

Mecosta Township

Regular meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

December 5, 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. 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 with corrections. John Johnson 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 \$27,089.97. John Johnson 2nd. Roll call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – None heard.
9. **Reports** –
 - A. **County Commissioner Report** – per Tom O’Neil, nothing new. Mr. O’Neil did take this opportunity to wish the Board a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

 - B. **Assessors/Supervisors Report** – Assessors report: Michele is currently working with the new assessing manual. Figures at this point are all over the place and will work themselves out within the year. Michele is working with the county on that. Everything is right now within ratio except for industrial, which Michele will work with the county on. Supervisors Report: Routine business working within the office with Lois and Gladys.

C. Cemetery – Kenn Vredenburg has asked again if Mecosta Township Board would be willing to allow Austin Township to run the cemetery. Will bring back to January’s meeting.

D. Budget – nothing new. We will need to move some money around now that we have consolidated the accounts from the fire department and first responders.

E. Planning Commission – Majority of the meeting was the Recreation Plan, so things can get done for the grant process.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department –

1. **Clothing Rack** – Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$4600.00 to purchase a ready rack system for firefighters turn out gear. Lois Brennan 2nd. Delivery will be 45 days out from order date, billing will follow once delivered and installed. Giving time for millage money to be deposited into firefighters account. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
2. **Casair Phone & Internet** – Chief Palmer gathered quotes for more reliable telephone/internet service for training needs. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to change from Frontier Communications to Casair for telephone and internet services. James Cain 2nd. The switch in providers will provide better service and will save money. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Emergency Service Cost Recovery Ordinance – ordinance 2018-2 was adopted to permit billing of NON-tax paying persons, within Mecosta Townships boundaries, using fire services. Motion by Lois Brennan to accept Ordinance 2018-2. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Lois

Brennan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Snow Plow - Michele gathered 3 quotes for new snow plows. The current plow is over 20 years old and has broken several times. This past weekend it locked into position and will not move. Motion by John Johnson to purchase a new plow up to \$7,000.00. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

D. Recreation Plan – The Planning Commission made a motion at their meeting on Tuesday, December 4th, to bring the recreational plan to the Township Board as submitted, The Township Board needs to hold 2 public hearing/meetings for public input. Motion by Michele Graham to hold a public hearing to acquire public input for the drafted Recreation Plan 2019-2023, to be followed by a public hearing for public input for a grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to further develop Richard Evens park with the addition of a children’s playscape and picnic area adjacent to the Township Hall. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Michele Graham – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes. Motion carried. Meetings are to be set January 8, 2019 at 5:30pm. Each hearing will take place separately and before the regular monthly meeting begins at 6:00pm.

E. Board of Review - Approval of Dave Puffer, Kelly Husted, and Howard Bowersox for the next two years of Board of Review. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to approve Board of Review Members for the next two years. James Cain 2nd. Motion carried. Michele is still seeking members to join Board of Review, please contact Michele at the Township Hall to inquire.

F. Recreational Marijuana - Continuing education for the Board on the development of the newly passed Recreational Marijuana law. Townships are having to decide whether they wish to permit

Marijuana dispensaries (retail outlets) within their townships. There is not a time limit or deadline currently to make the decision by. After much discussion, all board members agree to research the facts before deciding. Topic will be brought back at the January meeting. Mecosta Township Board is still leaning to the side of opting out currently.

11. New Business

A. Meetings & Holidays – Michele provided the schedule for meetings and Holidays for the Year 2019, Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept the schedule presented. James Cain 2nd. Motion carried. A copy of next years schedule can be located at the Township Hall and will be posted to our web site.

B. Poverty Guidelines and Asset Test – Motion made in the form of Resolution 2018-008 by James Cain to approve the Poverty Guidelines and Asset Test for the year of 2019. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the Poverty Guidelines along with an application can be found at Mecosta Township Hall.

C. Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals Members - Motion made by Lois Brennan to accept the Planning Commission members, the Zoning Board of Appeals members and all alternates as presented for their 3-year renewal. James Cain 2nd. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Aaron Pieri, Stanwood Village President.

13. Announcements/Correspondences – Mecosta Township (Clerk Lois Brennan) was randomly selected for a State Audit of the November 6, 2018 Election. Clerk Brennan and her staff passed the audit with an A grading, bringing the grade up from the last audit in 2014 from a B+. Congratulations to the Election Staff and Clerk Brennan.

14. Adjournment - Motion by Lois Brennan to adjourn meeting at 7:04pm. Michele Graham 2nd. Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:04pm.

