

Mecosta Township

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

Regular Meeting

June 9, 2020/ 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, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan – present. James Cain Absent. Record is to reflect James Cain joined the meeting at 6:17pm.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to approve the agenda as presented, John Johnson 2nd. All ayes, motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by John Johnson to accept May minutes with corrections, Mary Quinlan 2nd. All ayes, motion carried.
- 6. Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer’s 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 \$21,565.53, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried.
- 8. Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Bill Larson addressed the Board to introduce himself and announce his candidacy for Mecosta County Road Commission. Mr. Larson has run for this position in the past. Mr. Larson has many years of experience with business as he worked for Houghton’s Gas for 30 years. Mr. Larson is a resident of Big Rapids Township.

Mr. Jared Christensen addressed the Board to introduce himself and announce his candidacy for Mecosta County Sheriff. Mr. Christensen is a resident of Mecosta Township and has been with the Mecosta County Sheriff’s Department for 13 years and has been the Chief of Police for the Morley Department for the past 5 years. Mr. Christensen has 17 years of law

enforcement experience. Mr. Christensen is concerned over the drug issues within our county that is a growing problem, Mr. Christensen is a firm believer that we did a drug interdiction program, he would also like to reintroduce a D.A.R.E. program to area schools. Mr. Christensen said the currently Mecosta County Sheriff's office utilizes a C.E.M.E.N.T. team for drug issues but it used only 25% of the time. He also believes he could utilize these programs without a drastic impact to the current budget.

Mr. James Taylor- candidate for Mecosta Township Sheriff who had introduced himself to the Board last month, came back with an update regarding the protests in Big Rapids. Mr. Taylor had coordinated local law enforcement agencies and had 30 officers on standby. The protests were very quiet and everything went well.

Ms. Dawn Baker introduced herself, Ms. Baker is the clerk in Colfax Township, she is just visiting other Townships to see how each township conducts business and how they run meetings.

9. Reports –

A. County Commissioner Report – Per Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner meetings will be held at the Mecosta County Services Building located by Pizza Hut for the remainder of the year due to COVID19 precautions and spacing of attendees.

B. Assessor/Supervisor – Per Michele Graham, received a report from the state tax commission regarding the July Board of Review, the executive order does not define what really should be done regarding meeting times, anyone who did not petition the BOR in March can petition in the month of July, there are no forms to complete and no guidelines to follow. Board of Review is scheduled for July 21.

Michele does have an economic development meeting coming up on Friday via a zoom meeting. On July 26th she also has a manufacturer outing that she is sponsoring along with Tom Hoganson the meeting will be held in Big Rapids at Haworth. A lot of manufacturers will be attending. This is hopes to help get the economy going again.

Michele again spoke regarding the assessor's reform; the townships and county still need to determine an assessor that will oversee the counties assessors. This determination must be done by December 31,2020.

C. Clerk- Per Lois Brennan, gearing up for the August 4th election, absentee voter applications are due to go out on June 17th. The State should be sending applications to voters that are not already on a maintained Absentee List kept in the clerk's office. Absentee voting is available to all registered voters in the state of Michigan with the passing of Proposal 18-3. We are expecting an increase of "mail in" voting with the up coming elections.

D. Cemetery – no meetings scheduled. Nothing new to report. Electrical panel for Ladner's is needed for water.

E. Budget – still fresh into the new budget, everything looks good. Projected loss for State Shared Revenue for the 2nd qtr. Is looking to be estimated at -\$23,000.00.

F. Planning Commission – Planning commission still has not met due to COVID; however, a special use hearing is scheduled for June 23rd.

A. Members- A Letter of resignation from planning commission member Pamela Scarbrough due to conflict with her employment schedule. Pam will be missed and has served on the planning commission for many years. Pam's resignation letter was read into record.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department –

Reports- Per Chief Ron Palmer – there have been 8 EMS calls and 7 Fire calls. New turn out gear and wildland gear has been ordered.

Mecosta Township Fire Department will be at River Ridge for a parade detail on July 4th. Rope Rescue training is the 3rd Tuesday in July along with Big Prarie. All other fire training to resume back to normal,

SCBA Replacement – The departments can start looking at new SCBA's and perform evaluations after July 4th. The Grant is still in for review. Things are a little delayed due to COVID.

Truck – Ford Motor company emailed Chief the build on our new brush truck has a build date of July 6-10th.

Shower Room - Discussion to continue in the future.

B. Policy Workshop- committee has not met due to COVID19.

C. Junk Day- Junk day is rescheduled for August 22, 2020 from 8:00am-12:00pm. Residents are reminded to please bring with them either the news letter that is included in their tax bill or the post card that was mailed to them in the early spring. Supervisor Michele Graham is to call to schedule scrap metal disposal for the same time.

11. New Business

A. Department mandated expenses – with constant changing mandates from the State, it is getting more difficult to project required materials for some of the offices. Discussion regarding approval of “mandated expenses” for each office. A motion was made by James Cain to allow each department to purchase State required/mandated materials to be able to preform required duties. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. Department heads are to report expenditures at the Board meeting following their purchases.

B. Building Official Wages - Our Building Official has asked for a little more in the form of a raise. He was given a .50 cent raise in April but had actually asked for a \$1.00 raise. Motion made by James Cain to raise the Building Officials wages by .50cents to

accommodate the \$1.00 he had asked for in April. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

C. Mechanical & Electrical Wages – there is some confusion on the pay schedule for the mechanical and electrical inspectors. The inspectors are looking for some clarity and some continuity between the township office and the county office. Discussion as to how pay has been calculated by the township and how the county calculates pay for inspections. More research will be conducted and the electrical and mechanical inspectors will be talked with again. This topic will be brought back to the table at a later meeting.

D. Disc Golf – Supervisor Michele Graham brought to the meeting information for nets for the disc golf course. Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$500.00 to procure nets and all necessary materials to install the netting to protect the neighboring property. Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

E. Hall Rental – Sarah Cook has a rental scheduled on June 21st with the Township Hall. Sarah would like to cancel her rental and receive a refund of her deposit due to COVID. Motion made by Mary Quinlan to refund the \$100.00 deposit fee, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

F. Hall Furnace- There is an issue with the furnace located in the hall, an inspection was done by a chimney sweep company and there was a very large bird nest with its occupants wedged into the chimney, there is also a lot of damage to the liner and cap. Motion made by John Johnson to spend up to \$1250.00 to evict the birds and make necessary repairs to the chimney including a new cap, and having the furnace reconnected. James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment – none heard.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – Treasurer Mary Quinlan, who has been working closely with the newly hired Building Administrator wanted to inform the Board that she is doing a wonderful job. That Amy is learning quickly and seems to be a great fit for the Township. Keep up the great work Amy.

14. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm by Supervisor Michele Graham.

Lois Brennan, Clerk Mecosta Township