

**Ross Township Budget Workshop Board Meeting
Approved Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
February 11, 2025**

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	Absent
Lynn Harmon	Trustee	Present
Todd White	Trustee	Present
Rob Thall	Attorney	Not in Attendance

And a few interested residents.

Call to Order:

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

Supervisor Hutchings asked that the agenda be changed to reflect changes to the wording that will be read prior to Citizen Comment, the new agenda was sent after the original agenda was sent out.

Approval of Agenda

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

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Citizen Comment:

Supervisor Hutchings opened citizen comment at 6:04 pm, with no speakers, closed citizen comment at 6:04 pm.

New Business:

Budget Workshop for FY 2025.2026, effective April 1, 2025 – Trustee Harmon put the budget workshop spreadsheet on the television monitor. The first order of business was to review and amend the 2023.2024 budget. After reviewing items in the budget and updating some line items, the 2024.2025 was amended.

Resolution
Trustee Langshaw resolved to accept the amended 2024.2025 budget, supported by Trustee Harmon the motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Harmon
Result	Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Upon completing the amendment to the 2024.2025 budget, the Ross Township Board (Board) began to work through the 2025.2026 budget. Trustee Harmon explained to the Board how the spreadsheet had been created. What percentages were used to figure income and expenditure for the come in fiscal year.

Supervisor Hutchings shared data from the COLA and the Employee Cost Index with the Board, then asked to see what the budget would look like if Office Manager, Trustees, Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeal, Deputies and Maintenance personnel received a 5% raise. This was done, and the Board began to move through other items.

The Park budget for 2025.2026 was amended. Supervisor Hutchings explained to the Board that The Area Rotary, came forward and asked if there were any capital improvement projects required at the park. They would brand the project as one done by the Rotary. Board brainstormed and come up with several projects they could possibly do – replace grills, new picnic tables, mulch for playground, new playground piece, and new park booth, were some of the ideas.

Police Chief Brown presented to the Board the cost for a new (used) police vehicle. Treasurer Wiersma, explained to the Members that she was checking with Southern Michigan Bank & Trust on financing option for the police vehicle and fire truck. The Board will have further discussion on both items at the next meeting.

Budget was discussed and updated for 2025.2026, Clerk Stage will send the amended budget to the Board members for further review, before the Board's next budget workshop on March 4, 2025 at 6:00 pm. There will be a public hearing on March 18, 2025 at 5:30pm prior to the Regular Township Board meeting at 6:00 pm.

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

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.