

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2005 MINUTES**

Prior to the regular board meeting, a joint meeting was held with the Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County beginning at 6:30 P.M. to review projects done this year, 2006 Par Funds, new road policies, snow plowing and questions and answers.

The regular meeting of the Ross Township Board 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
	Sid Durham, Trustee	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
	Owen Murray, Trustee	Martha Chambers, Clerk
Absent:	Jon Scott, Trustee	

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Murray to approve the agenda as amended; the motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried with all ayes.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Durham to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the minutes of 10/11/05, the October Treasurer's Report, the bills paid for October and the bills payable for November. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and was approved.

Lorence Wenke, Michigan House of Representatives from the 63rd District was present at tonight's meeting to discuss what is going on in Lansing and inquire if Ross Twp. has any problem that they would like to bring to his attention. He feels that revenue sharing won't change in 2006. In 2006 there should be three questions on the ballot; raising the minimum wage in Michigan from \$5.15 to \$7.15, whether k-16 will receive a guaranteed yearly cost of living increase and affirmative action – whether colleges can give extra points to minorities to attend their school.

Fire Dept. Report:

Genung reported that the August 27th car show was a success and the Fire Dept. netted \$1,200. The equipment has all been ordered that was designated by the FEMA Grant that the Fire Dept. recently received. The Haunted House was a success also with about 500 kids in attendance.

Bither noted that the weather sirens were activated from the Galesburg Fire Dept last Saturday for testing to make sure they worked from a distance.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report from AGS dated 10/28/05. Powell's property has had all trades finalized as of 10/28/05. Love's case has been closed and the Buckner file is still open as Bither cannot find any agency that will take the tires left on the property.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the Kalamazoo Sheriff's Dept. Report for October 2005.

Comcast Franchise Agreement:

Motion by Durham approve signing the Comcast of Michigan, I, Inc. Franchise Agreement. The motion was seconded by Murray. Roll Call Vote showed: Murray - aye, Langshaw - aye, Durham - aye, Bither - aye, Chambers - aye, Genung - aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cable TV Commission:

Bither explained that the 5% franchise fee (which is the gross revenue paid by the franchisee to each unit of government) is turned over to cable access for operation. Cable Access receives approximately \$25,000 from Ross Twp. According to the Cable Agreement, the township should be involved in the budgeting process and receive yearly audits from them which the township has requested but has not received so the Township has been holding the last two franchise payments.

It was the consensus of the Board to table any action on Cable Access until the December meeting; Bither will write a letter to Cable Access stating the township's concerns and invite a representative to the December Board Meeting to discuss the problems.

Motion by Chambers to table any action on the Cable Access until the December Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

Allen Harmon/Planning Commission Update:

Allen Harmon explained that the P/C has been working to realign the township's residential districts with the Long Range Plan. Part of the project was letting the township's residents tell the P/C what they wanted and the main objective was to keep the rural aspects of the township. The real changes are in the R/A district; they are proposing to split R/A into two districts (1) Ag Preservation District and (2) a Rural Residential District. The existing R-1 and R-2 will be combined into R-1 low density, single family. The existing R-3 will be changed to R-2 medium density. The existing R-4 and R-5 will change to R-3 high density. R-6 Mobile Home Park will remain the same. The P/C has avoided talking about density or acres yet until they receive more input.

A joint meeting will be set up in Feb with the Twp. Bd. and the P/C members to discuss the zoning changes before a Public Hearing is held and before anything is finalized. It was the consensus of the Board that a mailing to the residents will be needed informing them in every way possible that their zoning may change.

Social Security Number Privacy Policy:

Motion by Durham to approve the Social Security Number Privacy Policy for Ross Township. The motion was seconded by Murray. Roll Call Vote showed: Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye, Langshaw – aye, Murray – aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution authorizing the Sewer Authority to accept credit cards for payments:

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Resolution authorizing Gull Lake Sewer Authority to accept credit cards for sewer payments. The motion was seconded by Murray. Roll Call Vote showed: Murray – aye, Langshaw – aye, Durham – aye, Bither – aye, Chambers – aye, Genung – aye. The motion carried.

Hazardous Waste Contract for 2006:

Motion by Durham to approve the Agreement between Ross Twp. and Kal Cnty for Household Hazardous Waste services for the period of Jan, 2006 to Dec, 2006 with the maximum amount to be \$2000. The motion was seconded by Murray and carried.

Members Time:

Genung is investing \$200,000 in CD's with staggered due dates. Genung stated that she is having a problem with returned checks. There was discussion on whether we should accept checks at the Township Park next summer.

There was some discussion regarding having a newsletter once or twice per year but nothing was decided. Genung stated that the DNR has ten parcels of property and that all ten properties have to go on one bill with 2004's millage and SEV, they don't have to pay the adm fee or the set tax which takes special handling on her computer to come up with the information. Genung asked Lorence Wenke if he could use his influence with the DNR to change this process. Wenke stated that he will try; however, the DNR is hard to deal with.

Bither stated that KCRC is now beginning the "G" Ave. work in 2007 in which they are straightening out the curve by 37th Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk