

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
August 20, 2024**

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

**Call to Order:**

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

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Trustee Harmon asked to have the Quarterly Budget Review to be added to the Agenda after New Business

**Approval of Agenda**

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

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Absent

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the consent agenda, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

**Guest Presenter:** Andrew Alspach, Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Management, spoke to the Board about weather sirens. Mr. Alspach noted that weather sirens are used for people who are outdoors. Many sirens are no longer in use due to the costly repairs and cost of new sirens He encouraged everyone to get a weather app on their phones, and a NOAA weather radio for their homes.

**Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen comment at 6:27 pm.

Helen Lang: See attached paper from Helem Lang.

- I request this information be placed in the minutes from tonight’s meeting 8/20/24 for all residents to read.

Michelle McWilliams: Would also like to see the monthly information from the PFAS meeting posted on the website.

**Various Committee Reports:**

Trustee Bekes – Planning Commission (PC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): Mike had sent to all the Board Members copies of the minutes from the PC and ZBA concerning the development of Solar Ordinance. Trustee Harmon had concerns about setbacks and glare of the solar panels. Attorney Thall stated that his office was still working on the Ordinance and asked that all concerns and comments be sent to his office by Thursday, August 22, 2024.

Treasurer Wiersma spoke with Trustee Bekes concerning the BS&A Payments Pricing program that she would like to start using to make tax payment easier for the Residents.

**Old Business:**

**Intergovernmental Agreement Ross Augusta Fire Department** – Attorney Thall is still working on the agreement and should have it completed by next week, and will send it to both the Township Board and Village Council.

**Sherman Lake Sewer Connection** – The Judge ruled that non-compliant individuals will have to hook-up to the sewer. He will also have a ruling on a date that these individuals will have to be hook-up. People who did not participate in the Sewer SAD can speak with Gull Lake Water and Sewer Authority (GLWSA) about a payment plan or seek a poverty exemption through the Assessor Angela Story.

**LifeCare Ambulance Contract** – in legal review until 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**New Business**

**Purchasing Policy** – Clerk Stage presented the Purchasing Policy. There was discussion concerning purchase orders, Clerk Stage will work with Attorney Thall’s office on crafting a purchase order that the Township will begin to use. There was also discussed on the bidding process and making sure certain items are requested in the Request for Proposal (RFP), such as the company’s insurance policy are they bonded etc. Supervisor Hutchings and Clerk Stage will work on getting an RFP package together.

Motion
Clerk Stage moved to accept the Purchasing Policy to start on October 1, 2024, giving individuals time to complete tasks discussed, supported by Trustee Bekes, after a roll call vote, the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

With the passage of the Purchasing Policy, Clerk Stage brought up changing the Township’s Credit Card Vendor from Consumers Credit Union to Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, where the Township has their General Fund Account. After discussion a motion was made.

Motion	
Clerk Stage moved to change credit card vendor from Consumers Credit Union to Southern Michigan Bank & Trust on or after October 1, 2024, supported by Trustee Bekes, after a roll call vote, the motion passed.	

<b>Mover</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

**AGS + Township Fees + Cost Center Breakouts** – Clerk Stage explained the process of how she came to the changes in the Fee & Escrow Schedule and what the fees would cover for a resident coming before the PC or ZBA for various reasons.

Motion	
Clerk Stage moved to accept the changes to Ross Township Application & Escrow Fee Schedule, supported by Trustee Harmon, after a roll call vote, the motion passed.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

Clerk Stage presented to the Board a Cost Center Breakout for spreading various expenses incurred by the Township with all the different Departments.

