

Mecosta Township

Regular Meeting

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.
March 5, 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** – John Johnson, Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan all present. James Cain was absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion was made by Mary Quinlan to accept the agenda with the addition of E. Flags for the Cemeteries under New Business, John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of the Minutes** – A motion was made by Mary Quinlan to accept the minutes for February 11, 2020 with some corrections. John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Per Mary Quinlan, reporting for the month of February 2020, total account balances are \$480,145.79, the Treasurers report was accepted by Supervisor Michele Graham and entered into official record.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll** – A motion was made by Lois Brennan to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$80,337.47. John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. All aye, motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment** – Mr. Darrell Hawley 11246 192nd Ave. spoke to the Board regarding concerns over the current “junk properties” in our township and how it can inevitably affect surrounding property values, Mr. Hawley sited his 50 plus years experience in real estate. Mr. Hawley would like the Board to consider the current “junk ordinance” and how it is enforced by the Board. Mr. Hawley spoke to thoughts that he would like the Board to be more enforceable regarding “junk” in the township, and doesn’t feel that there should have to be a signed complaint in order for the Board to take action against “Junk” properties within the township. The Board will take Mr. Hawley’s thoughts and concerns into consideration.
9. **Reports** –

A. County Commissioner Report – County Commissioner Tom O’Neil was absent. Michele Graham gave a brief overview as to the Commissioners meeting, topics discussed by the Commissioners included 2nd amendment rights, as well as a millage proposal from the Parks and Recreation for the August 4th election of this year. It was noted that Commission O’Neil voted against the millage proposal being placed on the ballot, he was the only No vote.

B. Assessors/Supervisors Report – Board of Review is set to meet on Monday and Wednesday, there are two new members to the board. All new members have gone thru the required training and did quite well. There is one junk complaint that has reached their allotted time this coming week. If the problem has not been rectified within 10 days than a ticket will be issued. Michele is planning to attend the Road Commission meeting next week.

C. Clerks Report – Per Clerk Lois Brennan, all is going smoothly as we prepare for the March 10th election, the Clerk and her Deputy will have approximately a 5-day break from election duties before they begin preparations for the next election that will be held on May 5th for the Morley Stanwood Schools. Morley Stanwood Schools have turned in their paperwork for a millage proposal to be placed on the ballot.

D. Cemetery Report – nothing new to report. The joint meeting regarding the Stanwood Cemetery between Mecosta Township and Austin Township will be held on March 19th at 7:00pm at the Austin Township hall located at 14132 Pierce Rd. Stanwood, MI.

E. Budget Report – everything looks good at this time, Supervisor Michele Graham and Clerk Lois Brennan will go over the budget making adjustments to be ready for the March 30th budget hearing.

F. Planning Commission Report – Per Aaron Pieri in Trustee James Cain’s absence. Review of the Master Plan has been a topic. There were only 4 members in attendance. There was a resident that attended the meeting to ask for consideration of rezoning of an area in Stanwood to extend for a little more commercial area.

10. Unfinished Business –

A. Fire Department –

- **Reports** – structure fire on Stanwood Dr., house was saved with minor damage. Bad car accident in Newaygo county, mutual aid call for assistance to Big Prarie Twp. Department.

The New Brush truck has been ordered; we are awaiting a VIN number at this time from Ford.

The AFG grant is now a 90/10% split due to populations of participating departments. Approximately \$10,000.00 for our 10%. Currently there are 8 fire departments involved in the grant from our area. We are only missing two departments from our area.

New structural helmets/Nomex hoods that are expiring.

2 new LED scene lights for emergency lighting are needed.

Gated Y 2.5" is needed. As well as nozzle that is cracked the current nozzle is 27 years old.

4 sets of turn out gear are needed to be ordered in April.

Tires on Tender 2 freightliner are needing to be replaced, saving for April meeting.

Buck Stop Winch Mount Bumper.

120v Auto power disconnect to be installed on rescue 1 for new suction unit.

Training report: all training is being completed and all is well with the department as well as the Responders.

- **SCBA Replacement** – working on the grant to assist in the purchase of new SCBA units. Chief Palmer read into record a portion of the EMW-2019-FG-00275 which needs to be signed by a representative of The Township Board as well as the Fire Chief. Motion made by Mary Quinlan, to allow Clerk Lois Brennan and Chief Ron Palmer to sign the AFG grant process paperwork through Morton Township, John Johnson 2nd. Motion carried. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Morton Township agreed to be the fiduciary fund holder for the

grant process, which releases Mecosta Township from being the fiduciary fund provider.

