

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

January 10, 2018/ 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, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan. James Cain. All Present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by John Johnson to accept agenda as presented. James Cain 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried.
5. **Meet and greet with Village of Stanwood** – Members of The Village of Stanwood’s Board were in attendance of Mecosta Townships Board meeting to introduce themselves, and to begin building a relationship between the two boards in the hopes of working together and growing our area and bringing interest into our community. Both Boards feel it would be beneficial for both of our communities to work together on the Recreation Plan and the Master Plan. Combining our efforts could lead to better qualifications for Grants. Lengthy discussion regarding the Stanwood Park, the Park is located at the southern end of Stanwood on Front Str. and does provide a pavilion and a play area as well as baseball/softball fields. Would also like to see Stanwood listed as a trail head for the “Rails to Trails”.
6. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept the December 6, 2017 minutes with one change. John Johnson 2nd. All – Aye. Motion carried.
7. **Treasurers Report** - Michele Graham accepted Treasurers report as given and entered it into the official record. Further mentioned was a newly hired Deputy Treasurer Gary Helmus, Linda Wheeler has retired. Gary Helmus is to replace Linda Wheeler on all banking information for the Township. Welcome Gary, we look forward to working with you. Lois Brennan is to be added to the Townships credit card.
8. **Approval to pay bills and payroll** – Motion made by John Johnson to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$27,616.29, James Cain 2nd. Roll

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

9. **Brief Public Comment** – none heard

10. **Reports** –

- A. **County Commissioner Report** – Per Tom O’Neil, two other counties have officially join the Morgue authority of Mecosta County, as stated in the Pioneer newspaper. Oceana and Lake counties. There are still 3 other Counties from the north of us considering joining as well.
- B. **Assessors/Supervisors Report** – Michele is starting to balance, she is also running her pre-board of review information. We have increased in taxable value from 94 million. This year we will be about 117. mil with a slight decrease given the poverty exemptions. Supervisors Report, continue working on a junk complaint. Person in question is compliant and is working hard to solve all issues with property. Hard to do in the winter, expect to see more progress come spring. New computers have been installed and are working wonderfully.
- C. **Fire Department** – Nothing new. Next meeting scheduled January 17, 2017. 6:00pm at the Mecosta Austin Fire Department located on 8 Mile Rd. in Stanwood.
- D. **Cemetery** – Nothing new. Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2018 7:00pm, meeting held at Mecosta Austin Fire Department located on 8 Mile Rd. in Stanwood.
- E. **Budget** – Budget looks good. Township Budget Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2018 6:00pm at Township Hall located on 11 Mile Rd.
- F. **Planning Commission** – Focus is primarily on the review of the Recreation Plan for Mecosta Township. Recreation plan is to take priority over the next few months. Township Board is to review Recreation Plan for next meeting, to have thoughts on additions or changes for our community. Board would like to hear from the Planning commission on their thoughts, and would also like to get the Village of Stanwood Boards input.

11. Unfinished Business –

- A. Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Fees** – discussion regarding application fee and final inspection fees, this would bring us in line with other communities in the county. John Johnson makes a motion to increase both the application fee and the final inspection fee to \$50.00 respectively. James Cain 2nd. The increase is only \$10.00. This increase is to go into effect February 1st. Roll Call John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes, Lois Brennan – yes.
- B. Web Page** – collecting photos of different events, and special interests in our area for our website. Board members are to send pictures to Michele Graham. Discussion on making our website more appealing and be able to introduce visitors to our area.
- C. Master Plan Revisions** - discussed during the Planning Commission segment of the meeting.

12. New Business -

- A. Electrical Inspector Contract** - Michele will have our attorney look over current contract, making any updates that are necessary. Once updated, John Johnson makes a motion to have Michele (Township Supervisor) and Lois Brennan (Township Clerk) sign the contract with the new Electrical Inspector. James Cain 2nd. Motion carried.
- B. Wages** - Proposed no wage changes for the year of 2018. Also, was suggested that maybe a 2% increase to Zoning administrator be considered. Will be decided at February meeting.
- C. Planning Commission and ZBA Members** – January 1, 2018- January 1, 2021, because members rotate. Howard Bowersox will go to 3 yrs. Jessica Walsh will go to 3 yrs. Zoning Board of Appeals Mike Obert is an alternate he is also 3 yrs. Mary Quinlan makes a motion to approve members as presented. James Cain 2nd. All – ayes, motion carried.
- D. Mecosta Austin Fire Department Agreement** - at this time John Johnson made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss the Mecosta Austin Fire Department Agreement. Mary Quinlan 2nd.

Roll call John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes, Lois Brennan – yes. Entered Closed Session at 6:55pm. Returned to Open Meeting 7:26pm.

E. Snow Plow – Board discussed the issues we are having with the current snow plow. It has been partially repaired. It is working for now, but we may need to replace plow for next season.

13. Brief Public Comment – none.

14. Announcements/Correspondences – none

15. Adjournment - Motion by James Cain to adjourn meeting at 7:34pm.

James Cain 2nd. Meeting was adjourned by Michele Graham at 7:34pm.