

Mecosta Township

Regular meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

February 11, 2020/ 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** – Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan, Michele Graham all present. James Cain, John Johnson absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept agenda as presented. Lois Brennan 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept minutes for January 14th, January 28th Workshop, February 3rd Election Commission meeting, October 14, 2019 Election Commission meeting. Lois Brennan 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Treasurers report was accepted as presented and entered into official record. Mary also took this time to discuss that the Board may want to entertain the thought of passing a resolution to have all persons that work for the township paid through electronic fund transfer, this is because there is an issue with checks being lost or not cashed. Mary has already spoken to Lois (Clerk) about this being a possibility, Lois, confirmed that it is possible and that she knows how to do so, without issue. Topic will be readdressed when entire Board is present.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll** - Motion made by Mary Quinlan to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$32,599.31. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll call: Mary Quinlan– yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Mike Fish spoke regarding roads and his conversations with Road Commission supervisor/employees. Mr. Fish addressed with them issues of standing water on roadways, primarily 11 Mile on the East side of the Township. Mr. Fish also voiced concerns regarding 10 Mile Rd. between 190th Ave. and 185th Ave.

9. Reports –

A. County Commissioner Report – Per Tom O’Neil, there is a 3rd candidate running for the office of Sheriff of Mecosta County, there may possibly be one other that has not officially announced as yet. Mr. O’Neil also made the Board aware that a street light located at 185th Ave. and 10 Mile Rd has been flickering, Michele Graham said she will contact Consumers Energy. Mr. O’Neil also brought concerns from residents on 200th Ave. regarding possibility of traffic light at the 200th/8-Mile Rd. intersection sighting increased traffic, and high speeds.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – Per Michele Graham, Supervisors report: Michele currently has two (2) junk complaints she is working with, contact has been made with persons of interest, and she is working with them on having everything cleaned up in the Spring. Michele has also contacted I.T. Right to put us on their back-log list to update our website she will keep the board informed. Assessors report: Board of Review class went well, all new members as well as Michele were in attendance, there were about 90 persons total that attended the class. Michele has her property assessment notices ready to be mailed out on the 24th of this month. Michele starts and income class on March 1, and did sign up a 4th class for her level 3 accessing which is industrial commercial evaluations which starts on May 30th. Michele did pay for this class herself. There is a new policy with the new AMAR with exemptions and Michele has started to make sure we have all the paperwork on file. She has gone through the AMAR review sheet there was a question regarding PRE’s interest that information comes from the County Treasurer, there will be some policies that will need resolutions for Michele will bring that back as needed to the Board.

C. Clerk’s Report – Per Lois Brennan, nothing new to report, Clerk Brennan and her Deputy are in full swing for the upcoming March Primary Election, all other tasks are smooth sailing.

D. Cemetery – Per Michele Graham, nothing new to report for Landers Cemetery. For the Stanwood Cemetery the joint meeting between Austin Township and Mecosta Township is scheduled for March 19th

@ 7:00pm, location to be determined, Michele will contact Supervisor Vredenburg.

E. Budget – Not much to discuss, all looks as it should. We will sit down and get things moved around for the budget hearing.

F. Planning Commission – Per Michele Graham, via James Cain text, Planning Commission has gained a couple of new residents to be a part of the Recreation/Gant Committee, which met after the Planning Commission meeting. Planning Commission also approved the annual report for 2019 and discussed budget regarding working on the Master Plan.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department – Per Chief Ron Palmer,

- **Reports** – The new reports from the programming are very clear and easy to understand, there was a really bad accident on 8 Mile Rd. last week. Semi-truck the driver had a heart attack and snapped off a couple of electric polls. Consumers energy was on scene as well as Curries, all agencies worked well together. There was no hazardous waste/diesel fuel spilled.
- **SCBA Replacement** – Chief Palmer had a SCBA unit at the meeting to show it to the Board, it is a new pack that is coming out that is from Interspyro, they are custom fit to the firefighters, regulators are part of the mask, the lumbar on the pack is adjustable so the pack fits on the back for the most comfort. The pack straps are made of rubber for easy clean, its detonable so that hazardous/carcinogens materials do not seep into the straps. The department will test the packs on Wednesday at their meeting. There are 3 departments/Chiefs that are interested in these packs, Chief Sutherby from Morton Township, Chief Palmer from Mecosta Township and Chief Thiel from Wheatland Township they will work on the AFG Grant which needs to be submitted by March 13th. They are still working out some details. It's a 95/5 grant and will know by next year in time to replace our expiring packs. Motion made by Michele Graham to give permission to Chief Ron Palmer to apply for the Federal AFG Grant 95/5 match our match is 5%. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: Michele Graham – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes. Motion carried.

