

## **Mecosta Township**

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

### **Regular Meeting**

May 14, 2019/ unapproved minutes

Prepared by Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** 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 with addition of municipality approval of broker’s license, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – motion made by John Johnson to accept April Minutes as presented, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 \$20,155.15, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard.
9. **Reports** –
  - A. **County Commissioner Report** – Per Tom O’Neil. The county commissioners went on a “road tour” throughout Mecosta County with the Board members of the Mecosta County Road Commission. During the tour road conditions were discussed with points of urgency and less urgent repairs that are needed throughout the county. The “road tour” was 5 ½ hours long. Mecosta County Road Commission has discussed perhaps

implementing a “Road Millage”. Commissioner O’Neil asked Mecosta Township Board what their stance on such a millage would be and how they would choose for Mr. O’Neil to vote regarding a road millage on the ballot. At this time Mecosta Twp. Board would not support a road millage to be adopted or presented for voting. Siting that it is premature given the fact that not all monies from the already voted in State road tax increase of 2015 has matured or paid to local bodies of government. Also, questioned fairness of distribution of funds gained by a county wide millage.

**B. Assessors/Supervisors Report, Assessing Class** – Per Michele Graham, junk day 2019 was a great success as in years past, there were 3, 20 yd. dumpsters filled for just scrap metal. Granger continues to provide excellent service for “junk day” and Michele has already taken liberty to schedule them for next year.

The Dragon Trail continues through the process of waiting for approval from F.E.R.C., plan review should be in the final stages at this time. There were just a few minor questions, that have since been answered. There is a trust fund presentation on June 12<sup>th</sup> in Battle Creek, Mi. Michele is considering attending.

Michele would like to continue her education and reach a level 3 assessing license. There is a 5-day level 3 class being offered in Boyne later this year. Michele is seeking permission from the Board to attend the class and stay in Boyne during the class days. Money was budgeted for each member of the Board in continuing education. Michele will not use this education to source herself out to other townships for assessing and will remain assessor only for Mecosta Township. This is one of several classes Michele will have to attend to obtain a level 3 certification. Michele is willing to pay for some of the classes and will research the most economical options for all classes involved. Motion made by John Johnson to register for the class and spend up to \$1,000.00 for the level 3 assessing class as well as lodging during the week, James

Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – abstained. All aye, motion carried.

**C. Clerk**- Michele has added the Clerk to the agenda to discuss and answer questions on reports if needed. Lois Brennan gave a brief synopsis of reports provided during each meeting and a brief overview of progress within her office. Lois has successfully learned filing all monthly, and quarterly payroll taxes elevating the expense of additional help from the accountant office.

There are no scheduled elections this year for Mecosta Township. Lois and her new Deputy will continue with education for elections throughout this year.

**D. Cemetery** – The Bi-Annual meeting with Austin Township went well in April. Budget was accepted and adopted by both Townships. Annual cemetery clean up was a success, the Senior class of Morley Stanwood did a wonderful job raking and cleaning the cemetery as always. Kenn is to review the by laws to see if we can drop to just one meeting a year rather than two. Ladner Cemetery is in good shape, once it has dried out from all the rain maintenance will be going over to mow. Inquiry as to whether Morley Stanwood Schools would be interested in having other classes rake and clean up other areas of Mecosta Township, like the Juniors and Seniors do for the cemeteries. Michele will call the schools to see if there is any interest in January.

**E. Budget** – Everything looks as it should.

**F. Planning Commission** - Proposal from Planning Commission to Township Board Ordinance 2019-2 rezoning part of 8 Mile Rd. from agricultural to commercial. Special use permits will still have to be sought for businesses moving into the area. Ordinance changing text was voted down by Planning Commission, Mecosta Township Board members support their decision.

## **10. Unfinished Business** –

**A. Fire Department** – Per Chief Ron Palmer there have been 20 calls/runs since our last meeting. There have been 2 workman's comp cases filed. 2 firefighters had been hurt on scene of a fire on April 9, 2019. Both firemen are fine and have been released back to duty at this time. One fireman is still having issues with a sprained ankle and there may be more follow up appointments for him. Chief is currently looking for an Occupational Doctor for future instances, Spectrum Health Big Rapids does not currently employ one for our area.

2 wildfire water vests have been replaced, 2 more need to be replaced that are leaking from the valves.

2 nozzles have been repaired with \$40. kits.

Needing to purchase 6 pails of class A foam, supply is low.

