

Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

Regular Meeting

March 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** – 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 Mary Quinlan to accept minutes with one correction. James Cain 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 James Cain to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$53,713.12. 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** – None heard
9. **Reports** –
 - A. **County Commissioner Report** – Per Mr. Tom O’Neil, Jeff Able had addressed the Commissioners regarding Parks and Recreation looking to add a millage to the ballot. Mr. Able conveyed that over one million dollars was brought in last year, with 50% of monies were generated from persons visiting Browers Park were from Kent and Ottawa Counties. There are many things the Parks and Recreation would like to do to our local parks, but there is no incentive for residents to use our parks, and rates have not been increased for campers to first generate monies before seeking another millage. Mr. O’Neil brought in several brochures from

area parks to outline the current pricing. A small committee has been formed seeking input from the Park Committee to go over what they would like to do. No decisions regarding a millage on the ballot will be reached until after June 2019.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – First Board of Review was held on 3/11/2019. Until 9:00pm. There were only 3 walk ins during the meeting. Nothing that was very eventful. Michele should have everything done by mid-week next week in time for the Budget Hearing at the end of the month. We did lose a lot of income with personal property taxing. Michele has also spoken to Mr. Scales regarding the fact that Austin Township has shown intent to sue regarding the with held \$1650.00 for a surety bond. Mr. Scales has not heard anything regarding the matter at this time.

C. Cemetery – Nothing new, Lois and Michele will remain on the Cemetery Board with Austin Township. And will propose 1 meeting a year rather than 2.

D. Budget – nothing new, final budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be presented at the March 27, 2019 Budget Hearing that will be held at the Township Hall at 6:00pm.

E. Planning Commission – There is a resident that lives on 8 Mile Rd. that would like to have some rezoning done to allow commercial property. The Planning Commission is starting to work on amendments for zoning in the Master Plan. Things just need to be updated. The projection for rezoning could be at least 4 months. With The Dragon trail coming through new zoning on 8 Mile Rd. would benefit the area for outside companies and businesses interested in the 8 Mile Rd. corridor. There is a need to hire a part time person in the zoning department, as Gladys Lenard is looking to retire soon. Bringing in a part time person to learn the job of Zoning Administrator is a must.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department – Chief Ron Palmer was in attendance to give an over view of current events with the fire department/first responders. There were 19 runs for the past month. Including a structure fire on Riverview Dr.

Ice rescue training was completed at Buffalo Park in Stanwood, during the training it was discovered that the hydrant is broken. Ron will repair once the weather warms up and he is able to. Turn out gear has been ordered, Ron is trying to get the approved lighting upgrade scheduled and completed before the end of the budget year. The team continues to complete repairs on their check list with painting the station taking priority. Ron has settled on computers for training and will have those purchased on Monday.

Ice rescue suits have leaks in them (2 suits). They will be tested to see if repairs can be made or if the suits need to be replaced. Water vests worn for grass fires are also leaking (2 vests). This is just FYI for the next budget year.

Grass Rig 2 is getting some repairs, nothing extraordinary.

Rope Rescue Training is coming up in May. The firefighters have been testing 3 different thermal imaging cameras, the currently owned camera is over 15 yrs. old and is having difficulty performing. After crew members have had some experience with each of the new “tester cameras” they will all decide on which would work best for the fire department going forward. This will be decided in the 2019-2020 budget year.

Mr. Justin Sharp, a sales representative from Douglass safety systems was in attendance to discuss SCBA units for the Fire Department/First Responders. SCBA’s (self-contained breathing apparatus) have an expiration to them and are set to expire in 2021. We are currently

down 2 tanks, but as of 2021 we will need a total of 21 complete units. Mr. Sharp explained the differences between the current units that we have and the pack he brought for us to look at. The units Mr. Sharp brought have been out for the past 5 years and they have had great success with them. It is also important to note that the units have universal fittings in order to connect with other packs in the event a fire fighter runs out of air. They are also compatible to other units used by fire departments within our county. There was lengthy discussion and many questions regarding the units themselves and pricing.

B. Recreational Marijuana- The Board discussed the fact that each is still gathering information regarding this newly voted in topic. There are a lot of steps to this process and Mecosta Township Board wants to be clear on everything before a decision is made. Mecosta Townships Board members agree to keep gathering information and are not looking to decide toward opting in or out of allowing retail marijuana facilities until after June 2019.

C. 2019 Budget- Michele presented another copy of the 2019-2020 budget that is still in process of being refined before the Budget Hearing on March 27th.

D. Roads – Mecosta County Road Commission released a copy of their project list for the county. Mr. Tom O’Neil provided copies for the Board. In Mecosta Township, Chip & Fog is slated for Old State Rd from Polk to 8 Mile Rd. Chip & Fog is slated for 185th Johnson to 10 Mile Rd. Crack Seal is slated for Stanwood Rd Pierce to 7 Mile Rd. and 12 Mile Rd from Northland Drive west to where the road turns to gravel. The approximate cost to be spent by the County Road Commission for Mecosta Township is \$ 99,028.13.

11. New Business

A. Haines Exterminating – Annual renewal of pest control contract. No terms have changed from prior years contract. Motion made by John Johnson to resign with Hanes for another year of service. Mary

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

B. Walton Erickson Public Library – Walton Erickson Public Library is again looking for Mecosta Townships contribution, this is a yearly reoccurring contribution in the amount of \$2500.00. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to continue with our annual contribution of \$2,500.00. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Living Well Mecosta Grant– District 10 Health Department has applied for a \$2,000.00 grant on the behalf of Mecosta Township, it is part of the live well coalition. Grant monies if awarded can be used for signage for a smoke free property, as well as towards playground equipment at the township hall. Motion made by James Cain to allow Michele Graham to sign for the grant. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment – none heard.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – none.

14. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:33pm.

Clerk, Mecosta Township

Dated: 03/12/2019