

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
March 17, 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	Absent with cause
Rob Thall	Attorney	Present

Call to Order:

Supervisor Hutchings called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to accept the agenda, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Motion Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Prior to the approval of the consent agenda, Clerk Stage noted that there was another change to the regular board meeting minutes: under the discussion of the City of Kalamazoo signage, the street was typed as 39th and it was changed to 37th.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the consent agenda with changes, supported by Clerk Stage. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Motion Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

Guest Speakers:

Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority (GLSWA) – John Crumb did not attend meeting.

City of Kalamazoo, Proposed Signage on Greer Road – James Baker. James spoke about what the City has done on the property for land management and what their plans are in the future.

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) – Larry Stehouwer. Spoke briefly on road funding and how it may affect future year projects.

Various Committee Reports:

Ross Augusta Fire Department – Jake Leatherman. The department responded to 35 calls this month. They completed ice rescue training. On April 14th the department will hold a meet and greet for future potential firefighters.

Doug Bogema – informed the Board that there will be a siren test tomorrow at 1 pm, and that the truck has had service done and pumps were tested. He also expressed the need to replace the truck that is currently housed at the south station.

Brandon Shirley – wants to discuss the new truck also, but will cover the issue under new business.

Ross Police Department – Martin Brown. The call volume has not changed this month.

The fraud cases dealing with stolen checks has increased as the thefts of the checks are occurring at mail boxes of residents, as well as at the destination.

Chief Brown also did a figure printing presentation for a local Cub Scout group this pass month.

Fire Board – Diana Langshaw. Our most recent meeting was held March 12, 2026.

Candidates for the two vacant lieutenant positions were introduced. The Fire Board briefly reviewed the recommendations from the Fire Department Command Staff. The Fire board voted to approve the recommendations of Command Staff.

The following items were discussed with action being taken if needed:

- Grant and radio (updates)
- Review of monthly stats
- Budget amendments (approved)

Items discussed with **NO** action taken:

- Updating SOPS/SOGS
- 5 & 10 year operational and capital improvement plans
- Approval of section head recommendations

Fire Board members recommended to have Command Staff continue the short weekly activity reports to the Township Board.

Citizen Comment:

Was opened and closed at 6:34 pm.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Street Light Assessments – Treasurer Wiersma will be working with Ross’ Assessor Angela Story to review the street light districts. Looking to complete project by May.

Contract for Fire Services with Village of Augusta – Terry Burghdoff & Andy Ackley, Trustees of the Village, expressed that they were happy that the agreement was completed. Val Silkworth also expressed that she was happy that the agreement was completed, but also expressed that she wanted the communication to be maintained.

Motion	
Trustee Harmon moved to approve Supervisor Hutchings to sign the Fire Service Agreement with the Village of Augusta, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed.	

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Motion Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to dissolve the Fire Board, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
Result	Motion Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

New Business

GLSWA Rate FY 2026 – 2027

Clerk Stage stated that at Authority meetings she's attended, during budget discussions, the budget has never been gone through line item by line item to see where spending could be decreased or maintained. It is presented as this is what the Authority wants and the Board should approve the budget.

It was the understanding of Clerk Stage that an alternative budget was presented to the GLSWA Board by Richland & Ross Townships that would have held the current rate to users, but it was not even discussed. In the end the three minor townships voted to approve the budget as presented, with the rate increase.

Supervisor Hutching stated that in the GLSWA packet each month there is spending at Sam's Club for food, pop and water and generous clothing allowances for employees.

James Baker spoke on how residents can go and check the rates that are currently in use for the City of Kalamazoo on their website. It was stated that the current rates for Ross and Richland uses may not be affect by the rates currently used in the City of Kalamazoo.

Trustee Harmon asked Attorney Thall if the Board was to vote no on the rate increase how this may affect Ross Township. Thall stated that he did not know that it would affect them implementing the rate increase and was unsure how GLSWA may bill the increase to the Township.

Resolution
Trustee Harmon resolved to decline the rate increase from GLSWA, supported by Clerk Stage. After a roll call vote, the resolution passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

City of Kalamazoo Land Management Signage

Motion
Treasurer Wiersma moved to approve Ross Township on signage for the City's property on 37 th St., supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion passed.

Mover	Treasurer Wiersma
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion Adopted: 4 Ayes; 1 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 Absent

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

Ross Township Board Meeting Schedule 2026 -2027

Trustee Harmon noted that the April and July 2026 dates and March 2027 date need to be corrected.

Resolution
Trustee Harmon resolved to accept the resolution for the Township Board meeting dates with the changes, supported by Trustee Langshaw. After a roll call vote, the resolution passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

Planning Commission Meeting Schedule 2026 – 2027

The meeting date in April 2026 needed to be changed.

Resolution
Trustee Harmon resolved to accept the resolution for the Planning Commission meeting dates with the changes, supported by Clerk Stage. After a roll call vote, the resolution passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	Resolution Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

Ross-Augusta Fire Department (RAFD) Administration

The RAFD Command Staff introduced themselves, including new Lieutenants Chad Wireman and Jake Pixley.

After introductions, Supervisor Hutching asked Attorney Thall to explain how other Township Boards handle the administration of their fire department. Thall explained that many townships set up a committee to interface with the department for the Board. It depends on how the Board would like to proceed.

There was a discussion with the Board and Command Staff which covered the purchase of a new truck, equipment, the 5- & 10-year plans, and the selling of old trucks.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the RAFD would bring quotes for a new truck to the March 26th Board meeting for discussion and motion.

Second Citizen Comment

Opened and closed at 7:53 pm.

Trustee Updates

None.

Adjournment

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

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Trustee Langshaw
Result	Motion Adopted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstained; 2 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	Absent

A recording of this meeting is on YouTube.

Mary Stage
Clerk Stage

Monday March 30, 2026
Date