

Mecosta Township

Regular meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

May 9, 2018/ 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, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, James Cain. All present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by James Cain to accept agenda. John Johnson 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by James Cain to accept minutes as written. 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 by Mary Quinlan to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$32,336.08. John Johnson 2nd. Roll call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Michele Graham – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, James Cain - yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Michael Fish spoke regarding boating safety as well as private property damage concerns. Mr. Fish also requested consideration for a possible “no wake zone” to be established on the Muskegon River section by Birch Plat. Mr. Fish requested the Board organize the local Sheriff’s department (marine division) the residents and the Board for a meeting to discuss neighborhood concerns and seek a solution that in his opinion have not been addressed properly. Mr. Tom O’Neil offered to take this topic to the next Sheriff and Jails meeting, which is scheduled for the first Tuesday next month (June). Michele agreed to contact the sheriff’s department to see if the Sheriff and the Head of the Marine Division could attend the next Township Board meeting scheduled for June 13th.

9. Reports –

- A. **County Commissioner Report** –Per Tom O’Neil, the Mecosta County Morgue Authority is now back up to 8 counties, Osceola County has reversed their prior decision and has indeed joined the Morgue Authority. 2 more counties are also interested in joining, however, need a full-time pathologist to be on staff before they will commit.
- B. **Assessors/Supervisors Report** – Assessors report: The new assessing program from BS&A required by the state is scheduled for install on May 22nd.
Supervisors report: Tickets were issued for a non-compliant junk complaint as well as illegal use of fencing materials. Court date is scheduled for next week. A 10-day warning was issued to another resident regarding junk as well.
- C. **Cemetery** – Michele Graham and Lois Brennan attended a cemetery meeting with Austin Township. The Morley Stanwood Seniors raked the Stanwood Cemetery on May 1st. They did an excellent job, we wish them well as they graduate later this month. Ladner Cemetery had two burials this past month. Lois requested a fresh map be copied for the sexton of Ladner Cemetery. New flags will be placed at both cemeteries Memorial Day week for our veterans.
- D. **Budget** – everything looks as it should, nothing new.
- E. **Planning Commission** – River Ridge installed a new 30ft. tower to provide WIFI services to their campers. The Recreation committee is still working on grants for plans on establishing a park type atmosphere at the Township Hall. One grant had been refused but will be refiled with more information.

10. New Business –

- A. **Mecosta County Development** – Jim Sandy spoke regarding economic development within our township. He provided information for the Board showing the growth and development that is already starting. MCDC would like to renew their agreement with Mecosta Township to facilitate and initiate economic development that will expand and diversify Mecosta County, creating job opportunities for area residents. Motion made by Mary

Quinlan to renew agreement with Mecosta County Development Corporation in the amount of \$1000.00 as in last years agreement. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – abstained (Michele is a member of the MCDC executive committee). Motion carried.

- B. **Maintenance Person** – Michele requested that the Board consider keeping Gary Helmus and John Van Haitma on as maintenance for summer as they did a wonderful job through the winter. The Board agreed.
- C. **Zoning Refund**– A letter from Zoning Administrator Gladys Lenard was read into record by Michele Graham. The letter requested a refund to Mr. Tim Brissette in the amount of \$250.00 for a Special Use Hearing (PSU180002) fee taken in error. Motion made by John Johnson to refund the fee in the amount of \$250.00. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

11. **Unfinished Business** -

- A. **Fire Department Agreement**– appraisals are back for two of the trucks. Inventory is still being taken at the fire department. Michele will call MTA to inquire about a moderator. Information we have gathered thus far will be conveyed to Austin Township.
- B. **Facebook Page**- James, Lois and Mary are moderators of the Facebook page. Some discussion as to linking web sites. The page is officially up and going. Feel free to “LIKE” us on Facebook.
- C. **Board of Review**- We are currently seeking people to join the Board of Review. People seeking to join the Board of Review, need to be a resident or own property in the Township. Business owners are also welcome.
- D. **Parcel/Lot Combine Fee** – Michele did some research regarding fees in other townships. There is a lot of work involved in both scenarios. Motion made by John Johnson to charge a \$20.00 fee

for combining parcels of property. Mary Quinlan 2nd. All -aye.
Motion carried. Effective June 1, 2018.

E. Junk Day- Everything went very well. We had several residents take part in the community clean up. Thank you to Granger and its employees for doing an excellent job with helping our residents unload things into the trucks. We fully packed three trucks and filled 4 large dumpsters with scrap metal. Thank you to R&R Metal Recycling Inc. for providing the dumpsters and being friendly and fast with service to our community. Discussion as to people providing proof of residency for future junk day events in the Township.

11. Brief Public Comment – none heard.

12. Announcements/Correspondences

13. Adjournment - Motion by James Cain to adjourn meeting at 7:04pm. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:04pm.