Ross Township Regular Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
ROSS TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Tuesday, September 15, 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 6:04 pm with all rising for the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Prior to the approval to the agenda, Supervisor Hutchings wanted to add:

Approval of Agenda

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the agenda, 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

Consent Agenda

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

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Harmon
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 6:06 pm

Mark Rodgers – Appreciated Michael Bekes work on the Sherman Lake (SL) Special Assessment District (SAD).

Larry Stehouwer – Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) – Spoke on the funding situation in Michigan, he hopes the Township will continue with its matching program.

Supervisor Hutchings explained that Larry was working with the Township to bring Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to the table to address the issues at M96 & G Ave, and accidents that have occurred on M89.

Various Committee Reports:

LifeCare Ambulance – Lori Phillips. 50 calls in August, no lights and sirens. Working on training schedule with the Fire Department.

Ross Township Police Department (RTPD) – Chief Brown. Calm month, marine patrol time was down due to weather. Will have the traffic report for the Board in October.

Ross Augusta Fire Department (RAFD) – Chief Bogema. 61 Calls in August, 40 of them were medical. 45 were in Ross, 13 in Augusta and 3 outside of the Township. RAFD did spray downs for a couple of camps, participated in the Wall of Healing parade, and the new truck is still on target for delivery in October.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Streetlight Special Assessment – Atty. Thall stated that we are ready to have a public hearing on the changes to the streetlight special assessment. We would have to mail all resident in the assessment districts and put a notice in the newspaper. After discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Hamon moved to have Atty. Thall put a notification in the paper of a Public Hearing on Streetlight Assessment to be held on October 20, 2026 @ 5:30 pm, supported by Trustee Bekes. After a roll call vote, 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

Update 5 Workstations – Supervisor Hutchings is working with InfoSafe to get quotes and timelines for the updating of the 5 workstations. They are comparing prices from their suppliers with pricing we would get on MiDeal.

New Business:

LifeCare Ambulance Service Agreement – Supervisor Hutchings stated that Clerk Stage and I meet with LifeCare to discuss some of the changes to the contract. On page 3, they want to remove the Manually Tracking requirements. Also to charge Ross for the supplies that they purchase for Ross that are required in Kalamazoo County and Mitch's time for restocking the RAFD trucks with supplies.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to allow Supervisor Hutchings and Clerk Stage to continue negotiations with LifeCare and to remove manually tracking requirements. To allow for offsetting of charges from the rent to cover the cost of supplies unique to Kalamazoo County, 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

Shermon Lake Water Quality SAD Presentation – Trustee Bekes first discussed SL SAD and what Public Act should be used. After discussion the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved that Ross Township use Public Act 188 of 1954 as the framework for establishing a 2027 Special Assessment District (SAD) to maintain and improve Sherman Lake's water quality. This motion does not establish an SAD; the Board will decide in 2027 whether to proceed with a new SAD, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

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

Second discussion was on transparency and having the Clerk place in the Consent Agenda an invoice report that shows the SL SAD invoices that were or are going to be paid. After discussion the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to improve transparency by clearly identifying all SAD-funded payments in the check register included with each Board meeting Consent Agenda and reflect in the respective meeting minutes the Sherman Lake SAD invoices/payments have been approved. Bekes further moves to complete the current 2020 SAD by directing the Limnologist to review current data, develop a summer/fall 2027 treatment scope, review the scope with the SLRA and have the scope presented to the Board for approval at its April 2027 meeting. If approved, the Limnologist and SLRA will coordinate the authorized activities and keep lake residents informed. This motion does not affect any potential 2027 SAD, which will be developed with input from the Citizens Advisory Panel and SLRA before RFPs are issued for SAD services beginning in 2028, supported by Trustee Langshaw. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Bekes
Second	Trustee Langshaw
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

Third item discussed was Surplus SAD Funds and Program Changes. After discussion the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved that the Township Board affirm that changes in the implementation, location, timing, or methods of the approved Sherman Lake water-quality program, when made to improve the effectiveness of the authorized improvement and remain within the approved purpose of the SAD, do not by themselves require a mid-term refund or credit to property owners. I further move that, upon expiration of the current Sherman Lake SAD, the Township shall reconcile the SAD revenues and expenditures, including any remaining funds, and shall dispose of any surplus in accordance with applicable law, including prorating any amount properly determined to be refundable among the properties assessed, based upon the amount originally assessed to each property, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

