

Mecosta Township

Regular Meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.
September 8, 2020 / unapproved minutes
Prepared by: Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michele Graham at 6:00pm.
2. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
3. **Roll Call** – James Cain, Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, present. John Johnson was absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion was made by James Cain to accept the agenda as presented. Mary Quinlan 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion was made by James Cain to accept the minutes for August 11, 2020 with corrections, and August 19th as presented. Mary Quinlan 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Per Mary Quinlan, reporting for the month of August 2020, total account balances are \$532,428.03, the Treasurers report was accepted by Supervisor Michele Graham and entered into official record.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll** – Prior to bills & Payroll a motion was made by James Cain to spend up to \$36,000.00 on the ordered and now ready new grass rig for the Fire and Rescue department, the board motioned in February (last years budget) to order and purchase the truck. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Mary Quinlan to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$69,445.83. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Ken Draves of 21486 8 Mile Rd. provided and presented The Board will materials he had researched regarding “competition firing ranges” in other areas of Michigan. The Board thanked Mr. Draves for the information he had accumulated. Mr. Draves was informed that there has been no further communication by the parties involved regarding the proposed firing range.

Mr. Brian Miller, Republican nominated candidate for the Mecosta County Sheriff's position, also spoke to the Board, Mr. Miller wanted to express to the Board that as he takes his new position in January 2021 he will not be a stranger, he plans to frequent township board meetings or at least send a deputy or representative from the sheriff's office to each meeting throughout the county. That he plans to maintain an open-door policy and will be available for questions at any time. Mr. Miller, is aware of the challenges he faces within the county.

9. Reports –

A. County Commissioner Report – Per Mr. Tom O'Neil, nothing new to report from the County, however Mr. O'Neil did once again inquire the status of the street light at the corner of 8 Mile Rd and 200th Ave. Mr. O'Neil was informed that everything is with Consumers Energy at this time and installation will depend on their scheduling.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – Assessors Report: Per Michele Graham, we had a mileage roll back on everything, which means we are at .9998, if anyone wants to know about the mileage rollback contact Michele Graham. As of August 24th, the payment projected for next year should be up by 4.3%, county budgets were cut so that Township Governments would get some of the State Shared Revenue. Michele will keep an eye on things and inform if anything changes.

C. Clerks Report – Per Clerk Lois Brennan, everything is quiet at the moment, ballots for the November General Election are due to arrive the week of September 22nd.

D. Cemetery Report – nothing new to report.

E. Budget Report – everything looks good at this time. Nothing new to report.

F. Planning Commission Report – Per James Cain, the Planning Commission is continuing to discuss ordinance amendments that have been sent on to Mr. Scales for publication. Buck's Landing and Greenacres have been rezoned from an RR to an R1The Public Hearing is scheduled for October 6 at 6:00pm.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department – Per Chief Ron Palmer,

- **Reports** – there were a total of 24 runs from 08/11-09/08-2020.

The new grass rig arrived at the dealer and will be ready for delivery soon.

New lighting and vinyl pricing increased due to the extended wait times because of COVID.

Pump training is at Brower Park, Individual drivers training with Smith Cook.

A large water rescue/recovery even happened at Hayes Rd., Mecosta Township Fire and Rescue were assisted by several other departments and agencies, Chief Palmer personally reached out to each agency to thank them for their assistance.

- **ID Camera** – Chief Palmer provided a quote for a photo badge system, which would be beneficial both to the fire department/first responders as well as the township employees. Motion made to purchase the Badge/ID Camera system from Easy Badges and a chrome book/laptop up to \$1,700.00 to be split 70% to the fire department 30% to the township. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Roads– Tim from the Road Commission was supposed to be in attendance, but was not at the meeting. There was much discussion as to which roads need immediate attention with the restrictions we have because it's late in the season. Motion made to do a 2" overlay on 192nd Ave between 11 Mile Rd. and 12 Mile Rd. as well as chip fog on Fillmore Ave. between 190th Ave. and 200th Ave. up to the cost of \$140,000.00 by Mary Quinlan. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Hallway Carpet – samples of carpet squares were provided by Gilberts Flooring, the board discussed the samples, Clerk Brennan is to take the choices back to Gilberts and get a quote on pricing. Topic will be brought back to the October meeting.

