

Mecosta Township  
19729 11 Mile Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307  
November 12, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge to the flag
3. Roll call: Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, John Johnson, James Cain. Absent: Lois Brennan.

Treasurer appointed to take minutes.

4. Approval of the agenda: motion to approve agenda by Cain, supported by Quinlan. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Approval of the minutes from October 8, 2019 regular meeting. Motion by Johnson, supported by Cain. All ayes, motion carried.

6. Treasurers Report: Treasurer's report was accepted and entered into the official record.

7. Approval to pay bills in the amount of \$31,790.89 made by Johnson, supported by Cain. Roll Call: Michele, John, James, Mary – Yes. Brennan – absent. 0 Nays. Motion approved.

8. Brief Public Comment: Roger Cole, Morley Stanwood Superintendent discussed the school's plan to add a bond on the ballot in May 2020. Mr. Cole and the school board feel they have been good stewards of their funds and stated that more updates are needed to support Morley Stanwood schools, students, and families. Tax Impact for \$20.9 Million, 30-year bond. 3 mills = just under \$21,000,000. Funds to include Infrastructure – 2 new classrooms, technology, better learning environments, site improvements, athletic updates that are safer, an improved Performing Arts Space, new bleachers, updates to the football stadium, and new bleachers in the elementary gym. For a home valued at \$50,000 and a taxable value at \$25,000 would levy a tax of \$75.00 per year. Mr. Cole is asking for a consideration of support from Mecosta Township for a special school election in May 2020.

9. Reports

- A. County Commissioner's Report – Tom O'Neil presented a Marine Division 2019 Year End Report that includes data on activity and resources to patrol the Muskegon River. Mecosta County's annual budget will be voted on in December.
- B. Assessor/Supervisor Report – Michele passed her first class for her level 3 certification. Michele is working on Land Tables and ECF's for new tax roll. A New committee in action is: Northland Drive Corridor to meet quarterly/15 people to span Sand lake to Reed City. MDOT was present and a consencus was made that something needs to be done to

improve roads on Northland Drive from Sand Lake to Reed City. The Mecosta Township Recreational Grant final score was 175/240. Grants will be determined mid-December.

C. Clerk - absent

D. Cemetery – The Cemetery well was winterized by Gary, maintenance and Mark Graham.

E. Budget – Elections budget is over budget at this time where updated calculations for upcoming elections will determine a transfer of funds which will be discussed in December. Upcoming elections to include: Morley Stanwood School Bond (If school approves), Presidential Primary in March, Primary election in August, Presidential election in November.

F. Planning Commission – James presented the board a list of potential ordinance revisions so we can start working on updating the Master Plan. An updated list from Linda Bechaz to be compiled and presented to the township board to be approved. Discussion on tiny houses and minimum square footage.

## 1. Unfinished Business

### A. Fire Department

-Reports – see attached fire run report. SCBA fit testing and SCBA maintenance to be November 20, 2019. We need 6 more pails of firefighting foam at \$115 per pail. Motion by Quinlan, supported by Cain to purchase. All ayes, motion carried.

Vent Saw – not working and a new saw is \$1,800. Chief Palmer will attempt to repair our current saw before a new one is priced out. Pumps are drained for the winter. Relay pump training is going well with new trainees and has proved to be helpful on structure fires. Accident Fund has canceled all Fire Fighters insurance. A meeting with Ken Lund is scheduled with Lois and Michele for Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Details forthcoming that provide the same or better coverage. Motion made by Johnson to allow Michele and Lois to compare insurance between companies presented by Ken and either choose an insurance company if they feel confident in his presentation (apples to apples). Supported by Cain. All ayes – motion carried. Christmas dinner to be held at the township hall on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

B. Fireworks Ordinance – Michele to send proposed ordinance to Jim Scales to review.

## 2. New Business

A. Complaint procedures – Discussion ensued on how to approach non-permitted building in the township where a board member is aware of residents building without a permit or made aware by another resident. No decisions were made but impending discussion to be considered for future meeting.

B. Board of Review members – Currently, we are in non-compliance with members appointed to our Board of Review Committee. We need two of our three members to be property owners. Currently, two members are renters.

- C. Wages – wage considerations for 2020 physical year. Federal COLA numbers are not published on February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- D. Service Master – Raised prices by .25 per hour. Next year’s contract is \$20.00 per hour. Motion by Johnson, supported by Cain to increase wages by .25 per hour. Johnson – yes, Cain- yes, Graham- yes, Quinlan – yes. Brennan – Absent. Motion carried.
- E. Mechanical & Electrical Fines – Discussion on fines across the board for non-permitted uses. To be considered and discussed at another date.
- F. Zoning classes for assistant zoning administrator - \$295 for one on-line class through Citizen Planner. A two day conference through Michigan State Extension Office, offered every two years is February 6 &7. Motion by Johnson to approve up to \$2,000 supported by Cain to send Laura Bosworth to zoning classes – one, on-line and one, on site. Roll Call - Johnson – yes, Cain- yes, Graham- yes, Quinlan – yes, Brennan - absent. Motion carried.

- 3. Brief Public Comment – none heard.
- 4. Announcements/Correspondence
- 5. Adjournment

Adjournment . Motion to adjourn by Johnson, supported by Cain at 7:21. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Mary Quinlan,  
Acting Secretary