There is a need for a fiduciary that would handle the initial deposit of the scba's through the AFG grant process. The money would be returned. The money will not be needed until December 2020 It would be short term. Motion made by Lois Brennan to be the fiduciary sponsor for the AFG Grant contingent on the decisions of the two other Board (Wheatland, Morton). Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Rescue- is in need of some new flashlights that mount to the helmets, a new suction unit for rescue, and CPR training. Motion made by Lois Brennan to spend up to \$1810.00 to acquire rescue needs. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

- **Truck** – Discussion continued from months prior regarding a new grass rig for the fire department. John Johnson had sent an email that was read into record by Michele Graham regarding his thoughts on purchasing a new truck for the Fire Department, James Cain sent a message via text regarding his thoughts on a truck, preferring a gas engine to a diesel engine, Chief Palmer brought before the Board a bid of \$32,981.56 for a gas engine 2020 F350 pickup. The vinyl and lights would roughly add another \$3,019.00. After much discussion and taking into consideration discussion from the past few months and the email, text from missing Board members John Johnson and James Cain, motion was made by Lois Brennan to allow Chief Palmer to order/purchase said truck and acquire the vinyl and lights that is needed up to \$36,000.00. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

The department continues to train and all training is going well. CPR training is set for 2/12/2020.

B. 2020-2021 Budget - Budget hearing tentatively set for March 30, 2020 @6:00pm as long as John and James are able to confirm and be in attendance.

C. Roads – bring back topic for March meeting, would like to have John and James as part of the discussion.

11. New Business –

A. Department Spending – discussion about setting a department allowance of spending for office supply and operational supply items. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to allow each department to spend up to \$250.00 as needed for office/operational supplies their offices may need. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Conservation District – The Mecosta County Conservation District has again sent their annual letter looking for continued support for hazardous waste collection/disposal. Mecosta Township has contributed yearly with \$500.00. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to contribute \$500.00 to the Conservation District for hazardous waste disposal. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Tax Bill Envelopes - Treasurer Mary Quinlan would like to purchase postage paid envelopes for taxes. Motion made by Lois Brennan to purchase postage paid envelopes up to the amount of \$2,000.00 for taxes. Michele Graham 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes. Motion carried.

D. Hall Rental – Northern Quality Deer Management has routinely rented the township hall for their meetings; in the past they have rented the hall for half of the required amount as they are a nonprofit group. Since pricing went up on the hall recently, they are asking to pay the same as they have in the past which is \$37.50. This will be a topic that is discussed and outlined during the review of the Policy Procedure manual that the Board is currently reviewing. It was agreed to charge them the \$37.50 at this time.

E. Building & Zoning – discussion on wages for Gladys Lenard our current Zoning Administrator that is set to retire at the end of March of this year, thoughts on what we should pay her for “consulting” our new Zoning Administrator that will be taking her place. Decision to bring back for our March meeting to have input from the two absent board members.

F. Walton Erickson Public Library – Walton Erickson Library has sent their annual request for contract renewal in the amount of \$2,500.00. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to renew contract with Walton Erickson Library in the amount of \$2,500.00. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

G. DNR Grant – discussion as to whether board members were in agreement for filing for the DNR Trust Fund Grant as well as the DNR Passport Grant. We will schedule a special meeting on March 5 prior to our regular meeting.

12. Brief Public Comment – Mr. Fish spoke as to whether Gladys would be a contracted employee or a regular employee. As there are differences the board may not have been aware of when making their decisions on wages.

13. Announcements/Correspondences – none.

14. Adjournment – Supervisor, Michele Graham adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.