

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD

19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

May 12, 2020/UNAPPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

PREPARED BY CLERK, LOIS BRENNAN

1. **CALL Meeting to Order:** Supervisor, Michele Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
3. **Roll Call:** John Johnson, Mary Quinlan, James Cain, Lois Brennan, Michele Graham, all present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd to accept the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by James Cain, John Johnson 2nd to accept the minutes as presented. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report:** Treasurer Mary Quinlan reported for the month of April. The Treasurers report was accepted as given and entered into the official record by Supervisor Michele Graham.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion made by James Cain, John Johnson 2nd. To pay all bills and payroll reported in the amount of \$18,236.52. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson- yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Public Comment:** Under Sheriff, James Taylor, introduced himself to the Board. Under Sheriff Taylor is running the Mecosta County Sheriff's position in the August Primary. Under Sheriff Taylor gave a summary of his experience in law enforcement and his desire to work for and with our community. He outlined his duties to date and his experience with employees and budgets. Under Sheriff Taylor is also lead law enforcement officer for the current COVID19 virtual EOC group for Mecosta County.
9. **Reports:**
 - A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per Tom O'Neil- The Mecosta County Parks Commission has withdrawn their millage question from the August election. Siting that the parks are opening late this year and it would not make sense. Also, Mr. O'Neil clarified a mistake made in March's report regarding the 911 millage. Inquiring again about a possible streetlight (traffic light) located for 8 Mile Rd and 220th Ave.

- B. Assessor/Supervisor Report:** Per Michele Graham – 2021 tax roll has been approved and has been rolled over. Ratios are exactly where they should be at this point. After COVID19 situation there is uncertainty where things will be at.
- C. Clerk:** Per Lois Brennan- In elections the State has again made a change to Absentee Envelopes, it is now required to have the envelopes printed with the return address of the Clerk’s office. The new envelopes will need to roll out for the August Primary. There will be a 30% reimbursement for envelopes ordered, but it is unclear when the reimbursement will be paid out. Clerks are to maintain current stock of envelopes as they can be used for “in person absentee voters”. There has also been a bill introduced in Lansing to structure elections this year as “mail in” voting, negating poll locations. Lois will continue to keep the Board updated as she learns how elections will look this year.
- D. Cemetery:** Mecosta Township Board members did indeed clear flowers and flags in the Stanwood Cemetery, and new flags for the Ladner Cemetery have arrived and are ready to be placed at the Cemetery in time for Memorial Day.
- E. Budget:** Nothing to discuss as we are just fresh into the new budget year. Discussion going forward may bring changes to the budget due to COVID19. State shared revenue is directly affected by sales tax from purchases throughout the state.
- F. Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission has not met due to COVID19, Supervisor Michele Graham has been in contact with Howard Bowersox Chair of the Planning Commission.

10. Unfinished Business:

A. Fire Department: Per Chief Ron Palmer –

- **Reports:** There have 14 call since Chief Palmer last reported to the Board, most calls were mutual aid calls with other local departments. Chief Palmer and the team had been on a woods fire call earlier in the day 2.5 acres mutual aid call with Morley Fire Department. Chief Palmer presented a list of equipment needs. 6 Wild Land turnout gear suits totaling \$1720.00, Wild Land helmets 6 totaling \$420.00, and structural turnout gear 3 sets totaling \$7578.87. Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$10,000.00 to acquire needed equipment. Lois Brennan and James Cain simultaneously 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. Chief Palmer also outlined repairs done to the fire station keeping with building maintenance. Lighting fixtures have been repaired and are operational inside and outside of the department.

The new grass rig that was ordered prior to COVID19, is slated for build once the big 3 begin production again, the truck is placed 7 or 8 in line for the build.

- **SCBA Replacement – Grant:** Due to COVID19 fire departments are unable to test equipment from distributors because we are not needing to replace tank due to emergency purchasing new tanks is on hold currently. The grant process has had no changes to date due to COVID19.
- **Shower Room:** Topic is to be revisited after COVID19 and restrictions have been lifted. Discussion included needing to have engineered drawing of the showers layout in conjunction of the current fire department building.

B. Building & Zoning: Treasurer Mary Quinlan and Supervisor Michele Graham continue to work with building and zoning. Mary has been processing and issuing building permits. Clerk Lois Brennan has agreed to be acting secretary for the Planning Commission once they begin to meet again. Motion made by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2nd that Michele Graham is appointed to serve as Zoning Administrator for no additional compensation, to serve at the pleasure of the Board or until a successor is appointed. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – abstained. Motion carried. Discussion continued with beginning accepting applications and to interview candidate that has shown interest in the position. Motion made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd. To begin interviews for the position available in Building and Zoning department. All aye, motion carried. Discussion as to pay rate for the position during training was also discussed.

11.New Business:

- A. Disk Golf Net:** There is a need for a netting system along the disc golf course located at the township hall. Michele is to research pricing and sizing needed to aid in rogue discs not flying into neighboring properties.
- B. Hall Rentals:** all of May's rentals have been moved into July, August, and September. Board Member Lois Brennan brought a suggestion to allow rentals of the hall for "drive by" parties, this would allow compliance of the CDC guidelines for groups, but still allow a central location for residence to offer this option for graduates, birthday parties and more. She further suggested because occupancy would be limited that perhaps hall rental be offered at half price for drive by parties. The Board agreed and approved the idea to allow rental at half price for drive by parties if requested by residents. There was also an inquiry to rent the hall for driver's education class, the class would consist of 20students to meet 12 times. The inquirer would like a pricing discussion as to rental of the building. The Board wishes to remain within guidelines of groups of 10 currently. Rental cost would remain at the \$100.00 per day for the classes.

12. Brief Public Comment: Brian Miller candidate for the Sheriff's position with the county introduced himself to the Board as a candidate for Sheriff. Mr. Miller outlined his schooling and years of experience in our county. Mr. Miller expressed his care and concerns for the residents of our county and feels he has a great relationship with people. He has a passion for law enforcement and a long family history of law enforcement agents. Mr. Miller is currently law enforcement for the Barryton area. Mr. Mike Fish again addressed the Board with concerns over roads. And inquired as to if any progress has been made towards repairs of current conditions.

13. Announcements/correspondence: none

14. Adjournment: Motion made by John Johnson to adjourn at 7:05pm, James Cain 2nd. All aye, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Michele Graham.

**Lois Brennan, Clerk
Mecosta Township**