

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
October 21, 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

Several residents were in attendance.

Call to Order:

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

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Trustee Bekes wanted to add the following to Old Business: Board straw vote on LifeCare Ambulance performance for the scorecard. Discussion on the September 19th motion to seek bids for security and door access for the two rooms on the east side of the building to be used as an office and interview room for the Police Department and the old police office to become the evidence locker. Update on Ross Township's preparation for Operation Green Light for Veterans. No Wake Zone on Gull Lake.

After discussion, the No Wake Zone on Gull Lake was not added.

Approval of Agenda

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

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Motion 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 Harmon moved to accept the consent agenda with changes, supported by Trustee Bekes, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	Motion 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:

Was opened at 6:08 pm.

Dan Vandermeulin – thanked the Board for the Marine Patrol, they have been able to use their deck in the summer because of the noise reduction. He also, handed Supervisor Hutchings a letter from Gull Lake Ministries thanking the Township and Fire Department for their steady presence and faithful service to Ross Township. Also enclosed were two checks for \$1000.00 each, for the Fire and Police Departments.

Aimee Light – read a letter previously sent to the Board from the West Grand View Association, concerning the proposed Slow No Wake Zone in the sand bar bay on Gull Lake. The group is opposed to the no wake zone.

Ronny Weir – would like to know what could be done to stop speeding in the Yorkshire neighborhood.

Citizen Comment was closed at 6:18 pm.

Various Committee Reports:

Chief Bogema – Fire Department (FD) had 35 calls in September. Calls are up from this time last year from 304 to 384. A lot of the calls are medical. The department participated in several community events, Sherman Lake Kids Roar Mud Run, the Rayn Rally, Adopt A Highway and the Talons Out Flight. Also, the Haunted House will be this Saturday, October 25th.

Clerk Stage congratulated Chief Bogema on his 50 years of service to the Ross Augusta Fire Department, the Board and residents supported with a round of applause.

Chief Brown – Police Department (PD) Working with members of the Public Safety Committee to standardize the report forms for the Board meetings. Rumble strips have been installed on E G Ave. as you approach M96.

Brian Walls – LifeCare Ambulance see attached presentation.

Trustee Bekes – Planning Commission is having a Public Hearing on the changes to the zoning on 40th St on October 27th. The Zoning Board of Appeals is meeting on November 5th; they will be handling the sidewalk issues at that meeting.

Supervisor Hutchings – Spoke to the loss of Constitutional Revenue Sharing, after the State passed their budget; and what the County Supervisors have done and what they will continue to do to encourage our representatives to reinstate the revenue sharing.

Old Business:

Contract for Services with Village of Augusta – Clerk Stage stated that the contract will be sent to the Village negotiating members and to the Village President tomorrow.

Straw Vote on LifeCare – Trustee Bekes stated he would give LifeCare an A this month.

Trustee Harmon started a conversation on rather than doing a Straw Vote each month, that we use a quantitative analysis. After much discussion the following motion was made.

Trustee Bekes was concerned about removing the Straw Vote because we do not have an ambulance liaison according to the contract. It was confirmed by Supervisor Hutchings, Attorney Thall, and Clerk Stage that the contract does not call for a liaison.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to sunset the monthly Straw Vote and allow the Public Safety Committee to come up with a data set of measurements to evaluate the ambulance service, supported by Clerk Stage, after amending the original motion from having the data available in January to November, and if a not ready in November, we will have a December meeting, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Motion 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

Changes to East Side of the Building – Trustee Bekes asked Attorney Thall what happens when a motion is not followed, Thall responded that the motion should be followed. Trustee Bekes continued that the motion was not followed and he did not know if the Board was aware of the changes. After reviewing August meeting minutes, the motion was not followed.

After discussion it was concluded that some individuals thought that the Police Department was to move totally to the east side of the building. To correct the situation the following motion was made.

Motion	
Trustee Harmon moved to move the evidence closet from the former Police office to the closet in the ambulance area on the east side of the building, supported by Supervisor Hutchings, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Motion 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

Operation Green Light – Was for municipalities and businesses to shine a green light onto their buildings to assist in making veterans aware of services available to them. Ross will get the green film and cover our existing lights with the film.

New Business:

Early Voting Agreement – Clerk Stage stated that the agreement was the best option for Ross Township and that Attorney Thall has gone through the agreement. Attorney Thall stated that the agreement follows State guidelines.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes moved to allow Clerk Stage to sign the Early Voting Agreement with the County of Kalamazoo, supported by Supervisor Hutchings, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Bekes
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Motion 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

Tree removal at Ross Township Park – Supervisor Hutchings addressed the bids in the packet, noting that the best bid was from McFadden Tree Service.

Motion	
Clerk Stage moved to allow Supervisor Hutchings to engage McFadden Tree Service to remove the fallen tree, trim damaged trees and clean up the area for the bid price of \$4750.00, supported by Trustee Bekes, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	Motion 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

Building Permit Fee Amendment – Trustee Bekes made sure the Board had reviewed the material that was sent.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes moved to update the fee schedule to include fees for property owners who fail to get a permit prior to beginning work on their property, to the following: If the property owner comes into compliance after the first notice, the costs incurred are \$264 If a permit application is received after the final notice letter is sent (pt. 2), the cost incurred is \$352. If a citation is issued after the final notice and the violation goes to court for an Informal Hearing (pt.3), the costs incurred are a minimum of \$528. If the Compliance Order is not followed and goes back to court for a Formal Hearing (pt.4-5), the costs incurred are a minimum of \$704. supported by Trustee Langshaw, after a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Bekes
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion 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

Public Safety Committee – Spoke on this subject under old business.

Earned Sick Time Act Policy – There are two changes to make to the policy; remove On-Call Firefighters from the policy and add the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer so they can accrue sick time.

Resolution	
Clerk Stage resolved to accept the policy with changes discussed and Attorney Thall’s office will make those updates, supported Trustee Harmon, after a roll call vote, by the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Clerk Stage
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

Second Citizen Comment:

Was opened at 7:39 pm.

Brian Walls – LifeCare at the end of the year we will provide Ross with an Annual Summary Report. Also, Ross can call LifeCare if we think the station is not staffed.

Closed second citizen comment at 7:40 pm.

Trustee Langshaw asked Larry (Ross Township’s Road Commission liaison) to look into the tree and brush removal on C Ave and other side roads. Supervisor Hutchings will get with Trustee Langshaw for a list of roads to be inspected and send it to Larry.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes 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 dated October 21, 2025 for reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under state law as attorney-client privileged, supported by Trustee Langshaw, after a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Bekes
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion 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	
Clerk Stage moved to return to open session, supported by Trustee Bekes, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	Motion 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 Harmon moved to accept Attorney Thall's recommendation on matters discussed in close door session, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Motion 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
Clerk Stage moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Trustee Bekes, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Trustee Bekes
Result	motion 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 meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

A video recording of this meeting is on YouTube.

Mary Stage
Clerk Stage

Thursday November 13, 2025
Date