

**Meeting Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
February 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

Along with several Citizens.

**Call to Order:**

Clerk Stage called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion
Trustee Bekes motioned to approve the agenda. Trust Langshaw asked to add to New Business discussion on a joint meeting with the Village of Augusta's Board and budget breakdown. Trustee Bekes asked to add an agenda item to discuss Planner's hourly rate. Trustee Langshaw supported

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Beke
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 7 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
Treasure Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

Motion
Clerk Stage motioned: to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Langshaw supported

<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	Aye	Trustee Bekes	Aye
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasure Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen comment at 6:07 pm, with no participators, Supervisor Hutchings closed public comment at 6:08 pm.

**Committee Reports:**

**Police Department:** Chief Brown stated the month has been rather quiet. He has been preparing for a State of Michigan audit of the department which will take place on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

**Fire Department:** Chief Bogema stated the month has been quiet. Firefighter Feringa is going to Chaplain school. This will be a welcomed position in the Fire Department.

**Fire Board:** Trustee Langshaw stated that the Fire Board met last Thursday. The Board is still looking for a Member at Large Alternate, the position must be filled by a Ross Township Resident.

The Fire Board has formed a committee to begin the process of reviewing and preparing language for the next Fire Department Millage.

The Fire Board has begun to review and amended the agreement between the Village of Augusta and Ross Township for the Interlocal Fire Department. More on this subject in New Business.

Lastly, Amanda Wiersma was appointed to fill Syndee's sit on the Fire Board, which expires end of March 2024.

Motion
Trustee Langshaw motioned: to appoint Amanda Wiersma at present until the May 2024 election of the Officers of the Fire board. Trustee Bekes supported.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<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	Aye	Trustee Bekes	Aye
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasure Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Old Business:**

Revised View Shed Ordinance moved to April 2024 meeting.

Noise Ordinance moved to April 2024 meeting.

Sherman Lake Sewer Compliance Legal Update: 6 of the 13 individual sent letter of to comply with connecting to the sewer system, have been delivered. These 6 that have not connected, they will be issued citations for not hooking up to the system. The Township will take the individuals to District Court seeking the Court to order the individuals to comply and connect. The 7 letters that where not deliverable will be reissued and the same process will follow.



**New Business:**

**Vendor List:** Clerk Stage presented a list of vendors for the review and approval of monthly invoice payments.

Motion
Trustee Bekes motioned: the Board approve the vendor list for monthly invoice payments. Clerk Stage will continue to provide the Board with a monthly check run in the Board packet. Trustee Langshaw supported

<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	Aye	Trustee Bekes	Aye
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasure Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Ambulance Services Agreement:** Attorney Thall stated at this time the agreement sent by LifeCare Ambulance Service, should not be entered into by the Township. LifeCare is having a hard time maintaining a staff at the Township, to meet the agreement's, 24/7 on call portion of the agreement. Also, there is no termination clause within the document. After further discussion the Board decided that Supervisor Hutchings, Clerk Stage and Attorney Thall will work with LifeCare to prepare a document agreeable to both parties. This agreement will be brought back to the Board for approval.

**Budget Public Hearing:** Supervisor Hutchings announced that the Budget Public Hearing will be Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Draft budget will be available to the public at that time. Attorney Thall will assist with public posting of meeting by Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

**Joint Meeting with Village of Augusta:** Trustee Langshaw proposed that there be a joint meeting with the Ross Township and Village of Augusta Boards to discuss the Interlocal Fire Department Agreement. After discussion, that included John Thomas, Chair of the Village of Augusta Board; it was decided that the Agreement should be completely retyped with changes made by the Fire Board. The changed document will be distributed to both Ross Township and Village of Augusta Board to review. After which a joint meeting date can be set, for both Boards to discuss the agreement and how each entity will fulfill their responsibilities.

**Planner Hourly Rate**

Motion
Trustee Bekes motioned: to increase Rebecca Harvey’s new hourly rate up to \$80.00/hour. As she continues her temporary support Ross Township. Trustee Harmon supported.

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

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

**Budget Breakdown:** Postponed until the Ambulance Agreement and the Interlocal Fire Department Agreement has been resolved.

**Second Citizen Comment:**

Ann Daly – Who worked for Gull Lake Ambulance, gave the Board further insight on how Ambulance Services work with Fire Department when Paramedic services are required.

**Trustee Update:** None

**Adjournment:**

Motion
Clerk Stage motioned: to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Supervisor Hutchings supported.

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

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