

## Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

September 13, 2017, 7:00pm./ approved minutes (with changes)

\*all changes to Minutes are in parentheses ()

1. Supervisor Michele Graham, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call** – Mary Quinlan, James Cain, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan. John Johnson -Absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by James Cain to accept agenda as presented, Seconded by Lois Brennan.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept minutes as presented for August 9, 2017. Seconded by James Cain.
6. **Treasurers Report** - Michele Graham accepted Treasurers report as given and entered into it into the official record.
7. **Approval to pay bills and payroll** – Motion made by James Cain to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$24,926.90. Seconded by Mary Quinlan. Roll call, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes, Lois Brennan – yes. James Cain -yes, John Johnson - absent. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard
9. **Reports** –
  - A. **County Commissioner Report** – as presented by Thomas O’Neil. Just a reminder of the Open House at the Senior Center, Sat. Sept. 16, 2017. Road Commission report of what is being done with all
  - B. **Assessors/Supervisors Report** – Assessors Report – Property value (of Mecosta Township) went up to \$970, 824.00 from \$948,671.00. Just had my A.M.A.R. review, it’s a review of my ending reports, only thing found, was the Board of Review missed some reasons noted. ( the class of property was not on the land value maps) And, a map wasn’t in my book, but isn’t required. By December I will have the full A.M.A.R. report.
  - C. **Fire Department** – Meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. **Cemetery** – Nothing new. Meeting is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

- E. **Budget** – Looks good. Nothing outstanding or of concern.
- F. **Planning Commission** – Public hearing last night (September 12, 2017) very interesting. Planning Commission is seeking legal consulting as to wording and phrasing in Mecosta Township Ordinance Section 5.2 (L) Mineral Extraction. Mary Quinlan made a motion to allow a representative of the Planning Commission (Gladys Leonard) to call the Townships Attorney to get clarification about Mineral Extraction, per our ordinance. Lois Brennan seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 10. **Unfinished Business** –

- A. **Tree Removal & Trimming** – We have two more trees that have been accessed and the quote came from Truman’s Tree Service, for removal of both trees. Quote was \$3,400.00. Both trees are dead, one with Oak Wilt, the other (rotten from the inside) from age. Both trees are very large and would be hazardous to Township Buildings and possible persons if left to stand. Eventually both trees will fall on their own. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept Truman’s Tree Service for taking down and removal of the two diseased trees up to \$3,400.00. Lois Brennan seconded. Roll call Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. John Johnson – absent.
- B. **Master Plan/Rec. Plan** – Workshop is scheduled for October 5, 2017 at 6:00pm. Please read the current Master Plan and Rec. Plan. Open to the Public and we need to encourage participation. Be ready to discuss any changes for the Master Plan and the Recreational Plan for Mecosta Township. All input is welcomed.

#### 11. **New Business** -

- A. **Zoning Administrator Phone** – Michele, would like to have Gladys reimbursed \$15.00 per month for her personal cell phone, as she uses it all the time for Township business. The Board does agree that Gladys does indeed use her personal cell for texting each of us at various times during our work days. James Cain makes a motion to reimburse Gladys Leonard \$15.00 per month towards her cell phone bill. Mary Quinlan seconded. Roll call – James Cain – yes,

Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes, John Johnson – absent. Motion carried.

**B. Winter Plowing** – Looking to hire an employee for plowing and snow removal. Our current maintenance employee, is not confident about the plowing and snow removal. This person would be included on the maintenance payroll. Our own equipment will be used. (-agreed Michele and Mary will do interviews and bring to the Oct. meeting)

**C. Task Force** – Lois Brennan, gave a recap of the goals of the “task force” created to get community involvement and opinions for the workshop coming up on October 5<sup>th</sup>. (workshop is for master plan) All information gathered will be used toward creating changes in our Master Plan and Recreation Plans. (We aren’t changing the Master or the Rec. Plan) The task force, came up with several ideas on how to reach the members of our community, but with time being short, have centered on a “door to door” questionnaire, taken by members of the planning commission and the township board and community volunteers. A copy of the questionnaire was provided for each Board member to review. The Task Force is seeking permission to go out into the community with these questionnaires and meet with as many community members as possible before the October 5<sup>th</sup> workshop. Michele, also suggested that the questionnaires be set out at the Township Hall for residence that come in to also see them and have a chance to fill them out. Board was in agreeance (agreement) with the questionnaire and having representatives of the Township, approach residence “door to door”. All members gathering information will have proper identification badges. Linda Bolton – volunteer member of the Task Force and residence of Mecosta Township, spoke to the reasoning for the questionnaire from her point of view. Linda suggested a controlled Facebook page to reach our residents easier. It is her understanding with talking to her neighbors and friends that this would be the best viable way to reach as many of the residence as possible. All questionnaires will

be turned into the Clerk's office for her to compile the information,  
no later than September 29<sup>th</sup>.

12. **Brief Public Comment** – none.

13. **Announcements/Correspondences** – none

14. **Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:43pm.