

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday May 20, 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	Present
Diana Langshaw	Trustee	Present
Todd White	Trustee	Present
Rob Thall	Attorney	Present

Call to Order:

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Hutchings was seeking a motion for the approval of the minutes, but wanted to work something out with Attorney Thall, she continued speaking about the upcoming new business of keeping the YouTube meeting recording and how does that effect the way the minutes will look. Attorney Thall explained that the write minutes become the official record of the meeting, the Board can choose through policy to keep the recordings or not. The minutes need to reflect the actions taken, if it is a Public Hearing the minutes need to have more information.

Approval of Agenda

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

Mover	Supervisor Hutchings
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 White	Aye

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

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Treasure 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 White	Aye

Citizen Comment:

Citizen Comment was opened at 6:40 pm

Chris Howard – Thank the Board for what they do, you have a tough job. Tree on House in Midland Parks area. The Supervisor engaged in discussion.

Mark Rodgers – Read three quotes, which lead to transparency bills trust, I do not think that Ross' government is not transparency. However, if Ross wants to be super transparency you should augment your meetings with YouTube videos. This could also simplify your minutes.

Citizen comment was closed at 6:49 pm

Various Committee Reports:

Trustee Bekes – Planning Commission is working on the decks, patios & altering grade matter, as well as rezoning of 40th Street.

Trustee Langshaw – The Fire Board will be meeting at 22nd of May at 6:00 pm at the Township Hall.

Treasurer Wiersma – Updated the Board on two Arbor Credit Union 6-month CDs has matured and have been placed with First National Bank of Michigan, as 6-month CDs paying 25% higher rate than the current rate Arbor had to offer. Rates are down from 6-months ago by about 35%.

Chief Bogema – Fire Department met with LifeCare, working on common ground. They have replaced outdated and other materials on the fire trucks, and we are moving in a good direction. The month of April runs are consistent with other months. We did assist other departments on house fires. Trustee Bekes asked a couple of questions regarding a new fire truck and to those Chief Bogema stated he was open to leasing a new fire truck if that was a better option for the Township, agreed the Fire Department had responsibility for identifying the needs of the new fire truck and agreed with getting three closed bids on the fire truck order which would all be opened by the Fire Board when due. Bekes also inquired about the Command Staff position regarding the Sourcewell Consortium report to Richland regarding a fire truck purchase only going in front of the Ross Township Fire Command Staff to which Chief Bogema committed to reaching out to Richland for a copy of the report for him to forward to the Ross Township board.

Lori Phillip – LifeCare, they are now call in when they are in route, started a rotation of disposable items, so that items do not expire on the fire truck, because they will be use faster by the ambulance staff. Mitch Dickers has been elevated to a Lead Position and will be working with the fire department command staff on issues. Trustee Harman had question as to why the ambulance has been sitting at point more frequency. Lori explained that this is due to illnesses with LifeCare employees. Bekes has questions about a matrix and communication discussion took place between Lori and Board members.

Chief Brown – Police Department no major difference from last month. The department will begin summer hours.

Randy Thompson – Road Commission of Kalamazoo, there were 400 trees down with the storm we are working on clean up. Doing work at the corner of G Ave and M98. Have not heard on additional funding from State for more road rework projects.

New Business:

YouTube Meeting Recordings + Meeting Minutes

Motion	
Trustee Harmon moved to have Attorney Thall prepare a policy for leaving the YouTube and/or audio of meetings up, until policy is in place, supported by Trustee Bekes the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
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 White	Aye

Clerk Stage explained that on the Credit Card Policy did not have in the resolution the Assist Chief as a credit card holder and he needs to be added.

Resolution	
Trustee Harmon resolved that the Chief and Assist Chief be added to the Credit Card Policy, supported by Clerk Stage, after a roll call vote the resolution passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
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 White	Aye
--	---------------	-----

Discussion occurred concerning TDS and Comcast.

Resolution
Trustee Harmon resolved to have Clerk Stage investigate get credit cards from Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, supported by Treasurer Wiersma, after a roll call vote the resolution passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
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 White	Aye

Second Citizen Comment:

Opened second citizen comment at 7:50 pm.

Mark Rodgers – perhaps a board member can investigate the City of Kalamazoo, policy. What is the status of the requested by Gull Lake Sewer & Water concerning the overages on the Sherman Lake sewer project. Is it possible to post a remark on the Township Website concerning the steps the Township has taken concerning this matter.

Closed second citizen comment at 7:53 pm.

Motion
Supervisor Hutchings moved that the Township Board Convene in closed session under section 8(1)(h) of the open meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, being the letter from our attorney date May 20, 2025 for reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under state law as attorney-client privileged, supported by Trustee Langshaw, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Supervisor Hutchings
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 White	Aye

The Board returned to the conference room at 8:35pm

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to return to open session, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
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 White	Aye

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved that the Ross Township provide notice to LifeCare Ambulance that the current contract is not being renewed. Further, that the Township Attorney enter into immediate negotiation regarding a one (1) year agreement for a review period. Further that the Township Supervisor and Trustee Bekes, myself work with Attorney Thall in negotiations with Life Care Ambulance so that a new agreement may be submitted to the Board for approval at the June 2025 regular meeting, supported by Trustee Harmon, the motion passed unanimously.

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 White	Aye

Discussion took place as what items should be should be in the contract.

Trustee Updates:

None

Motion
Supervisor Langshaw moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Trustee Harmon, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Haron
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 White	Aye

Supervisor Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.
There is a YouTube video available of this meeting.

Mary Stage 6.18.2025
Mary Stage
Clerk