Asphalt on the fire department driveway continues to deteriorate, Chief has sought out companies to quote repaving. Quotes should be coming in between now and the next board meeting.

Musar rope rescue training (refresher) from 8:00am-6:00pm. Team is doing a wonderful job with their training and appreciates the fact that they do training each month. Morley and Big Rapids did attend the training as well.

Pump training was completed in April.

New Boat training is also completed. Firefighters spent 4 hours on the river taking turns training.

The new TIC Camera has been ordered, there was a new special running once the camera was ordered so there was a savings of about \$2,000.00 from the original approved quote.

Need to order the next sets of turn out gear. Savings from the camera will cover the turn out gear.

Motion made by James Cain to spend up to \$3,500.00 for the new vests, 6 pails of foam and one set of turn out gear, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**B. Recreational Marijuana** - Information from Mr. Scales the townships attorney, was provided for the recreational marijuana laws and ordinances. Currently Mecosta Township is choosing to opt. out of allowing recreational marijuana facilities /establishments from opening and operating within the Township. Motion in the form of Ordinance 2019-1, to completely prohibit the establishment or operation of recreational marijuana establishments within Mecosta Township made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**C. Roads** – Nothing new currently. We all agree 200<sup>th</sup> Ave. will not be turned back to gravel. Michele will be attending the next Road Commission meeting.

**D. Zoning Administrator** – We have one applicant for the Zoning Administrator position. After lengthy discussion wage was set at \$13.00 per hour and a review after 90 days of being hired. Michele, Lois and Mary are to interview applicant later this month. Applicant will be hired at full time, with no more than 40 hours each week and will train with current Zoning Administrator Gladys Lenard.

**E. Consumers Energy Lighting Contract** – Motion in the form of Resolution 2019-008 presented by Mary Quinlan to sign and enter into a general service unmetered lighting rate GUL, standard high intensity discharge, 5-year contract beginning as of 3/01/2019, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried. Resolution passed.

**F. Mecosta County Development Corporation** - Mr. James Sandy was in attendance to address the Board as to this year’s activities and direction in Mecosta County. Mr. Sandy was also seeking a renewal of the contribution from Mecosta Township to continue aiding in

development of our local areas. Mr. Sandy was pleased with the rezoning of our agricultural area on 8-mile rd. to commercial as he has had several inquires specified to that area. Motion made by Lois Brennan to continue contract with MCDC with a contribution of \$1,000.00, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – abstained. Motion carried.

## **11. New Business**

**A. Rezoning Ordinance – Ordinance 2019-2** – Motion made by James Cain to approve ordinance 2019-2 as presented by the Planning Commission as outlined above, Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**B. Folding Chairs & Chair Rack** – The hall is down to 99 folding chairs, building capacity is 150 persons. Also, the racks the chairs are placed in are cumbersome to stack and move around. Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$1,800.00 for a new rack and 48 folding chairs, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**C. Smoke Free Campus – Resolution 2019-007** – Motion in the form of Resolution 2019-007 to make the Richard Evens Park area, from the baseball field and dugouts to the East side of the Township Hall, including the disc golf course, but excludes the paved parking areas designated substance free environment made by Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried

**D. Baseball Diamond -** It was brought to Michele Grahams attention that the ball fields located next to the township hall need a small bit of attention. As the season is about finished for this year the Board has decided to address the issue next season.

**E. Austin Township Dispute -** Mecosta Township Board in unison has agreed to drop all proceedings regarding lawsuit with Austin

Township. They consider the matter between the townships regarding the sale/purchase of the once jointly owned Fire Department/First Responders closed and final. Michele will contact Mr. Scales tomorrow to inform him we are dropping all interest in the situation.

**F. Buffalo Park** – The Village of Stanwood has approached a member of Mecosta Township Board regarding the Buffalo Park maintenance and upkeep of ball fields. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like representatives of the Stanwood Village Board to address the Board and open discussion regarding their request, to better understand the financial obligation and costs incurred with the upkeep of the park.

**G. Municipality Approval for Broker's License** - VIP Boat and Auto sales is seeking permission of the Board to obtain a broker's license. Motion made by Lois Brennan to approval VIP Boat and Auto to pursue broker's licensing, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.

**12. Brief Public Comment** – None heard.

**13. Announcements/Correspondence** – Great Lakes Energy annual co-op picnic is coming up. RSVP must be in by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**14. Adjournment** – Motion made by Lois Brennan to adjourn at 7:34pm, Michele Graham 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.