

## **Mecosta Township**

### **Regular meeting**

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

July 11, 2018/ un-approved 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, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan.  
James Cain – absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Lois Brennan to accept agenda.  
John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by John Johnson to accept minutes as  
written. Mary Quinlan 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 \$28,291.96. John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call: John  
Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham –  
yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. William (Bill) Barnett candidate for State  
Representative 102<sup>nd</sup> District joined our meeting and addressed the Board  
and those in attendance regarding his platform. Mr. Barnett also presented  
the Board members with a letter regarding his candidacy and outlining his  
career this far. Thank you, Mr. Barnett, for taking the time to reach out to  
our community and attending our monthly meeting. Good Luck.
9. **Reports** –
  - A. **Fire Department** - Chief Ron Palmer addressed the Board. Chief  
Palmer gave each Board member a copy of the incident reports from  
4/3-7/8-2018 there have been 42 incidents and 29 count dates.  
Chief Palmer gave an update as to the Pagers discussed in last  
month’s meeting, the original offer had expired because of a filing  
deadline that was not met by Mecosta County. Chief Palmer will be

following up with the company to see if he is able to work out something different or close to the original offer. The other 5 pagers were sent in for repair, he is just waiting to receive those back, it takes about 3 weeks from the date received. Still needing the original MSO to obtain the title for the 2003 GMC Pumper. Chief Palmer will follow up with Secretary of State personally to see if the copies he has is enough to issue the title, or if we need further information. Of the new turn out gear that was approved, they have received the helmets, boots and carbon fiber hoods they are waiting on the actual coats and pants. The siren speaker on Engine 2 has failed, there is power to the speaker, but nothing comes out. Speaker can be charged to Dinges. Truck checks were performed, Wednesday night. There were some lights burnt out but those have been replaced from existing stock at the Fire Station. Still waiting on disbursement payment from the County for First Responders. Rope rescue training has continued, pump training continues, fire men are getting out during the day to training and are flushing hydrants through out the townships. Have stakes at the fire station because of truck drivers turning around and have sprayed weed killer around the property. Trucks do need to be serviced. Oil changes and routine maintenance needs to be performed.

**B. County Commissioner Report** – per Tom O’Neil, interviews with pathologists for the morgue authority have begun. There are a couple of interested candidates. There was discussion about payment and how that would work. It was voted that Mecosta County would be responsible for paying bills, and other counties using the morgue would then pay Mecosta County.

The current K-9 unit officer has turned in his two weeks’ notice to the county, he is leaving to pursue a career with the DNR (Department of Natural Resources). It was decided that the dog will go with his handler as they are trained to one person. No discussion as to rehiring or finding a new dog currently. This is because of the Marijuana laws possibly changing in November. Mecosta Township Board would like to wish the Officer good luck in his new endeavors.

**C. Assessors/Supervisors Report** – Assessors report: Michele has been out with Chris from the county to tackle the agricultural land assessments throughout the township, Michele is having to convert the way these are entered in the program as they do not appreciate properly when entering the dimensions of the buildings. Michele as well as David Puffer attended a class hosted by the Equalization department regarding July and December Board of Review. There are some changes to the paper work that is now being required. Most of these forms will be implemented in December 2018. Also, a recap on the crack seal within our township.

**D. Cemetery** – nothing new. It is worthy to note that our maintenance personnel Gary Helmus is doing a fantastic job caring for the cemetery and it is noticed and appreciated.

**E. Budget** – everything looks as it should. Our Building and Zoning departments are already at 71% of the projected income budget for the year. We are having a lot of building and growth around our area.

**F. Planning Commission** – Howard Bowersox spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission regarding the recreation plan. He provided hand outs to each Board member to follow along and review. Also asked for the Boards input and discussed key points to bring about change and more accessibility to our areas natural resources. Listed for review were, improvements to area parks, developing staging areas to utilize the White Pine Trail and bring tourism through snowmobiling and bicycling into the Stanwood area, a canoe slide around Rogers Dam, possible bike path along 8 Mile Rd. and 131 from River Ridge, and expanding parking at boat launches both in Rogers Heights (Park Rd.) and be the 131 (Hayes) over pass. These are projects that would take place over a period and would require working with several other entities as well. Our recreation plan expires December 31,2018. The goal is to have these ideas in motion for consideration by the Board and possible meeting to allow grant requests and acceptance.

**10. New Business –**

No new Business this month.

**11. Unfinished Business –**

**A. Quarterly & Yearly Taxes-** A representative from the accountant's office will be coming down Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to work with Lois on quarterly 941 reports. This should solve the confusion regarding filing and performing duties related to the Quarterly taxes.

**B. Permit Refund –** Michael Oil & Propane sent a letter asking for a refund of the application fee for a permit pulled to install a propane tank that is not needed at the homeowner's property. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to refund the \$70.00 application fee, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Quinlan – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Brennan – yes. Motion carried.

**C. Fire Department Agreement–** Mecosta Township has requested Austin Township to engage in a joint township meeting, regarding the fire department split. This is the second request for a joint meeting. Mecosta Township currently waiting for a response regarding a joint meeting request. Mecosta Township has been advised by its attorney to start arbitration process. Michele will be sending out another email to the Austin Township Board members requesting an answer for a joint township meeting.

**D. Board of Review -** Michele needs to change the date and time of the Board of Review to have a quorum. Resolution 2018-004 Motion made by Mary Quinlan to change the date for Board of Review to July 18, 2018 5:00pm. John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Quinlan – yes, Johnson – yes, Graham – yes, Brennan – yes. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.

Michele is still searching for two Board of Review members. If interested, please contact Michele Graham 231-796-8935 ext. 2.

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

**13. Announcements/Correspondences** – nothing this month.

**14. Adjournment** - Motion by John Johnson to adjourn meeting at 6:55pm.  
Michele Graham 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 6:55pm.