



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Supervisor Hutchings.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- **Roll Call**
The following Board Members were present: Treasurer Genung, Clerk Louis, Supervisor Hutchings and Trustees Sulka, Langshaw, Bekes and Harmon. No members absent.
Also present Attorney Thall and approximately 7-10 interested residents.
- **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Bekes moved to approve the Agenda with the amendment of adding PC update discussion to new business as item number 4. Second by Trustee Langshaw. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Draft Board Minutes-none-
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Clerk's Report
 - D. Ross Township 911 incidents-September
 - E. Ross-Augusta Fire Department Update and Fire Board minutes
 - F. AGS MTD Invoice and Enforcement Services
- **Citizen Comment**
Supervisor Hutchings opened the floor to citizen comment at 6:02pm.
Becket Jones of Portage spoke to his credentials and experience as he running for the office of 8th District Court Judge.
Ken Barnard of Oshtemo spoke as to his credentials and experience as he is running for the office of 9th Circuit Court Judge.
Public comment closed at 6:08pm.
- **Police Chief Rugg update:**
Chief Rugg not available for meeting due to family emergency.
- **Ross Augusta Fire Chief/LifeCare Comments**

Chief Bogema presented the following:

- Calls down in September to approximately 36
- Department is receiving medical training this evening
- Bus training was attended in Bedford in September
- Department attended Sherman Lake Y's Kids on the Run, Homecoming Parade and Haunted House in the Ross Township Fire barn.
- LifeCare Ambulance run volume was the highest during the summer and it's anticipated to go back up in January .
- LifeCare memberships are trending downward and Chief suggested adding a membership link to the Township's Website.
- LifeCare priority one/orange calls are at a fifteen-minute response time on average.
- Fire Academy had 18 students at the beginning and 3-4 students graduated.
- Barry County's safety net ambulance that serves Hickory Corners and Prairieville helps with response time and helps neighboring communities.

Trustee Langshaw asked about the status of Grass Truck.

The bid is upcoming and the purchase is still pending.

- **Planning Commission Update/Minutes**

Trustee Bekes said that the September 27th meeting addressed structures and setbacks and there is a conversation underway among the commission. Looking forward to the October meeting Marijuana Caregiver will move to public hearing and he is hopeful that the viewshed topic will be nailed down. After the public hearing the commission will address condominiums and multi-family housing.

- **Supervisor Update**

Supervisor Hutchings attended the MTA summit and brought back knowledge of a budget tool that calculates forecasting and a 3-5-year outlook. It uses data from many individuals and municipalities to calculate budget forecasting. Supervisor then asked for assistance with budget preparation for the upcoming year. She suggested creating a committee to work with the new Clerk. She then added a quick update on the Police Department. Chief Rugg's vest just arrived and they are closer to being on the road every day. Under new business the board will address the motor vehicle code ordinance which will allow Ross Township to be closer to active duty. Attorney Thall is working on contract which should be ready by the end of the month.

- **Clerk Update**

Clerk Louis updated the board on Tim Snow's hours worked and anticipated increase in time going into the November General Election.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **ARPA Framework:** Trustee Bekes asked if everyone was satisfied with the split of funds. Trustee Bekes moved to authorized the purchase of two thermo-cameras for the Fire Department using ARPA Funds. Trustee Langshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimously. A conversation was held regarding the framework/split of funds and Trustee Bekes would change the spreadsheet accordingly. Police Department \$50,000 2022, \$12,000 2023, \$15,000 2024, Grant writer 2023 and approximately \$24,000 spent in 2022.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion: "structures and setback within the Zoning Ordinance"**

A conversation took place regarding the examples provided to the Board of different scenarios that Bert with AGS has encountered. Trustee Bekes stated that the Planning

Commission held a similar conversation and the opinions of the Board were similar to the Commission's. It was agreed upon that the Planning Commission would set add this subject to the next meeting on Monday along with viewshed.

2. "Motor Vehicle Code Ordinance"-Update to write our own local tickets

Attorney Thall advised that Ross Township needs to update our Motor Vehicle Code to the current ordinance which will allow the Department to issue local ordinance citations. Trustee Sulka moved to accept the new Ross Township Traffic Code Ordinance number 229. Trustee Harmon seconded. A Roll call vote was held. The following members voted Aye: Bekes, Louis, Langshaw, Hutchings, Bekes, Sulka and Harmon. No Nay votes were cast. Ordinance 229 established unanimously.

3. Budget Prep for April 1, 2023 budget

Trustee Bekes will prepare for 2022-2023 budget.

4. Planning Commission update/discussion

A conversation was held regarding clustered land development and density of development in rural areas of the Township. Trustee Sulka brought forth his concerns regarding development in the R-1 and R-2 zoned lands. Trustee Bekes asked for the goals and a supplement to the Master Plan. Further scenarios and examples were discussed. Trustee Harmon stated that the best option is for the Planning Commission to is make sure that a robust standard is in place to preserve the rural areas from cluster development.

- **Trustee Updates-none**
- **Adjournment**

Trustee Bekes motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Langshaw. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carin Louis
Township Clerk