

Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

Regular Meeting

January 8, 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** – John Johnson, Mary Quinlan, James Cain, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan. All present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by James Cain to accept agenda. Lois Brennan 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by John Johnson 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 made by John Johnson to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$29,763.16. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Wayne Benson spoke to the Board regarding the new Recreational Marijuana Law and requests the Board to consider allowing Recreational Marijuana Retail/Wholesale facilities within our township.
Mr. James Sandy spoke to inform the Board that Maxine McClelland has entered hospice care. Our prayers are with the family and with Mrs. McClelland.
9. **Reports** –
 - A. **County Commissioner Report** - The original request for a \$600,000. Grant was denied, however a grant for \$500,000. Was granted to start development of the Dragon Trail.

A pathologist has been hired by the Morgue Authority, the morgue should be up and running by the end of February.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – Supervisors report: There is one active junk complaint Michele is working on, however, the person involved does not have a driver license nor a vehicle to aid in their own clean up process. This further hinders the process of issuing a ticket for the junk complaint. Michele will continue to work on the complaint and with the persons involved to solve the issue.

Assessors report: Michele is ready to turn in the 19-20 assessment roll to the county for checking. Ratios are within permitted guidelines. Residential is 49.57, Industrial is 49.98.

C. Cemetery – Discussion as to Austin Townships request to handle the Stanwood Cemetery on their own, Mecosta Township agrees Austin Township does a wonderful job with the Cemetery, but has interest in staying involved. Proposed to continue as we have, jointly with the Cemetery, however only holding 1 meeting a year rather than 2 meetings a year.

D. Budget – There is a need to move \$20,000.00 from the Mecosta Township fire fund 101-336 to the Fire Department fund 208-000 motion made by Mary Quinlan to move funds from 101-336-702 to 208-000-702. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

E. Planning Commission – Mecosta Township Board held 3 hearings/meetings regarding the Recreational Plan prior to the Regular meeting on January 8, 2019.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department - Newly purchased gear rack for the firefighters turn out gear have been delivered and are in the process of being installed. Online training for fire/rescue is up and running. There is a need for 2 computers for training purposes. Motion by Mary Quinlan to spend up to \$3,000.00 for update of training room/computer lab for the firefighters/first responders. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion Carried.

Sign – A new sign reflecting the name change for the fire department is needed. Wood Graphics was asked for a design and price to create the sign. (Wood Graphics created the last sign at the fire department). Wood Graphics quote is \$2,000.00. Motion by Lois Brennan to spend \$2,000.00 for new sign at fire department. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Board of Review – Michele is still in search of one (1) new Board of Review member. If anyone is interested, please contact Michele Graham at the Township Hall. A date change is needed for the March Board of Review meeting, Motion by James Cain to change the date from March 14, 2019 9:00a-3:00p to March 13, 2019 9:00a-3:00p. Lois Brennan 2nd. All Aye. Motion carried.

C. Recreational Marijuana – The Mecosta Township Board remains vigilant regarding the recently passed Recreational Marijuana Law. Constant gathering of information from all Board members is ongoing. The Board remains open minded to a desire for a recreational marijuana facility within the township. At this time, it is the consensus of the Board that there is a need for further information, before deciding on opting in or out of a Recreational Marijuana Facility, as the State is just now developing guidelines and laws for the newly passed Recreational Marijuana Law. Recreational Marijuana will be a topic at each monthly meeting until an educated decision is reached by the Board members.

11. New Business

A. Wages – a motion in the form of Resolution 2019-003 was offered by member Mary Quinlan to keep all wages the same except for a \$1,000.00 cost of living increase for the Zoning Administrator. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. 2019 Budget – 1st Draft of the proposed budget for 2019-2020 was given to the Board for review. This is an evolving process and will be discussed further in future meetings, until adopted at the end of March 2019.

C. Assessment Change Notice Envelopes – Michele is ready to mail out assessment change notices, she needs to order postage paid envelopes to do so. Motion by Mary Quinlan to spend up to \$1,300.00 for envelopes with paid postage for the assessment changes. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

D. Roads – beginning talks of possible road projects within the township have begun. Paser rating report was given to each member of the Board reporting road condition in the township. Discussion will continue in February.

12. Brief Public Comment – none heard.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – none.

14. Adjournment - Motion by James Cain to adjourn meeting at 7:00pm. Lois Brennan 2nd. Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:00pm.