

**Ross Township Special Board Meeting  
Minutes  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Roll Call Status</b>
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 5:00 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Langshaw
<b>Second</b>	Trustee Harmon
<b>Result</b>	<b>Motion 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 White	Aye

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Prior to approval Clerk Stage stated that additional changes were made to the minutes from the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, she handed a copy of the minutes to be circulated to the Board for review.

<b>Motion</b>
Trustee Bekes moved to accept the consent agenda with changes, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Treasurer Wiersma
<b>Result</b>	<b>Motion 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 White	Aye

**Consideration of Settlement Agreement in Lawsuit of Tracy vs Chipman:**

<b>Resolution</b>
Trustee Harmon resolved to accept the settlement of the lawsuit as presented by our Attorney, supported by Clerk Stage, after a roll call vote, 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>

<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 White	Aye

During discussion, Trustee Bekes brought up that the lawsuit has cost the Township money that is not mentioned in the settlement. The Chipmans are donating to the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in the amount of \$5,000.00, but what has it cost the Township because of this Lawsuit. It was mentioned that it has cost the Township \$5,000.00 to cover our insurance deductible. From this discussion the following motion was made:

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to have placed in the minutes a cost analysis of what the lawsuit cost the Township, supported by Treasurer Wiersma the motion passed unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Trustee Bekes
<b>Second</b>	Treasurer Wiersma
<b>Result</b>	<b>Motion 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 White	Aye

Clerk Stage – investigation of the cost of the lawsuit, the Township paid its insurance deductible \$5,000.00, payment to Board Members for special meeting of \$440.00, total charges from Associated Government Services of \$560.00, total charges from Township Attorney on the matter \$750.00. For a total dollar spent of \$6750.00. The Township will also be looking at increase cost from our insurance carrier in the next year due to lawsuits.

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 dated November 12, 2025 for reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under state law as attorney-client privileged, supported by Clerk Stage, after a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>Mover</b>	Supervisor Hutchings
<b>Second</b>	Clerk Stage
<b>Result</b>	<b>Motion 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 White	Aye

**Motion**

Trustee Harmon moved to return to open 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**

Trustee Harmon moved to accept Attorney Thall's recommendation on matters discussed in closed session, supported by Trustee Langshaw, the motion passed unanimously.

**Mover** Trustee Harmon  
**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**

Trustee Bekes moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Clerk Stage, the motion passed unanimously.

**Mover** Trustee Bekes  
**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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Mary Stage  
 Clerk Stage

Thursday, December 4, 2025  
 Date