D. Internet/Phone provider– Supervisor Graham provided a quote from Casair regarding installation and monthly service costs for their service. The township currently has Spectrum formerly Charter Communications. The township currently pays \$355.26 monthly for telephone and internet services. Casair quoted a monthly payment of

\$187.10 for the same service the township currently has. Casair is the company the Fire Department currently uses. Motion made to allow Supervisor Graham to sign the service agreement with Casair and initiate the process of switching services over by James Cain. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

E. Building/Zoning Employee Review – New employee Amy Dalman was reviewed for her 90 days by Supervisor Michele Graham and Trustee John Johnson. The 90-day review process would include a pay increase of .50 cents to \$1.00. Amy is doing a wonderful job in her new role with the township. Amy is interested in broadening her role with zoning department as well as mastering her already learned and accomplished skills in the building department. Amy has learned quickly and asks questions; she is personable and relates well with not only township employees but with residents as well. Motion made to increase Amy Dalman's (building secretary) pay by .50 cents at this time given her review, by Mary Quinlan. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Two new monitors are needed in the Building/Zoning department, they have not been replaced in many years and are very small. It would be beneficial to have a two-monitor system to switch between screens. Supervisor Graham did bring information about a monitor that is listed under \$100.00. With purchasing 2 monitors the monetary amount falls below the approved amount for department spending. No motion is needed to purchase the monitors.

Supervisor Michele Graham as acting Zoning Administrator and primary Supervisor over Building/Zoning department submitted verbally her official recommendation to dismiss current Building Inspector/Official George Dietrich from township employment. Motion made to relieve Mr. Dietrich from his position with the township effective September 9, 2020 by James Cain. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

F. Junk Day – The billing came in from Granger on junk day, the bill increased substantially from last year, which was expected. Supervisor Michele Graham is trying to schedule Granger for next year, however will be shopping around as well due to the pricing increase. It was observed that persons with “junk complaints” against them did not take advantage of this service. That is notably disappointing.

G. The Dragon – there is a change that is needed to be made in reference to resolution 2020-005, that in fact the Fremont Foundation will not be handling the matches to the DNR grant. The Mecosta County Commissioners have decided to “appropriate” funds for the grant matching funds. Motion made in the form of Resolution 2020-006 to allow the Mecosta Township Board to oversee a resource grant For the Dragon Trail from the Michigan Department of Resource Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$205,400.00 with matching funds being appropriated in the amount of \$205,400.00 from the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners, by Mary Quinlan. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain - -yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. Motion to allow Supervisor Michele Graham to sign the agreement between Mecosta Township Board and the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners as previously read, by James Cain. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

11. New Business –

A. Amazon Prime Membership – Office supplies are becoming increasingly more expensive through our current provider. More often the office staff has been ordering through Amazon.com. orders have been being placed through Supervisor Graham’s personal account. A business account for Amazon Prime is \$69.00 to \$119.00 a year. Motion made to set up a Township Amazon Prime account to be used by the Mecosta Township office personal as well as the Mecosta Township Fire Department and First Responders to order supplies as needed by James Cain. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Building Permit Refund – River Quest LLC was overcharged for a building permit a refund of \$233.00 was approved above during the “Bills & Payroll” section of the meeting.

C. Zoning Class – Amy Dalman being interested in taking on more tasks within her role for the township would like to attend an online Zoning Class being provided by the MSU Extension. Motion made to allow Amy to enroll and participate in the citizen planning online class through the MSU extension at a cost of \$295.00 and a \$20.00 fee for payment processing. Total of \$315.00 by James Cain. Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment – Mr. Mike Fish spoke as to a few topics in the meeting. With the change of internet service, he wanted to make sure the board was aware that the IP address would change and that we may want to make sure all of our software companies are aware of the change. As to the road topics, he appreciates the Boards efforts.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – Meceola Central Dispatch 911 services sent a card thanking everyone for their support on the recently passed mileage proposal.

14. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned 7:27pm by Supervisor Graham.

Lois Brennan
Clerk Mecosta Township