

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Tuesday November 19, 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	Present
Mike Sulka	Trustee	Present
Rob Thall	Attorney	Present

**Call to Order:**

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Trustee Harmon asked to add review of the amended budget under old business after LifeCare Ambulance Contract.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Result</b>	<b>Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 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
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Abstained

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

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<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
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

**Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened citizen comment at 6:06 pm.

Kathy Harris – Thanked the Board for the water vote. Expressed her unhappiness about moving precinct 2 to the Township Hall.

Tammy Woodham – Thanked the Board for the water vote. Wants to know really when EGLE imposed the new terms of the grant, she felt it was long before the meeting.

Supervisor Hutchings closed citizen comment at 6:09 pm.

**Various Committee Reports:**

Fire Board – Diana Langshaw reports the Fire Board will meet on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 to review the Fire Department’s budget.

1,500 people attended the Haunted House.

Firefighters’ evaluations are happening now and should be completed by the end of the year.

Fire Department are working with two other departments for breathing apparatus.

Clerk Stage – Election year is over and all went well.

**Old Business:**

Sherman Lake Sewer Connection Legal Updates – Attorney Thall explained that 6 people still have not connected, they will most likely go before the Judge again and must show cause. There will be a possible fine for not following the Judge’s order to connect.

Life Care Ambulance Contract – will be moving forward.

Budget Amendment – Trustee Harmon explained the various spreadsheets and the process that she, Clerk Stage and Treasurer Wiersma went through to amend the budget. As of now the Township looks to be under budget for the year.

Motion	
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the budget as amended, supported by Clerk Stage the motion passed unanimously.	

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<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
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

Intergovernmental Agreement: Ross Augusta Fire Department – Attorney Thall asked all members to send their comments to him by the end of the week. Trustee Bekes suggested that Treasurer Wiersma and Trustee Langshaw reach out to the Village Board to obtain dates that a quorum of the two Boards can come together to smooth out the differences and come to a final agreement. Treasurer Wiersma and Trustee Langshaw said that will reach out to the Village Board.

**New Business:**

Oaths & Commissions – Trustee Bekes explained that the Planning Commission (PC) members are currently not on a staggered year system, which is required. He would like to work with Chair Sager to have member be on a one-, two- or three-year intervals to create the staggered year needed. During the discussion Attorney Thall told the Board that a new liaison or the current liaison will have to be appointed. Clerk Stage referenced that Trustee Bekes had been assigned to the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), because no member of the PC was willing to step into the role. She was wondering if the question should be asked again of the PC members and see if anyone was now interested in sitting on the ZBA.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes moved to work with Chair Sager on creating a staggered year system for the Planning Commission, supported by Trustee Harmon the motion passed unanimously.	

<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
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

Motion

Supervisor Hutchings moved that the board of Trustees convene in closed session under section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meeting Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute, section 13 (1)(g) of the Freedom of Information act, being a letter from its attorney dated October 15, 2024, for the reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under State law due to the attorney-client privilege, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously.

**Mover** Supervisor Hutchings  
**Second** Clerk Stage  
**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 moved that the Board of Trustees return to open session, supported by Clerk Stage the motion passed unanimously.

**Mover** Supervisor Hutchings  
**Second** Clerk Stage  
**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 motioned that the Board direct Attorney Thall to move forward as recommended in closed session, supported by Trustee Bekes

**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

**Second Citizen Comment:**

Supervisor Hutchings opened second citizen comment at 7:18 pm.

Cathy Harris – expressed again her displeasure of the moving of precinct 2 to the Township Offices, and shared some concerns.

Valerie Silkworth – asked if the Board would consider changing precinct 1 back to the Village once the repairs are made to the Fire Barn.

Supervisor Hutchings closed second citizen comment at 7:21 pm.

**Trustee Updates:**

All Board members expressed a heartfelt farewell to Trustee Sulka for his many years of service to the residents of Ross Township and how he will be sorely missed.

Trustee Bekes – informed the Board that he will be out of town for until the March meeting.

Treasurer Wiersma – informed the Board that she had several CDs mature and that she has re-invested them in a ladder style in to other CDs; “I’m planning on using the following institutions – Arbor Credit Union, Kalsee Credit Union, Kellogg Credit Union and Michigan Class.”

Clerk Stage motioned to adjourn, supported by Trustee Harmon

<b>Mover</b>	Supervisor Hutchings
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Harmon
<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
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee Sulka	Aye

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.