Motion
Clerk Stage moved to for the Board to accept the percentages of expense sharing as in the handout, supported by Trustee Langshaw, after a roll call vote, the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

**Village of Augusta request to use RTPD Speed Wagon** – Supervisor Hutchings directed the Boards attention to the email in our packet. The Village of Augusta has asked to borrow one of the Ross Township Police Department’s (RTPD) Speed Wagons to be placed at various locations in the Village. Discussion ensued, the Township will need to make sure that the Village has proper insurance to cover the cost if the wagon is lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed while in their use. Chief Brown spoke that he would like to oversee the wagon’s deployment, recovery, and maintenance while being used in the Village. Attorney Thall suggested a simple Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) be draw up for the use of the wagons.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to allow the Village of Augusta to use RTPD Speed Wagons once the IGA is drawn up and verification of proper insurance is obtained, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

**Quarterly Budget Review** – Trustee Harmon presented the Quarterly Budget Review. After the review Clerk Stage stated that there are many changes being made with in the budget, with departments getting new GL numbers and new cost centers being added. With these changes it will assist the Board in knowing where monies are being spent and where changes may need to be made and/or reviews of spending can be addressed.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to for the Board to accept the amended quarterly budget, supported by Clerk Stage, after a roll call vote, the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

**Second Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened second citizen comment at 7:47 pm

Connie Lavendar – expressed concern for residents that did not sign up for the sewer SAD and wondered if there was anything the Township could do, Supervisor Hutchings stated that they would have to plan with GLWSA.

Helen Lang – encouraged the Board to reach out to Rachel at EGLE, and that she would email her phone number to the Board.

John Thomas – stated that the Village of Augusta has investigated using and will begin using the BS&A Payment Pricing program, he believed it would be good for the Township to use the program.

Supervisor Hutchings closed second citizen comment at 7:53 pm.

**Trustee Updates:**

Trustee Harmon – stated that she would like to see the Township also have another Townhall concerning the water issue. She also informed the Board that she will be out of town the day of the September Board meeting.

There were no other Trustee updates.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent</b>

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

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Attachment:

Here is a copy of the comments from last night:

8/19 spoke to Rachel Golota from EGLE 269-370-2404

PPP site in Richland – currently working on containing the heavy metals in the groundwater – trapping them with a chemical injection so the metals do not move/holds them in place and they will stay on site in groundwater. EGLE will know how well it is working in about a year of collecting data. Great news it the heavy metal will no longer leave the site.

Asked about trapping/removing PFAS from the site, was told the PFAS is not moving. The investigation data shows the PFAS has not moved at all, the plume is stable, not grown at all in the last 2 years that they started investigating the data. EGLE will continue to monitor. This is wonderful news!

Additional great news, data is back for year 2024 well testing - 67 wells tested – only 1 well in Ross Twp. exceeded the limit with PFAS and numbers from that well were down from 2023 testing. It is unsure where the PFAS came from to this 1 resident, it can be anything even their treatment of lawn could have gotten the chemicals into the well. They have a shallow well, clay soil. Again, it can be anything. The great news it the numbers went down at this well and no other wells exceeded the limit!

I asked if they will be placing monitoring wells in Idlewild and testing home wells, said NO, again the PFAS is not moving. The plume is stable. We do not have PFAS here from the PPP site.

All this information means we do not have a PFAS problem in Ross Twp. This is such amazing news and needs to be shared with all residents. Everyone has had this fear of what if and now we know there is no reason to be afraid of PFAS from the PPP site. I request we hold a town hall ASAP to share this news with all residents now so they can be assured this is not a health and safety problem.

I want all board members to remember their promise in October, they would not move forward if the public water project to Ross Twp. is not free. We expect you to hold to this promise. The great news is, we do not need it. We do not have PFAS, we do not have a health and safety problem! We can say no and not worry about endangering anyone with PFAS.

EGLE will be putting out a bulletin sharing information in the fall.

I was also told EGLE holds a meeting once a month with twp. Supervisors and EGLE reviews any updates on the PFAS and heavy metals from the PPP site. I want to ask our supervisor to be transparent and share the monthly meeting information with all residents on the twp. Website under important news.

· I request this information be placed in the minutes from tonight's meeting 8/20/24 for all residents to read.

Thank you again. Please feel free to telephone me if you have any questions 517-712-8219.



Helen Lang