

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Attendee Name	Title	Roll Call Status
Christina Hutchings	Supervisor	Present
Mary Stage	Clerk	Present
Amanda Wiersma	Treasurer	Present
Michael Bekes	Trustee	Present
Lynn Harmon	Trustee	Absent with cause
Diana Langshaw	Trustee	Present
Todd White	Trustee	Present
Rob Thall	Attorney	Present

There were several interested residents in attendance.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to accept the agenda, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed.

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

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

Guest Speakers

John Pinkster, Director of South Operations Life EMS – Gave a presentation about the history of Life EMS, its business model, and statistics. See attached presentation.

Paul Hausler & Carrie Rivette, PLM; “Stormwater & Lakes, Managing the Runoff” – Presentation explained stormwater runoff, and the harm it causes to our lake. There were also examples of how to grow native plants to protect the lake from stormwater runoff. See attached presentation.

Citizen Comment

Supervisor Hutchings opened citizen comment at 6:59 pm.

Chris Helmbold – asked where he could get a handout on the rain gardens, Supervisor Hutchings gave her copy to Mr. Helmbold.

Supervisor Hutchings closed citizen comment at 7:01 pm.

Various Committee Reports

Ross Augusta Fire Department – Chief Doug Bogema, the fire department had 395 calls last year. Had 69 calls in both January & February, and 100 so far this month.

Received a matching grant for \$4,600, for life rescue suits, utility trailer and packs for grass fires.

The firefighters had ice rescue training the last couple of weeks.

Ross Police Department – Chief Martin Brown, quiet this month.

Did have to help with an Amazon driver being hit, he is recovering well.

Received a grant from Gull Lake Water Quality group. This money will go to hiring a Marine Patrol, 2 parttime deputies to help with lake patrol starting Memorial Day weekend.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office Liaison – Lt. Jim Harrison introduced himself to the Board.

Supervisor Hutchings – meet with RCKC & MDOT concerning G Ave and M 96 intersection. They will be removing obstructions to seeing the curve, remove items that cars run into, and may add rumble sticks. She suggested to MDOT that they look at how M 89 comes into Michigan Ave, they had never seen the intersection. The problem with straightening G Ave is there is water on the southside of the road.

Old Business

Sherman Lake Sewer Connection – Attorney Thall, pursuing those that have not connected.

Ross Augusta Fire Department IGA – Attorney Thall waiting to hear from the Village of Augusta.

New Business

Update Budget Resolution for 2025 – 2026 – Clerk Stage asked for a resolution on the 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year Resolution

Resolution
Treasurer Wiersma resolved to accept the General Appropriations Act 2025 -2026 fiscal Year, supported by Supervisor Hutchings the motion passed.

Mover	Treasurer Wiersma
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Resolution Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Clerk Stage asked for a resolution on the Clerk’s salary

Resolution
Supervisor Hutchings resolved to accept the Salary Resolution for Township Clerk 2025 - 2026, fiscal year, supported by Trustee Bekes the motion passed.

Mover	Supervisor Hutchings
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 1 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Clerk Stage asked for a resolution on the Supervisor's salary.

Resolution
Trustee Langshaw resolved to accept the Salary Resolution for Township Supervisor 2025 - 2026, fiscal year, supported by Trustee Bekes the motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 1 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Clerk Stage asked for a resolution on the Treasurer's salary.

Resolution
Trustee Langshaw resolved to accept the Salary Resolution for Township Treasurer 2025 - 2026, fiscal year, supported by Supervisor Hutchings the motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Resolution Adopted: 4 Ayes; 2 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Planning Commission – Direction on Decks, Patios, Altering Grades

Motion
Clerk Stage moved to have the Planning Commission, review and update the ordinance on Altering Grading to strengthen the ordinance to give clear direction to the Ordinance Enforcement agency, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Clerk Stage asked for a Resolution for the Ross township Board Notice of Regular Meeting Dates.

Resolution
Supervisor Hutchings resolved to accept the Ross Township Board Notice of Regular Meeting Dates for 2025 -2026, fiscal year, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed.

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

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

Ambulance Services – Supervisor Hutchings spoke about what she likes about Life EMS.

Trustee Bekes – asked if we budgeted for this new service? Also, what will happen to the Ambulance Bay, it will be empty or could Life put a station here?

Attorney Thall did not have a cost; Supervisor Hutchings will investigate cost. If the Township partnered with Life EMS, the Ambulance Bay would be empty.

Attorney Thall explained that we would have to ask permission to join the Intergovernmental Agreement.

There will be further discussion about entering into an agreement with Life EMS.

Clerk Stage asked to discuss having a Recording Secretary for both the Planning Commission (PC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), to take minutes to allow Trustee Bekes the ability to participate in the meeting fully. Clerk Stage suggested Hannah Lake-Snow for the position. There was discussion, Trustee Bekes stated that he did not mind doing the minutes and he felt it did not interfere with him participating in the meetings.

Motion	
Trustee Langshaw motion not to change from how the minutes are currently recorded for the PC & ZBA, fiscal year, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed.	

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 1 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Second Citizen Comment

Supervisor Hutchings opened second citizen comment at 7:48

Chief Doug Bogema asked that we speak to LifeCare, before deciding to change to Life EMS. He also expressed that LifeCare equipment was compatible with our equipment and that he did not care for change.

Chris Helmbold – Wants to know which roads will be worked on this summer. Supervisor Hutchings told him to call the office, she has the Road Commissions contract on what roads will be done this summer.

Supervisor Hutchings Closed second citizen comment at 7:57

Supervisor Hutchings ask for a motion to adjourn.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes motion to adjourn, supported by Trustee Langshaw the motion passed.	

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

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