

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Tuesday September 17, 2024**

| <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      | Absent with cause       |
| Mike Sulka           | Trustee      | Present                 |
| Rob Thall            | Attorney     | Present                 |

Many interested Residents were also present.

**Call to Order:**

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

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Clerk Stage asked that AGS Fee Schedule and contract be added to new business after Tree work/stump grinding.

**Approval of Agenda**

| Motion   |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the agenda with changes, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed. |

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| <b>Mover</b>  | Trustee Bekes  |
| <b>Second</b> | Treasurer Wiersma  |
| <b>Result</b> | <b>Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 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   | Absent      |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye         | Trustee Langshaw | Aye         |
|                      |             | Trustee Sulka    | Aye         |

## Approval of consent Agenda

| Motion  |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the consent agenda with changes to August Minutes, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed. |

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| <b>Mover</b>  | Trustee Bekes  |
| <b>Second</b> | Trustee Langshaw   |
| <b>Result</b> | <b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstained; 1 Absent</b> |

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote      |
|----------------------|------|------------------|-----------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye       |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent    |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye       |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Abstained |

### Citizen Comment:

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen comment at 6:04 pm.

Nancy Boyd – Spoke on the Sherman Lake Water Quality SAD history and status. See attached statement.

Roger Schweitzer – Confirmed Sherman Lake SAD explanation and update and thanked the Board for working with the residents on the lake.

Tom Boyd – his family has been a longtime resident of Sherman Lake and spoke about the SAD's effect on the lake. See attached statement.

Connie Lavender – Concerned about solar farms moving into Ross, in neighboring townships they are consuming quality farm land in Assyria Township they have taken over 3,000 acres.

Tom Saad – Sherman Lake resident Water Quality Committee supports the Sherman Lake Resident Association and their handling of the SAD.

Dale Shugars – Announced he is running for County Treasurer; he gave a brief outline of his career to the Board and Residents.

Supervisor Hutchings closed public comment at 6:33 pm.

### Various Committee Reports:

**Fire Department:** Chief Bogema – had 38 calls in the last month, down from last year, West Shore Sirens did their maintenance on the sirens one near the Island is still not working, both sirens can be turned on by an app on a firefighter's phone. Repairs were completed on the fire trucks.

**Fire Board:** Diana Langshaw – September 11, 2024 completed evaluation review took place for the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief & Assistant Chief.

September 12, 2024 Fire Board had their quarterly meeting – included four (4) members of with one excused absent, the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief and Captain. Also present were two (2) firefighters. Reports were given on training, equipment needs, attendance, participation, and monthly calls.

Several committees were formed and each has reports due or updating for the next meeting. One of the goals is to have a 5-year plan in place for the 5-year millage by the first of the year, 2025.

Due to the importance of some of the reports, grants, and repairs, it may be necessary to hold meetings monthly.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm., at Ross Township Hall.

**Park:** Supervisor Hutchings – Park closed on Labor Day, all swim and no wake buoys have been removed from the lake. This does not mean that the no wake zone will not be enforced, there will be extra patrols on the lake in the fall.

### **Townhall**

Supervisor Hutchings asked the Board Members to give her dates that they are not available in November and she will schedule a Townhall PFAS updates with EGLE and any available updates from the City of Kalamazoo grant application for water extensions potentially in to Ross Township.

Clerk Stage reported that there has been an increase in FOIAs over the last couple of months; and wanted the Board to be aware that this will also cause an increase in cost from Associate Government Services (AGS) and our Attorney's office, due to some of the FOIAs.

Treasurer Wiersma reported that the new electronic payment system is up and running and several residents have already used it to pay their taxes.

### **Old Business:**

**Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Ross Augusta Fire Department:** Attorney Thall reported that he is still working on the IGA and should have it completed soon.

**Sherman Lake Sewer Connection:** Attorney Thall reported several Residents have been ordered to connect to sanitary sewer and they are waiting on the Judge to give the Sherman Lake Residents a date that they must be hooked up by.

**LifeCare Ambulance Contract:** with legal and will be reviewed in the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) quarter.

**New Business:**

**Battery Energy Storage Systems & Principal Use Solar Energy Systems Ordinances:** After much discussion on both Ordinances, the following revision was agreed upon for the Solar Ordinances: Section VI, Item 36, Subsection 18 A iii, to require the decommissioning funds to be established prior to the issuance of a building permit; and Subsection 18 B of the same Item to require bond review every two years. Attorney Thall will update the Ordinance and send to the Clerk Stage.

| Motion   |
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| Trustee Beke moved to accept the Solar Ordinance with recommended changes, supported by Trustee Langshaw, the motion passed unanimously. |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

The following revision was agreed upon for the Battery Energy Storage Systems Ordinance: Section II, Section 18.10, Subsection 13 A iii, to require the decommissioning funds to be established prior to the issuance of a building permit; and Subsection 13 B of the same Section to require bond review every two years.

| Motion   |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the Battery Energy Storage Systems, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously. |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

**Quote for Cummins generator repair:** Supervisor Hutchings reported that the only Company allowed to work or repair Cummins products is Cummins. The quote for repairs was in the Board Packet. After the repairs the generator will have a test run once a week to ensure that it is working properly.

| Motion  |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to give permission to the Supervisor to repair the generator with a limit of \$1,124.16 for those repairs, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed unanimously. |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

**Tree Work/stump grinding for Yorkville Cemetery quotes:** After discussion and review of pictures of the work necessary – the following motions were made.

| Motion   |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to approve up to \$2,250.00 to be spent on tree work at Yorkshire Cemetery, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously. |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

| Motion   |  |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to approve up to \$1,500.00 to be spent on six stump removals at Yorkshire Cemetery supported by Treasurer Wiersma, the motion passed unanimously. |  |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

**Associated Government Services (AGS):** Bert Gale informed the Board that it has been several years since AGS has asked for a fee increase and a new contract with Ross Township. Also given to the Board was copies of the AGS’ permit fee schedule and samples scenarios of typical projects and the cost for the permits that are seen in Ross. Also discussed was whether to change Ross’ mark up from 5% to 10%, the following motion was made:

| Motion   |  |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the AGS Contract after review by Attorney Thall, once complete Supervisor Hutchings may sign the document. Also, to increase the mark up to 10%, supported by Trustee Langshaw, the motion passed unanimously. |  |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

**Second Citizen Comments:** Supervisor Hutchings opened second citizen comment at 8:06 pm, with no participants, closed at 8:06 pm.

**Trustee Updates:**

Trustee Langshaw – The Fire Board approved invoicing Consumers Energy, when firefighters must secure down wires until Consumers crews can arrive.

| Motion   |
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| Clerk Stage moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Trustee Bekes, the motion passed unanimously. |

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

| Name                 | Vote | Name             | Vote   |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye  | Trustee Bekes    | Aye    |
| Clerk Stage          | Aye  | Trustee Harmon   | Absent |
| Treasurer Wiersma    | Aye  | Trustee Langshaw | Aye    |
|                      |      | Trustee Sulka    | Aye    |

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.