

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

| Attendee Name | Title | Roll Call Status |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |

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 |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the agenda with changes, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed unanimously. |

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| Mover | Trustee Bekes |
| Second | Trustee Langshaw |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Trustee Bekes moved to accept the consent agenda; Clerk Stage ask to have the May 21, 2024 minutes removed from the consent agenda.

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

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| Mover | Trustee Bekes |
| Second | Trustee Harmon |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Clerk Stage stated that she had made changes to the minutes after the packets were sent out, the last motion it was typed into the box twice. Supervisor Hutchings asked that an ‘s’ be added to the end of her name in the statement that the meeting was adjourned.

| Motion | |
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| Trustee Bekes moved to accept the May 21, 2024 minutes with changes, supported by Trustee Harmon the motion passed unanimously. | |

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| Mover | Trustee Bekes |
| Second | Trustee Harmon |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority:

Supervisor Hutchings asked if John Crumb was in attendance, with no response. Supervisor Hutchings updated the Board with the following – Attorney Thall responded to the GLSWA ‘Proposed Bylaws for GLSWA & Draft Bylaws’ to GLSWA Attorney. Supervisor Hutchings sent the same response to all Board Members of the Townships that sit on GLSWA Board, and has had no response from any of the Board Members.

Citizen Comment:

Supervisor Hutchings opened Citizen Comment at 6:05 pm.

Terry Burghdoff – I am running for the Village of Augusta’s Council and if I win, I look forward to working with the Ross Township Board.

Supervisor Hutchings closed Citizen Comment at 6:06 pm.

Various Committee Reports:

Fire Board: The Board has completed the evaluations of the Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief, all paperwork should be wrapped up by the end of June. The 70th year celebration for the Fire Department will be Saturday, September 28, 2024 and is open to the public. There will be a dunk tank, bounce house, and food trucks. The celebration is in the newsletter that will be going out in the tax notices next week. The Fire Associations Car Show will be in Augusta, in August.

Old Business:

Revised View Shed Ordinance – PC review there will a Public Hearing on the Ordinance. Trustee Sulka asked if the Public Hearing will be going out in an email blast, Supervisor Hutchings confirmed that it will happen.

Sherman Lake Sewer Connection Update – Attorney Thall informed the Board the hearing date is set for July 22, 2024. He believes that the remaining nonconnected violators will be included in this law suit.

LifeCare Ambulance Contract – Is still in legal review.

FEMA Floodplain IGA & Ordinance – Supervisor Hutchings motioned for the Board to give her permission to sign the Ordinance, supported by Trust Bekes. During discussion Trustee Sulka expressed concern whether the residents and Ross would be following the Floodplain Ordinance. He also wanted to make sure that we were aware that this Ordinance would supersede Ross Township Ordinances.

| Motion |
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| Supervisor Hutchings motioned for the Board to give her permission to sign the Ordinance, supported by Trustee Bekes. Trustee Sulka motioned to amend the motion to include AGS to pursue that the Township and Residents follow the Ordinance, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed unanimously. |

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| Mover | Supervisor Hutchings |
| Second | Trustee Bekes |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Draft ‘Appointing Policy’ – Clerk Stage motioned that the Board approve the Appointing Policy.

| Motion | |
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| Draft 'Appointing Policy' – Clerk Stage motioned that the Board approve the Appointing Policy, with a change to section 2, 2.1 'The Ross Township Board will appoint a three (3) person panel, from the Township Board, as the Review Committee', supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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| Mover | Clerk Stage |
| Second | Treasurer Wiersma |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

New Business:

Application for Excessive Noise Special Permit, 'Teddy's Landing' – Ed McCarthy explained to the Board that he owned the property from the Gull Lake Marina beyond the Chicken House and Capt. Mo's and Compass Cleaver on the Northside of D Ave. He would like to bring in bands during the summer, on Thursday only, for individuals to come down and listen to from 7 – 9 pm, from June 6 – Sept. 9, 2024.

Supervisor Hutchings opened Public Comment on the matter at 6:29 pm, with no participants Public Comment was closed at 6:29 pm.

Discussion occurred among Applicant, Board and Attorney. At the conclusion of the discussion, with Attorney Thall's input that the music requires a special land use permit; it was concluded that the application for Excessive Noise Special Permit Application needs to be amended. The amendment will be for the Applicant to go to Associated Government Services building Dept. (AGS) first, this to ensure that the Applicant is meeting Zoning Ordinances.

| Motion | |
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| Trustee Sulka motioned to postpone the vote on the application before the Board, to amended the Excessive Noise Special Permit Application to have the process start at AGS, to make sure the application meets zoning requirement, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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| Mover | Trustee Sulka |
| Second | Trustee Harmon |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

| Name | Vote | Name | Vote |
|----------------------|------|----------------|------|
| Supervisor Hutchings | Aye | Trustee Bekes | Aye |
| Clerk Stage | Aye | Trustee Harmon | Aye |

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| Treasurer Wiersma | Aye | Trustee Langshaw | Aye |
| | | Trustee Sulka | Aye |

Township Fees & Cost Centers Allocation Schedule & Chart of Accounts – Clerk Stage asked the discussion on these matters be postponed to July meeting.

| Motion | |
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| Clerk Stage moved the discussion on these matters be postponed to July meeting, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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|---------------|--|
| Mover | Trustee Sulka |
| Second | Trustee Harmon |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Emergency Sirens: Future planning – Discussion on what to do with the Township sirens concluded that we need to get quotes on repair and possible automating current sirens, quotes on new automated sirens, and quotes on supplying pagers to residents that do not have cellphones, so that severe weather alerts can go out through cellphones and pages. Trustee Langshaw offered to work with Chief Bogema to get the quotes and to contact other townships to see how they are handling this issue. Clerk Stage offered to assist .

Second Citizen Comment:

Supervisor Hutchings opened up second citizen comment at 7:11pm.

Terry Burghdoff – Stated that he would like to see the Township repair and update the sirens for Residents safety.

Supervisor Hutching closed second citizen comment at 7:15 pm.

Trustee Updates:

Treasurer Wiersma interviewed Hana Lemon for her deputy.

| Motion | |
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| Treasurer Wiersma motioned to hire Hana Lemon for Deputy Treasurer, supported by Trustee Sulka. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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| Mover | Treasurer Wiersma |
| Second | Trustee Sulka |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Treasurer Wiersma will study the cost of electric payment systems for paying taxes, dog licenses, and park passes.

Supervisor Hutchings updated the Board that there will be a joint meeting of the Village of Augusta and Ross Board to discuss the Interlocal Agreement for the Fire Department on July 9, 2024 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

The Township newsletter will go out in the tax mailing next week.

The Park team is working well together.

Clerk Stage has been working on getting bids for new phones in the office and recommended a change to TDS, which will be \$500.00 saving per month for the Township

| Motion | |
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| Clerk Stage motioned to change phone system to TDS, supported by Trustee Bekes. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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| Mover | Clerk Stage |
| Second | Trustee Bekes |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

| Motion | |
|---|--|
| Trustee Harmon motioned to adjourn, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion passed unanimously. | |

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|---------------|--|
| Mover | Trustee Harmon |
| Second | Trustee Langshaw |
| Result | Resolution Adopted: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent |

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

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.