

**PUBLIC HEARING/2006-2007 BUDGET
MARCH 14, 2006**

The Public Hearing to set the Ross Township Budget for the fiscal year 2006-2007 was opened by Supervisor Bither at 7:00 P.M.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Member's Time:

There were no comments from the Township Board.

Motion by Durham to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 14, 2006 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Ross Township Board was called to order by Jeff Bither, Supervisor. Roll Call of members showed as follows:

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

Committee Reports:

Fire Dept.:

Genung reviewed the tentative Fire Department Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Motion by Genung to approve the tentative budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year as proposed for the Fire Department contingent upon it being approved by the Fire Board. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither stated that the AGS report dated March 7, 2006 shows only one violation which is the Abushmaies/Bedford property. Durham is concerned and wants the township to follow-up as they should be moving ahead with the recommendations from Bruce Dean in his letter of December 20, 2005.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the police report from February 2006 from Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. Durham stated that it looks like a lot of out of township stops on the report.

Public Comment:

Randy Walbridge requested that Cable Access be put on the April Township Board Agenda.

New Business:

Approval of 2006-2007 Budget:

Motion by Chambers to approve the Ross Township Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year (see attached copy of budget). The motion was seconded by Genung and carried.

Resolution/Petition for Annexation:

Galesburg/Augusta Schools is requesting the Ross Township Board approve a Resolution to annex approximately 52 ½ acres into the Village of Augusta so the property can receive village services such as sewer, water, garbage, snowplowing, etc.

Motion by Chambers to approve a Resolution/Petition for Annexation of property 3904-34-265-010 and 3904-34-405-010 which is currently owned by G/A Schools into the Village of Augusta, contingent upon approval by the Village of Augusta of said annexation. The motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call of members showed as follows: Durham - aye, Bither - aye, Chambers - aye and Genung - aye. The motion carried with all ayes.

Approval of outside contracts for 2006-2007:

Motion by Chambers to allow the Township Treasurer to use the banking depository of her choice and to approve contracts with the Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe, retain the audit services of Siegfried Crandall, Vos & Lewis, the engineering services of Prein & Newhof and to have the Supervisor be responsible for the Sheriff's Dept. deputies, the township employees and the township park. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried.

Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality Resolution:

Motion by Genung to approve the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality Resolution as amended (to share legal costs of any legal challenge in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 with no funds to be expended without a bonified legal defense fund established). The motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call Vote showed as follows: Bither - aye, Genung - aye, Chambers - aye, Durham - aye; and the motion carried with all ayes.

Application fee schedule change:

Motion by Durham to table the proposed fee schedule change until the April meeting; second by Chambers and the motion carried.

Lawn Care Bids:

Bither reviewed a spread sheet of the lawn care bids that were received; Jay's \$10,365, Lawn Perfect \$8,235, Dustins \$12,750, Stapp's \$18,810, Pam's Lawn \$14,000 and Northern Lawn \$13,000. Bob Vaccarro thanked the Board but did not wish to participate in the bid.

Motion by Genung to accept the bid from Lawn Perfect in the amount of \$8,235 which includes 15 mows and a spring and fall cleanup. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried with all ayes.

Approve meeting dates for 2006-2007:

Bither wished to amend the Township Board Meetings to have three board meetings on Saturday mornings; June 3, July 8, and August 12th at 9:00 A.M.

Motion by Chambers to accept the Township Board Meetings for 2006-2007 schedule as amended; motion seconded by Genung and carried with all ayes.

Attorney letter regarding Township engineering services:

Bither reviewed a letter from Township Attorney, Craig Rolfe dated March 2, 2006 regarding having the township engineer prepare a project in Ross Township for a private developer that will ultimately have to be approved by the township engineer

which is a clear conflict of interest. It was the consensus of the Board that we do not want Prein & Newhof to do private projects in Ross Township; however since the Polmanteer project has already been started, Ingersoll & Watson will do the site plan review on this project with the review not to exceed the review cost of Prein & Newhof.

Motion by Bither that he will contact Tom Wheat of Prein & Newhof and request that they not do the Polmanteer project; however if they cannot not drop the project, we request that the project be reviewed by Ingersoll & Watson with the cost not to exceed the amount charged by Prein & Newhof. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried with all ayes.

Motion to amend the 2005-2006 Budget:

Motion by Genung to amend the 2005-2006 budget as follows: debit the contingency 101.900.956 and credit Prof/Ser-Cemetery 101.262.801 in the amount of \$1,800. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk