

**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD  
BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING  
MARCH 10, 2009 MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting/Public Hearing for 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	Diana Langshaw, Trustee
	Sid Durham, Trustee	Jon Scott, Trustee
Absent:	Owen Murray, Trustee	

**Public Hearing**

Motion by Chambers to open the Budget/Public Hearing, second by Genung and the motion **carried**.

Bither reviewed the 2009-2010 proposed budget.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Langshaw to approve the Agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded by Genung and **carried**.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Genung to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Treasurer's Report, the minutes from February 10, 2009, the paid bills from Feb, 2009 and the bills payable for March, 2009. The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried**.

**Reports:**

**Fire Board:**

Durham reported that the Fire Board met today and approved plans to sell two older fire trucks and is in the process of purchasing a new truck which should be delivered by April 1st. The new truck will be housed at the Township fire barn.

**Ordinance Enforcement Report:**

Bither reviewed the Ordinance Enforcement Report dated 3/5/09 from AGS. Although the Michelle Love's property on the corner of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and "B" Ave. was not on the enforcement list, it was discussed that it should not have been taken off the list as the Township has been working on cleaning up the property for over a year. The property now looks worse than ever and the broken windows that were boarded up are open to the outside

again. It was the consensus of the Board that we start the procedure to have the residence condemned and the property cleaned up. Bither will discuss the property with Attorney, Rolfe.

Police Report:

Capt. Bowen from Kalamazoo Cnty Sheriff's Dept. is Ross Township's new liaison officer. Bowen reviewed the police reports for January and February, 2009.

Scott stated that he feels the Sheriff's Dept. is doing an excellent job of giving police coverage to the Township.

Public Comment:

Marta Leroy resides on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and is questioning if there are dollars available to replace the 43<sup>rd</sup> Street bridge.

Scott stated that bridges are incredibly expensive to replace and repair. He stated that the residents should discuss the project with the Kalamazoo Cnty Road Commission.

Raymond Kauffman submitted a variance request to the ZBA at the February 4, 2009 meeting representing Colin Phelps, owner of the property located at 14538 E. "C" Ave. Kauffman's variance request was denied and he wants the \$1,000 fee refunded to him because he claims he was not notified of the meeting.

Chambers questioned how Kauffman could say he did not know of the meeting when the application cover sheet listed meeting dates for the year. Mr. Kauffman then stated that he did know when the meeting was but did not feel it important to attend because he felt variances were easy to get. Chambers stated that the total expenses for the meeting totaled \$972.45. It was the consensus of the Board that the \$1,000 fee should not be refunded.

Old Business:

Approval of Ordinance #183 – Text amendments/Lot coverage & dock regulations:

Motion by Chambers to approve Ordinance #183 Zoning Text Amendments, Section 10 – Lot coverage in R-1 and R-3 zoning districts and Section 7.13 B pertaining to dock regulations.

The motion was seconded by Langshaw and **carried** with all ayes.

RFP for proposed new Fire Barn:

Scott reviewed RFPs that he, Ray Wolfram and Dave Flook drew up for the proposed new fire house. Scott would like Attorney Rolfe to review and to get his input and we will discuss at the April meeting when Murray is present.

Approval of 2009-2010 Budget:

Motion by Genung to approve the 2009-2010 Budget. The motion was seconded by Durham. Roll Call vote showed: Scott, Langshaw, Durham, Bither, Chambers and Genung all ayes and the motion unanimously **carried**.

Approval of Resolution to Loan Funds to the Augusta/Ross Fire Dept.:

Motion by Chambers for Ross Township Board to loan the Fire Dept. \$100,000 out of the general fund at 4% interest for five years with no prepayment penalty. The motion was seconded by Langshaw. Roll Call vote showed Genung, Chambers, Bither, Durham, Langshaw and Scott all ayes and the motion unanimously **carried**.

Members Time:

Langshaw has an issue with the Planning Commission members in that certain members consistently don't come to the meetings and don't call the office to let anyone know they won't be there. Therefore, other members make the effort to show up; they wait 15 to 20 minutes to see if anyone will show up then have to cancel due to lack of a quorum. She feels we should have a policy in place that after a certain number of missed meetings that a person should cease to be a member.

Chambers feels the Township should also make a policy on how we should pay the members that show up, wait around and have to leave. This discussion was tabled until the April Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Chambers  
Ross Township Clerk