

ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
AND BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 15, 2005 MINUTES

The Regular/Budget Public Hearing meeting was called to order by Jeff Bither, Supervisor at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call of members showed as follows:

Present:	Jeff Bither, Supervisor	Cynthia Genung, Treasurer
	Martha Chambers, Clerk	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
	Sid Durham, Trustee	Jon Scott, Trustee
Absent:	Owen Murray, Trustee	

Motion by Durham, second by Langshaw to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Consent Agenda as proposed which includes the minutes of 2/8/05, the bills paid for February, the bills payable for March, 2005 and to accept the Treasurer's Report for February.

BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING

Bither reviewed the budget for 2005-2006 and asked for any questions from the board members and the audience.

Bither asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion by Langshaw to close the Public Hearing on the 2005-2006 Budget. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

Fire Dept. Report:

Genung reported that the Fire Department held ice rescue training last weekend. Genung reviewed the Fire Dept. budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and the year end report showing fire run totals. Because of the number of new plats being built on the east end of the township, Chief Noteboom feels that we need to think about the purchase of land as the need for an additional fire station will come at some time in the future.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report from AGS dated 3/3/05.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the Kalamazoo Cnty. Sheriff's Dept. Police Report for February, 2005. Scott questioned whether criminal activity has gone down in Ross Twp. since the Sheriff's Dept. took over. Bither will try to get numbers from KCSD.

Budget Approval for 2005-2006:

Motion by Durham to approve the Budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried with all ayes.

Budget Approval for Fire Dept. 2005-2006:

Motion by Durham to approve the Fire Dept. Budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and was unanimously accepted.

Approval of General Ledger Journal Entries:

Motion by Durham to approve general ledger journal entries that will amend the budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year as proposed (the \$7,000 to cover cemetery lawn mowing will be taken out of the cemetery savings account). The motion was seconded by Chambers and carried with all ayes.

Approval of 2005-2006 Road Projects:

Bither stated that the chip seal project for Lake Vista in the amount of \$5,116. was approved in 2004 so it needs to be completed in 2005.

Motion by Chambers to approve the 44th Street Bridge project which will be a 70/30 match with KCRC this contract has a 2 year amortization of \$15,711.50 per year for the Township and the same for KCRC. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried with all ayes.

Motion by Chambers to approve the 43rd St. Bridge. The motion was seconded by Genung; there was a split vote so a roll call vote was taken as follows: Langshaw – nay, Durham – nay, Chambers – yes, Genung – yes, Bither – nay and Scott, yes. The motion was denied.

Decision on the Powell property cleanup:

Bither is requesting the Board to approve the funds for the Powell property on Sherman Lake to be cleaned up.

Motion by Chambers to authorize Bither to spend up to \$1,500 to fund the cleanup of the Powell property on N. Sherman Lake. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried with all ayes.

Bither will put the Dangerous Structure Hearing for Powells on the April agenda.

Planning Commission appointment:

Bither stated that he is appointing Ray Wolfram to the Planning Commission to replace Rick King who recently resigned.

Norm's Electric Contract:

Motion by Durham, second by Langshaw to approve a yearly contract with Norm's Electric to check and maintain the generator that we purchased from them.

Approval of Update on Right to Farm Act and Subdivision Control Ordinance:

Motion by Genung to authorize Attorney Rolfe to amend the Ross Twp. Zoning Ordinance to address the implications of the Right to Farm Act and to amend the Subdivision Control Ordinance to conform with the change in State law. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

Fireworks permit for 4th of July:

Mike Mullholland is requesting that the Board again allow him to use the Township Park for the 4th of July fireworks. In 2004 we received liability insurance in the amount of \$1.5 million and the Board would like this amount increased. Genung will check MCM to see what is the maximum amount of insurance they will issue.

Approval of Ross Township Election Resolution:

Motion by Genung to approve the Ross Township Election Resolution which changes the school precincts to Ross Twp. precincts. The motion was seconded by Langshaw. Roll Call Vote showed: Scott – aye, Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye and Langshaw – aye. The motion carried with all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk

