

## **Mecosta Township**

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

### **Regular Meeting**

April 9, 2019/ unapproved minutes

Prepared by Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. Supervisor Michele Graham, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call** – John Johnson, Mary Quinlan, James Cain, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, all in attendance.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept agenda. Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept all 4 sets of minutes dated March 12, 2019 (3 sets of minutes) and March 27, 2019 (1 set of minutes) as written. John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All – aye. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Treasurers report was accepted as presented and entered into official record.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll** - Motion made by Mary Quinlan to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$20,486.75. John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call: Mary Quinlan -yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard.
9. **Reports** –
  - A. **County Commissioner Report** – Mr. O’Neil reminds the Board of a Recreational Marijuana workshop scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> at Mecosta Township Hall.
  - B. **Assessors/Supervisors Report** –Michele attended a FOIA class in Grand Rapids. It appears that we are doing well with FOIA requests and processing them as they should be.

**C. Cemetery** – Joint meeting with Austin Township is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at Austin Township Hall, regarding the 2019-2020 Cemetery budget and business for the year.

**D. Budget** – A transfer of funds is needed to completely balance the upcoming 2019-2020 budget. Transfer Out from 101-000-999 to Transfer in as 208-000-699 in the amount of \$51,525.00. Lois Brennan made a motion to transfer funds in the amount of \$51,525.00 to balance budget. Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**E. Planning Commission** – very busy; two hearing coming up, On May 7<sup>th</sup>, a hearing regarding a section of 8 Mile Rd. to be re-zoned from Agricultural to Commercial use, this area is already being considered for commercial in the Master Plan, wording is already being drawn up by Mr. Scales. Second part of this meeting addresses amending the zoning ordinance from special use to a permitted use in a commercial.

On April 16, meeting is for special use to consider the alteration or substitution of an existing building.

## **10. Unfinished Business** –

**A. Fire Department** - Chief Palmer was on a call and could not attend the meeting, the Board is aware that there is a need for a new thermal imaging camera and turn out gear. Board was made aware of these items in past meetings and had decided to wait until the new budget year. John Johnson made a motion to spend \$20,500.00 on new thermal imaging camera and turn out gear for firefighters as needed. Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**B. Recreational Marijuana** – The State of Michigan is working quickly on laws and guidance for the newly elected Recreational Marijuana laws. The Townships attorney has been following the progress and has sent paperwork in example of an Opt. out ordinances and a letter for the Board to review. Mecosta Township Board members will be attending a Marijuana workshop tomorrow evening, to learn more about the laws as they are evolving and gather as much information as possible regarding recreational marijuana.

**C. Roads** - Nothing new to report. Budgets are very limited this year again regarding repair. Michele is to attend MCRC meetings to push for repairs to 8 Mile Rd. Suggested perhaps Mecosta Township should consider a “road millage” in the future.

**D. Zoning Administrator** - Gladys is looking to retire in about a year. It would serve best to hire a person to begin working with Gladys and learning the Zoning department. Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$500.00 for advertising of employment opportunity. Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

## **11. New Business**

**A. Consumers Energy Lighting Contract**- Consumers Energy has sent a letter with a contract for Michele to sign. Consumers would like to issue a \$407.51 refund to the township and would like to enter into contract with street lights billed by their company, the contract promotes replacing lights with LED as they burn out. The over all changes will save on energy use. Motion made by John Johnson to allow Michele Graham to sign the contract on behalf of the Township. Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye. Motion carried.

**B. Fairview Cemetery** – Fairview Cemetery has sent a letter regarding the \$500.00 contribution for upkeep and maintenance on the Cemetery. Motion made by Lois Brennan to make the yearly \$500.00 contribution for maintenance of cemetery. Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll

Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**C. MTA Non-Partisan Ballot** – A letter was sent regarding nonpartisan ballots in the future. Discussion among Board members ended with no interest at this time.

**D. Hall Rental Prices** – With cost of caring for our Township Hall, and cleaning expense after hall rentals it is suggested that the rental fee be increased from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for residents. Motion made by John Johnson to increase rental fee to \$100.00 for residents effective April 15, 2019. Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – Yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**E. Junk Day – May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Our yearly “spring cleanup/junk day” is May 4<sup>th</sup>. It has been brought to the Boards attention that non residents may be taking advantage of our yearly “junk day” activity. It has been decided by Board members that we will check drivers licenses to help insure only Mecosta Township residents are dropping off materials. There were also other ideas suggested for future “junk day” activities, to insure residents are the only ones taking advantage of the Township garbage removal.

**F. Mecosta Historical Museum** - Motion made by John Johnson to renew membership in the amount of \$100.00. Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan -yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**12. Brief Public Comment** – None heard.

**13. Announcements/Correspondence** – Mecosta Osceola Bar Association will be having a get together at the Clearlake Golf Club on May 3<sup>rd</sup> the cost is \$25.00 per person.

**14. Adjournment** – Mary Quinlan made motion to adjourn at 6:46pm. Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned.

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Lois Brennan, Clerk Mecosta Township