

**Ross Township Budget Public Hearing Meeting
Draft Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday, March 18 2024**

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	Not in attendance

As well as several interested residents.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to accept the agenda, supported by Clerk Stage the motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Motion 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

Citizen Comment

Supervisor Hutchings opened citizen comment at 5:34 pm. No residents stepped forward; citizen comment was closed at 5:35pm.

New Business

FY 2025-2026 Budget Hearing for Ross Township – Clerk Stage went through the 2025.2026 budget. There was discussion about moving items from 2024.2025, to be paid in 2025.2026 budget year.

Trustee White brought up his concerns about the percentage increase in wages. He had done some research into the issue and would like to see the percentage be around 2.5 – 3%.

Trustee Bekes stated that the Township matches the COLA increase, and 2 years ago the COLA was 8%, and the Township only went up 3%, put the Township wages behind others. He supports the 5% wage increase to bring the Township in to alignment with other in the area.

Supervisor Hutchings also spoke to the COLA differences and had back up material, which is attached.

Discussion continued concerning work needed at the Ross Township Park, the bathrooms and picnic tables. Park passes will be \$15 daily, \$30/season for residents and \$50/season for nonresidents.

Second Citizen Comment

Supervisor Hutchings opened second citizen comment at 5:55 pm, with no residents stepping forward, it was closed at 5:55 pm.

Motion
Clerk Stage moved to adjourn, 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	Aye
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Absent
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee White	Aye