

**Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday, June 16, 2026**

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 6:01 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda

Motion
Trustee Langshaw moved to accept the agenda, supported by Clerk Stage. The motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
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

Consent Agenda

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

Mover	Treasurer Wiersma
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

Special Guest Speaker

Ajitya Rama – from Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority. He spoke on the different services Metro provides to those who may not have transportation. There are four different services that Metro provides: Metro Bus, fix bus routes, Metro Connect, for those with disabilities and seniors, Metro Link, on-demand service to plan their rides, and Metro Share, use of Metro vans, with no direct cost to the user. If residents are interested in any of these services, they can call 269.337.8222.

Citizen Comment:

Was opened at 6:14 pm.

Pam Moseley – Thanked the Board for all the work they do for the Township.

Spoke about the Sherman Lake (SL) Special Assessment District (SAD) and the Sherman Lake Resident Association (SLRA).

Pat Doran – Spoke about blue green algae blooms on Sherman Lake and SAD.

Mark Rodgers – Spoke on the SL SAD and told the Board that he has submitted his feeling on the SAD to the Board through email.

Donn Pieracini – Spoke about SL SAD and encouraged all residents to participate in how the SAD is managed.

Chris Helmbold – Spoke on the SL SAD funding and whether a lake board should be formed.

Tom Boyd – Spoke about the SLRA and SL SAD.

Nancy Boyd – Spoke on the SLRA and SL SAD.

Tom Saad – Spoke about the SLRA and SL SAD and water quality.

Closed Citizen Comment at 6:41 pm.

Various Committee Reports:

Ross Augusta Fire Department (RAFD)– Chief Doug Bogema gave the May update: responded to 51 calls in May 2026. They had two training on pump operations and EMS continuing education training, had their annual car wash, and participated in the Hickory Corners Memorial Day Parade. The new radios have been ordered. They are still working on several grants. Also, RAFD command staff had a virtual meeting with US Fire Apparatus, to finalized the truck design.

Trustee Bekes asked about the budget and the percentages of operation vs capital, wondering if they could be something to present at the July meeting.

RAFD is working with different educational providers to assist in training future firefighters.

LifeCare Ambulance – Lori Phillip, reported a total of 39 calls in May, transported 27, and 1 was lights and sirens. There was 1 call that the ambulance driver forgot to release the Fire Department from the call. The night shift was not fully covered due to one of their employees, being deployment overseas

Ross Township Police Department (RTPD) – Chief Martin Brown, May was a standard month. Marine Patrol is up and running. The RTPD and RAFD had joint training on water rescue and recovery on Gull Lake in May.

Ross Township Park – Trustee Harmon, during the storm a tree limb came down and crush one of the picnic tables. The tree was cut up and removed and we are working on having the picnic table repaired.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Street Light Assessments – Treasurer Wiersma, explain that she and the Assessor have worked together to created new street light districts and they should have something to present to the Board at our next meeting.

New Business:

US Fire Truck revised contract/specifications – Supervisor Hutchings we have a new contract it's been signed and the delivery date for the vehicle is October 2026. The update contract price came in lower.

Introduction of new Deputy Clerk – Clerk Stage introduced Ken Williams, the new Deputy Clerk. He spoke to the Board about his family move back to Michigan, working the May election, and applying for the Deputy Clerk position.

Sherman Lake Water Quality Special Assessment – Attorney Thall began stating Supervisor Hutchings and Treasurer Wiersma have to recuses themselves from any discussion and voting on the matter of the SAD, because they live on the lake.

He then spoke on the Special Assess process and establishing a SAD. Atty Thall also suggested that the Board invite Dr Jones and John Tucci to come present to the Board about the current program being managed on Sherman Lake.

After Atty Thall finished, there was discussion among the Board and the following motion was made.

Motion	
Trustee Bekes moved to have Atty. Thall create a timeline for the new SAD for 2027 to be available in August 2026, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed unanimously.	

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

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

Ross Township Traffic Unit – Chief Brown, spoke on a revenue neutral of the traffic unit and how it would be handled and tracked.

Resolution	
Trustee Bekes resolved to approve the traffic unit with a detailed report due October 2026 on the traffic unit's revenue and expenditure, supported by Trustee Harmon. After a roll call vote the resolution passed.	

Mover	Trustee Bekes
Second	Trustee Harmon
Result	Resolution Adopted: 4 Ayes; 3 Nays; 0 Abstained; 0 Absent

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

New Credit Card Vender – Clerk Stage explained to the Board that we already have a credit card policy and a resolution on who can have the credit card. She asked the Board to approve a change in provider, to Consumer Credit Union, for convenience of getting statements and paying online if necessary. She told the Board she would like to increase the credit limit on each card to \$3,000. After discussion the follow resolution was made.

Resolution
Trustee Bekes resolved to approve the change in credit card providers to Consumer Credit Union, supported by Trustee Langshaw. After a roll call vote the resolution passed.

Mover	Trustee Bekes
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

New Payroll Vendor – Clerk Stage explained the current payroll process, and then explained how much easier process is with ADP. The employees punch in and out on an app they download to their phone, so there is no need for paysheets. If an employee does multiple jobs for the township, they will be able to switch within the app. The app will track our GL code that are used for each employee and create a spreadsheet for Clerk Stage to upload in to BS&A accounting system.

Motion
Trustee Bekes move to approve the change to a new payroll provider ADP, 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

Second Citizen Comment:

Opened at 8:23 pm

Kerry Lynn Elieff – Questions about SL SAD changes.

Nancy Boyd – Asked if there will be an increase in the cost of the SAD since the Board is now taking on managing the SAD.

Chris Helmbold – Since the Township will be taking on the managing of the SAD, he sees no need for a lake board to be formed.

Tom Boyd – believes there is a need for a lake board to allow resident to get involved.

Tom Saad – he encouraged the continuation of the management of the lake, through the SAD.

Citizen Comment closed at 8:29 pm

Trustee Updates

Treasurer Wiersma – Tax bills will be printing and going out July 30th.

Clerk Stage – The Kalamazoo County Clerk had meetings with the Michigan's Attorney General and Board of Election (BOE) on election security. BOE stated at the meeting that they are trying to get the legislature to pay for all the new elections equipment that we will be require to purchase.

We received our ballots and they will be going out Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Trustee Bekes – Asked where we stood on the ambulance contract

Supervisor Hutchings, we will have to start the review process and get input from the RAFD.

Trustee Harmon the bottom line is what kind of care our residents are receiving.

Trustees agreed on the following item for the July agenda budget, contract with ambulance and street lights

Motion
Trustee Harmon move to adjourn the meeting, supported by Clerk Stage. 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

A video recording of this meeting is on YouTube.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Mary Stage
Mary Stage

Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Date