 for Rebecca Harvey's hourly rate during her temporary assignment as planning support for Ross Township for fiscal year 2024/2025. This motion can be considered an addendum to the motion the Board approved at the February Board meeting where \$80.00/hour was approved, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion carried.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 1 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes

		Trustee Sulka	Nay
--	--	---------------	-----

**Old Business:**

Attorney Thall updated the Board on the revised View Shed and Noise Ordinances that will be brought to the Board in April for their approval.

Attorney Thall reported updated the Board on the Sherman Lake Sewer Connection project. The 6 individuals that were served **vice** are awaiting a court date. The remaining 7 have been formally served again and it has been posted on their properties.

Trustee Sulka asked for a Solar update. Attorney Thall stated that the State’s Legislation goes into effect in November, which means the Township will have less input on Solar Farms in our area. He also informed the Board that there is a petition being circulated to repeal the legislation. They need to collect 350,000 signatures to get the repeal on the November ballot.

Clerk Stage asked to speak about the ARPA funds distribution. She had given the Board members an ARPA Fund Overview, which she had sent to Jeff Rood. Jeff stated the Overview should complete the requirements for filing with the State. He thought a roll call vote should be done to approve.

Motion
Clerk Stage motioned that we accept the ARPA Fund Overview as our distribution of the funds, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

**Comcast proposed changes to township technology/internet:**

Clerk Stage ask to postpone the decision until next month after conversation with the Township’s IT Support.

**Second Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen comment at 7:20 pm.

Larry Carter would like to know when the View Shed and Noise Ordinance will be available for review. Anyone wishing a copy prior to the meeting can contact the Township Office in April.

Christine Russell expressed her concerns again about GLSWA.  
 Supervisor Hutchings closed second Citizen Comment at 7:24 pm.

Supervisor Hutchings read the regulations to go into ~~for~~ closed session to consult with legal counsel.

Resolution	
Trustee Harmon resolved to enter closed session, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The resolution carried unanimously.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasurer Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

Supervisor Hutchings requested Board to move into closed session at 7:26 pm.

Motion	
Trustee Harmon motioned to adjourn, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion carried unanimously.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harman
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Motion Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent</b>

Name	Vote	Name	Vote
Supervisor Hutchings	Ayes	Trustee Bekes	Ayes
Clerk Stage	Ayes	Trustee Harmon	Ayes
Treasure Wiersma	Ayes	Trustee Langshaw	Ayes
		Trustee Sulka	Ayes

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.