- **Turnout Gear, Handheld Lights, Winch Bumper, Helmets** – Motion made to not to exceed \$4,500.00 for the purchase of a nozzle, gated Y, helmets, and the lights. By Lois Brennan, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Wages – 2% increase to maintenance employees, building inspector, zoning administrator, and deputies. 2% is .50 cents an hour. A consulting fee of \$28.00 will be offered to Gladys Lenard to continue in aiding Laura Bosworth with special use hearings, any phone conversations aiding in Laura’s continued training by Gladys will be billed to the township at the closest quarter hour. Motion in the form of Resolution 2020-004 to accept the wage resolution as presented made by Mary Quinlan, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion passed.

C. 2020-2021 Budget – nothing has changed since last month; everything will be presented on March 30th at 6:00pm during the Budget Hearing.

D. Roads –

- **Dust Control** – The MCRC sent a dust control contract which is an annual request. \$4,400.00 for 3 applications. Motion made to enter into the contract with MCRC for dust control at a cost of \$4,400.00 by Lois Brennan, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Michele Graham suggested that all members of the Board drive through the township to be prepared to discuss roads during the April meeting. A lot of our roads are bad, Michele is to contact MCRC to see what they would charge for an over lay on Filmore and she will also address the hot packing of potholes throughout the township and county. \$150,000. - \$200,000. Would be roughly the budget we will have available for road work in our township.

E. Policy – John Johnson, Lois Brennan and Mary Quinlan did hold one meeting regarding an update on Policy Procedure for Mecosta

Township, discussion was an overview on what was discussed regarding building and zoning. Also was discussed was having Laura Bosworth attend the April meeting. Laura is already providing monthly reports to the Board members as a whole via email, and has been told to contact all 5 board members if she needs help or has communications for the Board.

11. New Business –

- A. Hall Rental Refund** – Beulah Lasley requested a return of her rental deposit as they have canceled their event. Motion made by John Johnson to return the deposit, Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- B. Fairview Cemetery** – annual request for contract renewal, the usual contribution between Mecosta Township and Fairview Cemetery is usually \$500.00, however due to a lack in donations and the need to purchase a new lawnmower it is being requested Mecosta Township increase their contribution to \$700.00. Motion made to enter into contract with Fairview Cemetery for maintenance and services for \$700.00 by Mary Quinlan, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- C. Buffalo Park** – The Village of Stanwood is inquiring if the Township of Mecosta would consider contributing monies for the upkeep of Buffalo Park, Village President Aaron Pieri spoke directly to the Board highlighting different concerns regarding Buffalo Park, he also outlined things that the Village has done to maintain upkeep of the park. The Morley Stanwood Ball Association does help with upkeep on the ball fields. Austin Township will also be approached with this same request as part of the park falls within their township. President Pieri was asked to draft a letter/contract requesting a contribution. President Pieri is currently writing a recreational grant in hopes of acquiring more funds to help repair parts of the park, tiling the park so that it can dry out and adding new playground equipment.
- D. Hanes Exterminating** – John Johnson would like Michele Graham to research a few other companies to get pricing. Topic to be brought back at a later meeting.

E. Flags for the Cemeteries – Supervisor Michele Graham requested being able to purchase flags for the Ladner Cemetery and Fairview Cemetery. Motion made to spend up to \$500.00 for new flags for the cemeteries by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes.

12. Brief Public Comment – Aaron Pieri spoke to the Board correcting some information regarding the County Commissioners meeting as he was in attendance. Parks & Recreation millage clarification, it is not for the camping aspect, it is designed more for the county residents.

Blaine Sarkozi addressed the Board with concerns as spoken by Mr. Darrell Hawley did earlier regarding the “junk ordinance”. He is concerned about a property located by his residence that he considers a concern on health violations as well as the trash that is around the property. Mr. Hawley and Mr. Sarkozi have agreed to fill out formal complaint regarding the properties they have concerns over. Both gentlemen do not feel the current township ordinance is strong enough.

13. Announcements/Correspondence – mentioned was a Facebook post from Michele Hoytenga our State Rep. regarding funding to local units of government.

14. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 7:25pm by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2nd. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned 7:25pm.

Lois Brennan
Clerk Mecosta Township