

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
APRIL 11, 2006 MINUTES**

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
 Martha Chambers, Clerk Owen Murray, Trustee
 Diana Langshaw, Trustee Jon Scott, Trustee
 Sid Durham, Trustee

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Murray to accept the Consent Agenda which includes the March Treasurer's Report, the 3/14/06 minutes, bills paid for March and bills payable for April. The motion was seconded by Durham and was unanimously accepted.

Fire Board Meeting:

There was no Fire Board Meeting.

Ordinance Enforcement Report:

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report dated 4/4/06 from AGS. The only violation at this time is Abushmaies/Bedford on 37th Street which is being worked on as they have submitted a re-zoning request to AGS.

Police Report:

Bither reviewed the police report from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept for the month of March. Ross Twp. has a new officer, B.J. West.

Public Comment – Non Agenda items:

Ron Slagell from LifeCare Ambulance Service gave the Board Members copies of LifeCare's Quarterly Report in Ross Township from Jan through March, 2006.

Cable Access:

Randy Walbridge, Cable Access President requested to be on the agenda. Walbridge also wanted to correct the December, 2005 minutes that state the franchise fees are not generated by tax dollars – the money is generated from ComCast subscribers. Walbridge also wants an explanation of why Ross Twp. withdrew from the Cable Access.

Bither stated that he wrote a letter to the Cable Access Center in November, 2005 stating that the Cable Access is in breach of their contract with Ross Twp. because they have not provided audits nor has Ross Twp. been allowed to be involved in the budgeting process. In December the Ross Twp. Board voted to withdraw from Cable Access for those reasons then in January, 2006 we received financial information from Cable Access that we have never seen before.

Walbridge stated that according to the copy of the December, 2005 that the Twp. Board did not withdraw from the Commission. Bither read aloud the motion to withdraw from the December meeting minutes.

Murray stated that there is approximately \$25,000 that cable subscribers contribute to Ross Twp. and he would like to know what we get for the \$25,000 and are the funds being used to the best advantage. According to the contract, the township receives 5% in franchise fees; Murray questioned why it would not be advantageous for the township to give Cable Access 2% and keep 3%?

Scott stated that he feels that it is important for the community to have a voice; however that voice has to be regulated in an effective manner. Scott agrees with Murray and Bither that the cable access stations have not been used effectively.

Genung stated that in the past the board taped the board meetings for cable access and we had to jump through hoops to get the equipment from the cable office. Genung feels that Cable Access should be run by and answer to a Board like the Fire Dept. does.

Application fees:

Motion by Genung, second by Chambers to table any decision on application fee changes until the May meeting. The motion carried with all ayes.

Amendment of December, 2005 minutes:

Motion by Chambers to amend the minutes of the December Board meeting as follows - on first page of minutes – line 11 – delete “tax dollars” and add “cable franchise fees”. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

Kalamazoo Cnty Road Contracts:

Motion by Durham to approve the Dust Control Contract with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to have 4 ton interrupted dust control in Ross Twp. for 2006. The motion was seconded by Genung and carried.

The 44th Street bridge will be completed this year; the township paid ½ in 2005 and we will pay the other ½ in 2006. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the board to wait until the May meeting to make a decision on what roads we will do in 2006.

Scott stated that he would like to see something added to the Ordinance requiring new developments with private roads to set aside funds for the longterm upkeep of the roads. Bither will talk to the P/C regarding adding requirements to the Ordinance for a type of sinking fund for road upkeep on private roads in new developments.

Approval of Resolution for Retaining Local Control of Cable Franchising:

Motion by Langshaw to approval a Resolution for Ross Township to Retain Local Control of Cable Franchising. The motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call Vote showed as follows: Scott – aye, Genung – aye, Chambers – aye, Bither – aye, Durham – aye, Langshaw – aye, and Murray – aye.

Cemetery Request:

The Township received an E-Mail from Judith McMillan, her daughter is buried in Yorkville Cemetery and she would like to be buried with her; however she is no longer a Ross Twp. resident and cannot purchase a cemetery lot according to our rules. Ms. McMillan is requesting that the Board make an exception to the rules to allow her to be buried with her daughter.

Motion by Durham that a former resident who has family buried in a Ross Twp. Cemetery can request a special exception be made to the cemetery rules so a non-resident may purchase a burial lot and that the Board will look at these requests on an individual basis. The motion was seconded by Murray and carried.

4th of July Fireworks Approval:

Motion by Murray to allow Mike Mullholland to use the Ross Township Park for the 4th of July fireworks contingent upon him providing the township with liability insurance coverage naming Ross Twp. as additional insured. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and carried.

Zoning Enabling Act:

Motion by Murray to approve having Craig Rolfe work on the proper legal procedures to have Ross Twp. be compliant with the new Michigan Zoning Laws being enacted by the legislature. The motion was seconded by Durham and carried.

Members Time:

The June, July, August and September board meetings are set to be held on Saturday at 9:00 A.M. The July meeting may be cancelled, we will leave it as a tentative meeting now.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers
Ross Township Clerk