

Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

Regular Meeting

February 12, 2019/ 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** –Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan. James Cain – absent, John Johnson – absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept agenda. Lois Brennan 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept all minutes as written. Lois Brennan 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Treasurers report was accepted as presented and entered into official record. James Cain joined the meeting at 6:03pm
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll** - Motion made by James Cain to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$49,379.35. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan - yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard.
9. **Reports** –

A. County Commissioner Report – Mecosta County Morgue is up and running for the past week, the pathologist hired is Daniel Schultz. The first autopsy was preformed early last week. Dr. Schultz comes to Michigan from Florida, he is here 3 days a week. He pays for his own flights to and from and is looking to move to the area permanently.

Residents of 200th Ave. from 6 Miles to 8 Mile roads, were asked this past month about their road condition. All residents expressed a desire to keep the road as paved rather than turning

it back to a dirt road. And wish the County Road Commission would fill all the potholes, instead of just the bigger ones.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – Supervisors report: nothing new currently.

Assessors report: all property values are frozen, personal property statements are still coming in slowly. Michele along with prospective Board of Review member Wayne Benson attended a Board of Review class last week.

C. Cemetery – nothing new currently.

D. Budget – Everything looks good. Monies will need to be moved from some accounts to balance the fire department budget. This will be done during the March budget hearing.

E. Planning Commission – meeting was very quick do to inclement weather. Highlighted points of discussion were amending some zoning ordinances as well as beginning work on the Master Plan.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department - A quote from Community Leasing partners was provided to the Board for informational purposes only. This quote is for financing new SCBA units for the fire department. The SCBA's are due to expire in the next couple of years (2021).

Chief Palmer addressed the Board with calls for the past month, and a check list of items that have been completed or need to be completed for the fire department. Discussion on the boat motor continued from last fall, as well as a need to replace expiring or damaged turn out gear, and in the essence of making the fire department more efficient motion sensor installation on all the lights in the department was discussed.

Motion made by James Cain to spend up to \$12,500.00 to purchase the boat motor, the 3 sets of turn out gear, and have the motion light sensors installed. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Mecosta Township Board Members did receive a letter from Austin Township Supervisor Kenn Vredenburg, the letter states that Austin Township still disagrees with being charged \$1,650.00 for a surety bond that Mecosta Township had to obtain regarding one of the fire trucks during the buyout. Mr. Vredenburg explained that if they did not receive payment in the amount of \$1,650.00 by Friday, February 15, 2019. Legal action would be sought out by Austin Township (per his recommendation to his Board at their Tuesday meeting). It is the belief of legal counsel of Mecosta Township and the Board as well that Austin Township could not legally sell Mecosta Township a firetruck that was not titled to them. This is what caused the need for the surety bond by the State of Michigan.

There was also discussion regarding payroll taxes for the October 8th payroll for the Fire Department. A letter from Mecosta Townships accountant shows that when the accounts were consolidated in November after the completion of the fire department purchase that reports had been skewed. And there may be a balance owed from Austin Township toward those payroll taxes.

B. Board of Review – new member -resolution – Mr. Wayne Benson was brought before the board for approval to join the Board of Review. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept nomination of Wayne Benson for the Board of Review. James Cain 2nd. Motion carried. Welcome Mr. Benson and thank you for your interest and dedication to our community.

In accordance to Public Act 122 of 2008, allows for alternative meeting date during the week of required meeting times, for both July and Decembers Board of Review meeting dates. Motion in the form of Resolution 2019-004 was offered by James Cain. Mary

Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Recreational Marijuana – The Federal Government has lifted the ban on growing Hemp plants. The purpose of growing Hemp would be agricultural (for crops) which would be the male plants only. Hemp is used for a variety of products. We are still collecting information.

D. 2019 Budget – budget hearing date – A second copy of the potential 2019-2020 budget was given to the Board, Mecosta Township tentatively set the meeting date for the 2019-2020 budget for March 27, 2019 at 6:00pm.

E. Roads - Mecosta County Road Commission set the contract for dust control, 2 application 1 free. \$2,200.00 per application. Motion made by Lois Brennan to accept the contract for 2 application of dust control to be billed at \$2,200.00 per application with one application free. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

11. New Business

A. MTA Class - FOIA - Michigan Township Association is putting on a class for FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). The class is in Grand Rapids, on April 1, 2019. Michele and Lois are both interested in attending the class. Michele is the townships FOIA coordinator. The class is \$125.00 per person. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to allow 2 persons to attend the MTA FOIA class in Grand Rapids in the amount of \$250.00. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment – Mr. Tom O’Neil spoke regarding Parks committee wanting to put a 3/10ths of a mil. On the next election. There are already 3 that are against the proposition, Mecosta Township Board voiced their disapproval as well.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – City of Big Rapids is hosting a planning commission workshop on April 3rd from 5:30-8:30pm if anyone is interested in going. Morley Community Center sent a letter to the Board, regarding donations toward the center. Legally we are not allowed to make donations.

14. Adjournment - Motion by Michele Graham to adjourn meeting at 7:16pm.

Lois Brennan, Clerk Mecosta Township