

Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

Regular Meeting

July 10, 2019/ unapproved minutes

Prepared by Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** 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 came in just after roll call at 6:02pm. All present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept agenda as presented, John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – motion made by John Johnson to accept June minutes as presented, Mary Quinlan 2nd. 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 \$39,287.69, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard.
9. **Reports** –

A. County Commissioner Report – Per Tom O’Neil, Staples in Big Rapids will be closing their store going out of business this Friday, July 12th. Moving into that space will be Harbor Freight.

MCRC as well as Parks and Recreation will not be seeking millages to be placed on this years November ballot. However, MOTA is still trying to have a county wide millage question placed on the ballot for this coming November. More details will be released if/when the paperwork is officially filed with the County Clerk.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report– Per Michele Graham, Michele attended the MCRC meeting where Ice Mt. was in attendance, Ice Mt. is considering paying for the section of 8 mile in front of their facility to be paved yet this year. It has been turned over to their corporate offices for a decision. Ice Mt. will not pay to repave the fire departments parking lot as they already pay a very large amount of tax with the newly passed fire millages for Mecosta Township.

Michele has one final junk complaint to send out tomorrow 7/10/19.

Michele attended the Trust Fund Grant for The Dragon Trail presentation in Battle Creek, high accolades were given to the organization of The Dragon Trail board members.

Tamara from the DNR was at the township hall this past month to survey the area that the township applied for a passport grant for to begin the playground area. Overall everything looks good, we may need to add a couple of more handicap parking spaces. Michele is optimistic that we will receive the grant as we have never applied for one before.

C. Clerk- Per Lois Brennan, nothing new, reports presented for monthly payroll taxes as well as the quarterly 941 and State Unemployment taxes. Chief Palmer is providing original receipts and Lois has been added to all emailed billing. Things running smoothly.

D. Cemetery– nothing new currently. Please take time to drive by and see what a wonderful job our maintenance employee Gary is doing with the ground keeping. Thank you, Gary.

E. Budget – Everything is in line and looks as it should.

F. Planning Commission – Per James Cain, special use permit went through for a welding business on 8-mile rd. The owners are very nice people and were very easy to work with. All

requirements for zoning were met. There is no meeting scheduled for July. Things are quiet now for the planning commission.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department – Per Chief Ron Palmer, there were only 5 calls for the fire department, but several for first responders this past month. The Hi-Viz vests were ordered and are in place on Rescue 1 and Rescue Engine 2. Assist to Morton Township with water rescue on 7/6-7/7. Chief Palmer will be contacting Genesis Rescue Tools to come and service extraction tools this month. This service is not charged, the departments mini cutter is not working as efficiently as it could. This is general service for the tools. Engine 1 and Engine 2 will be scheduled for their annual pump service the end of July beginning of August. The trucks will be taken one at a time to Westshore for the service. The Lieutenant testing and interviews are completed. There were 18 questions posed by the panel. There were 3 likely candidates all tested very well with 2 testing at 80% and one testing at 100%. The determination of the candidate's placement came down to attendance with the department. 1st Lieutenant has been awarded to Kyle Vredenburg, 2nd Lieutenant has been awarded to Anthony Peacock. Congratulations to both of our new Lieutenants on your new positions.

Rope rescue training continues, water rescue training is coming in July yet. The Dry Hydrants have been flushed and are working properly.

Everything is operating smoothly, payroll was submitted as requested by July 3rd, emailing the pay stubs is working very well and is appreciated by all.

Weekend Wages – as discussed last meeting, we have personnel that are “on call” during the weekend for the Fire Department/First Responders. This person in the past has only compensated \$14.00 for the entire weekend. The Board was asked to consider changing this amount to make it more fair for the

firefighter/first responder that is on call for the weekend. Also, consideration of a “floating” standby person on busier weekends of the year for a total of a possible 26 weeks. Motion made by James Cain to increase the weekend on call positions rate of pay to \$75.00 for the weekend. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson -yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Zoning Administrator – there are several applicants for the position, Michele, Mary and Lois have begun the process of going over the applications. Applications will be accepted until July 16th. Michele, Mary and Lois intend to interview at least the top 5 candidates after July 16th.

C. Roads- Michele Graham has been attending the Road Commission meetings. 200th Ave. between 8- and 6-Mile Roads has been turned back to gravel. Hayes Road in Rogers Heights was originally slated to be turned to gravel but instead received a 2” layer of asphalt. 6 Mile Rd. from 200th Ave to 205th Ave. is also being turned back to gravel. Additionally, these roads will need to be brined the cost from the MCRC will be \$450.00 two additional brining. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to approve the brining for 200th Ave., 6 Mile Rd between 200th and 205th. In the amount of \$450.00. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

11. New Business

A. Retirement Plan – Per Mary Quinlan, the Township needs a TPA (third party administrator) for the retirement fund as it is set up now. The last time the retirement plan had been updated was in 1997, no changes to the plan which is extremely restrictive can be made without a TPA. Mary is to acquire a list of TPA’s from John Hancock and will pass along to the Board members to research. This topic will be brought back next month for further discussion.

B. Sign - The sign in front of the Township Hall is in disrepair. Michele Graham sought out a quote from Wood Graphics, the same company that made the fire department sign. The sign in front of the

Township Hall will match and be built with the same materials as the sign at the Fire Department. Motion made by John Johnson to spend \$3,500.00 on a new sign for the Township Hall. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – no, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Hall Refund- Jennifer Bergeman has written a letter to the Board requesting to cancel her reservation of the hall in September and requesting she be refunded the deposit required to hold the hall for her. Motion made by John Johnson to refund Jennifer Bergeman \$100.00 for paid deposit on hall rental. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson– yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment – Chief Ron Palmer again addressed the Board regarding scheduling a workshop with the board members to coordinate and plan future needs of the Fire Department. Tentative date is set for August 7th at 6:30pm at the Fire Hall.

Still awaiting asphalt bids as each company contacted needs to have a sub contracted company to tear up existing asphalt before they can lay the new. Chief Palmer is hoping to have all information and complete bids in time for the workshop.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – Brook McTaggart sent a letter on behalf of Consumers Energy just stating that upon inspection of Ulrich Park, that the park is being well maintained.

14. Adjournment – Motion made by James Cain to adjourn at 6:51pm, Lois Brennan 2nd. All aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.