

Mecosta/Austin Townships Joint Meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

January 18, 2018/ approved minutes

Prepared by: Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. Mecosta Township Supervisor Michele Graham, called the meeting to order at 7:06pm
2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call – Mecosta Township:** John Johnson, Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan. James Cain. All Present.  
**Austin Township:** Ken Vredenburg, Elizabeth Carr, John Brockway, Megan Giuliani -Deputy Treasurer, Carolyn Towsley – absent, Sandy Mayo – absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by James Cain to accept agenda as presented. Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Ken Vredenburg to accept the January 19, 2017 minutes as written. John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All – Aye. Motion carried.
6. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard
7. **Old Business** -
  - A. **Current Budget** – Looks good, brief discussion by all Board Members.
  - B. **SCBA Tanks** - tanks are due 2021 for replacement. Chief Ron Palmer is willing to seek out a FEMA grant to help pay for the tank replacement. Chief Palmer has already requested quotes on replacement costs of tanks. There are 24 tanks to be replaced. Other items to be written in the grant would be turn out gear,

helmets, coats and boots. Chief Palmer is needing census information from both townships to aid in the grant writing.

**8. New Business -**

**A. Fire Department –**

1. The contract between Mecosta and Austin Townships regarding the jointly owned Fire Department and First Responders, is due for renewal as of March 31, 2018. Currently Mecosta Township Board members agree in not wanting to renew the contract. Mecosta Township suggests and audit of the Fire Department and First Responders. Mecosta Township is suggesting a complete buy out of Austin Townships interest in the Fire Department and First Responders.

A lengthy discussion ensued between both Township Boards. All members of each board were given the floor to express, thoughts and concerns regarding this decision. Ideas on moving forward with separating interests were suggested by both Boards.

Coverage by the Fire Department and First Responders is to continue as it stands currently. Mecosta Township offered a one-year contract extension for Austin Township, until the separation can be finalized.

Both Boards agree to have an independent auditor hired to audit the Fire Department and the First Responders. This is to be done before the terms of the contract expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Both Boards agreed that the rest of the agenda as presented was now moot at this time.

**B. First Responder –** Moot discussion. See above.

**C. Cemetery -**

1. 2018-2019 Budget/Agreement. Checking account currently has \$5,504.80. Budget is the same as the prior year.

Authorization by the Cemetery Board to buy gravel and new markers. Tinker Pete is to continue with lawn service. Commended for doing an excellent job with the care given the cemetery. Proposed that townships stay with the agreed upon \$1,100.00.

9. Roads – Mecosta Township and Austin Township discussed roads that had been completed in their respective townships and complimented each other on their accomplished roads.

10. Brief Public Comment – Ken Vredenburg made a statement regarding shock at the decision of the Mecosta Township board. John Boyd also made a statement regarding shock at the decision.

11. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.