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

The fourth item discussed proposed Dr Jennifer Jones contract. After discussion. the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to approve the contract with **Dr. Jennifer Jones for the remainder of 2026 and calendar year 2027.** Under the contract, Dr. Jones will review current Sherman Lake data, work with the Sherman Lake Residents Association to develop a proposed scope for a 2027 SAD plan, and present that proposed scope to the Ross Township Board for consideration and approval at its **April 2027 meeting.** Approval of this contract will provide continuity through completion of the current SAD while **not committing the Township to Dr. Jones for any future SAD.** The contract establishes Dr. Jones's fees and covered services, addresses fuel surcharges, requires delivery of the proposed 2027 plan scope for Board consideration in April 2027, and requires that all Sherman Lake data points be available to Ross Township. supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

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

The fifth item was the time table for consideration of a 2027 SAD. After discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to approve the proposed timetable for evaluating and considering a 2027 Sherman Lake Special Assessment District for weed control and water-quality improvements, providing sufficient time for community input, professional evaluation, and Township Board consideration before the current SAD expires, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

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

Trustee Harmon asked to have the name read that would be on the Citizen Advisor Panel (CAP), and to have the Board approve those members. After the reading of the names, the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Bekes moved to accept the thirteen names read to be on the CAP, supported by Trustee Harmon. The motion passed.

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

Trustee Harmon then made the following motion.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved that the CAP be a closed slate, supported by Clerk Stage. The motion passed.

Mover	Trustee Harmon
Second	Clerk Stage
Result	**Motion Adopted: 3 Ayes; 2 Nays; 2 Abstained; 0 Absent**

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

Trustee Bekes will send the Sherman Lake Resident Board (SLRB) information concerning our Board discussion to be sent to all Lake Residents.

Pavilion Township Fire Truck Purchase Agreement – Supervisor Hutchings explained that the Pavilion Township has made a $40,000 offer for the tanker truck that we are replacing. The following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved to accept the offer from Pavilion Township for the tanker truck, supported by Trustee Langshaw. After a roll call vote, 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

Ross Township Park – Supervisor Hutchings and Mary Carol Wilkins spoke on the many improvements made at the park this summer. It was asked that the Board review and update the Park Ordinance, which the Board has in their packet. It was suggested that we put a wish list on our website and people can make a monetary donation for items on the wish list.

Audit Response Letter – the Board reviewed the letter and discussed the items that we need to budget for on a yearly basis.

Second Citizen Comment

Was opened at 8:09 pm

Tom Boyd – Thanked Michael Bekes for all the work he had done on the SAD, and thanked the whole Board for all their work on the SAD also.

Tom Saad – Thanked the Board for all their work on the SAD and suggested that the Board promote the park more.

Chief Bogema – Asked if he should contact Pavilion Township concerning the truck, Supervisor Hutchings said yes.

Larry Stehouwer – Stated that if people call the Township concerning the trees being cut down, have them contact RCKC.

Closed at 8:14 pm.

Close Door Session

Motion
Supervisor Hutchings moved that the Ross 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 a letter from its attorney dated September 15, 2026 for the reason that the letter is exempt from disclosure under State law due to the attorney-client privilege, supported by Trustee Langshaw. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Supervisor Hutchings
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

The Board move to closes session at 8:16 pm.

The following motion was made at 8:59 pm.

Motion
Supervisor Hutchings moved to return to open session, supported by Clerk Stage. The motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Harmon
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

After returning to open session the following motion was made.

Motion
Trustee Harmon moved that the Board follow our Atty. Advise on both matters discussed, supported by Trustee Bekes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Trustee Langshaw
Second	Trustee Harmon
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

Adjournment

Motion
Clerk Stage moved to adjourn, supported by Treasurer Wiersma. The motion passed unanimously.

Mover	Clerk Stage
Second	Treasurer Wiersma
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 9:00 pm.

A video recording of this meeting is on YouTube.

Mary Stage
Mary Stage

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Date