

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
January 20, 2026**

Attendee Name	Title	Roll Call Status
Christina Hutchings	Supervisor	Present
Mary Stage	Clerk	Present
Amanda Wiersma	Treasurer	Present
Michael Bekes	Trustee	Absent with cause
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 6:05 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Clerk Stage wanted to add: A Resolution to Provide for Acceptance of Letters of Protest from Taxpayer Residents for the March 2026 Board of Review.

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	Absent
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee White	Aye

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the consent agenda, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Citizen Comment:

Was opened at 6:08 pm

Guest Speaker:

Kellie Cody – Coalition of Veteran Service Organizations (CVSO). The CVSO is a 501c3 organization and they would like to hold a raffle that supports their operating budget for the year. The Ross Township Board must pass a resolution for charitable gaming licenses for the organization. The State of Michigan requires the Township, in which the 501c3 operates to knowledge that it operates in their Township, for the State to issue the gaming licenses.

Resolution
Trustee Harmon resolved to approve the Coalition of Veteran Service Organization to receive a Charitable Gaming Licenses from the State of Michigan, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. After a roll call vote, the resolution passed.

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

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

Rod Weir – is concerned about speeders on his neighborhood street. He would like to know what is being done to control speeders.

Citizen Comment was closed at 6:18 pm.

Various Committee Updates: (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Public Safety Committee)

LifeCare Ambulance – Brian Walls went through stats for December 2025.

Fire Department – Doug Bogema and Jake Leatherman. The department had 512 calls this past month. They are getting a quote for new radios and looking into a FEMA grant for new air packets for the department. They are also looking into the purchase of a new truck to replace an older vehicle.

Police Department – Martin Brown. Chief admitted that he lost a snowball fight with a couple of 5-year-olds. He has been dealing with two very large fraud cases in Ross Township currently.

Public Safety Committee – Trustee Harmon reminded residents that Ross is covered by police 24/7, because we still pay to County to cover Ross and we have a contract with Richland that covers Ross when our Chief is off duty.

The committee is still working on a score card, and is looking into posting items of interest on the Ross Township Website.

Old Business:

Contract for Fire Services with Village of Augusta – Rob Thall. A revised contract was sent to the Village Attorney; the Village will hopefully review and approve the contract at their next Board meeting in February so that it can be in place at the beginning of the fiscal year.

New Business:

Resolution recognizing “Coalition of VSO” – Completed earlier in the meeting

Road Commission PAR Funding for 2026 – Completed in our Budget meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) Candidate Appointment – Email from Trustee Bekes concerning interviews that Jim DeKruyter, Bonnie Sawusch and Michael Bekes had with two applicants. The ZBA members recommended Bruce Bond be appointed to the ZBA as a new member.

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to appoint Bruce Bond to the ZBA, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Harmon
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Sign PSA for Prein & Newhof Engineers – Supervisor Hutchings explained that this is a yearly contract renewal.

Motion	
Trustee Langshaw moved to approve Supervisor Hutchings' signing of the yearly agreement with Prein & NewHof, 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	Absent
Clerk Stage	Aye	Trustee Harmon	Aye
Treasurer Wiersma	Aye	Trustee Langshaw	Aye
		Trustee White	Aye

Appoint Bid for HVAC/Park Water Facility Maintenance – Clerk Stage reviewed both bids and Geostar bid covered all the Township's needs.

Motion	
Clerk Stage moved to approve Geostar to maintain our HVAC/Park Water Facilities for 2026, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed.	

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Resolution Updating State Poverty Exemption for 2026

Resolution
Clerk Stage resolved to accept the State Poverty Exemption for 2026, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The resolution passed.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Resolution on Alternative Board of Review Dates for 2026

Resolution
Clerk Stage resolved to accept the Alternative Board of Review Dates for 2026, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The resolution passed.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

A Resolution to Provide for Acceptance of Letters of Protest from Taxpayer Residents for the March 2026 Board of Review

Resolution
Clerk Stage resolved to accept Acceptance of Letters of Protest from Taxpayer Residents for March 2026 supported by Supervisor Hutchings. The resolution passed.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Supervisor Hutchings
Result	Motion Adopted: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 1 Absent

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

Set/Review upcoming Budget Workshop(s) – It was confirmed that the next budget workshop would be February 17th at 5:00 pm and the public hearing would be March 17th at 5:00 pm.

Second Citizen Comment:

Opened and closed at 7:02 pm.

Trustee Updates

Trustee Langshaw – Fire budget was approved at the last Fire Board meeting. It was agreed that we would review and approve the Fire budget at our February budget meeting.

Clerk Stage - Informed the Board that Richland at their last Board meeting voted to leave the Early Vote Agreement. She had investigated going on our own or joining with other municipalities to see if we would be better off than staying with the County agreement; she found that staying with the County agreement was in the best interest for Ross. There will be a new contract in our February packets for review after our Attorney reviews the contract.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed.

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

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

A video recording of this meeting is on YouTube.

Mary Stage
Clerk Stage

Wednesday, February 18, 2020
Date