

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
June 8, 2021/UNAPPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PREPARED BY CLERK, LOIS BRENNAN

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Supervisor, Michele Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**
3. **Roll Call:** Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan, Michele Graham, James Cain, John Johnson present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of B. Contract for services - Fireworks, under 11. New Business, by Mary Quinlan, John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept the May 11 & 2021 regular meeting & May 25, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented made by James Cain, John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report: Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan,** reporting for the month of May 2021, Balance General Fund checking \$487,995.72, First Responders \$5,199.54, Fire-Equipment/Building \$93,802.58, Fire Fund – Operations \$-6,469.96, Total account balance \$580,527.88. Special note, fire fund operations will show as a negative until taxes are again collected. This is a common thing through the year, we are not over budget and bills are absolutely all covered and paid as we have a general fund for all accounts.
7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion to approve bills & payroll in the amount of \$39,486.88 made by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment:** Mr. David Hamelund spoke to the Board regarding the fireworks display in Big Rapids for the 4th of July. The JC's whom normally put the show on for Mecosta County will not be doing so this year, the Lions Club of Big Rapids, has agreed to help this year to make sure the show happens for all residents, Mr. Hamelund spoke to asking all of the townships as well as the city of Big Rapids to enter into contract with the Lions Club strictly for the fireworks this year. Mr. Hamelund outlined contracts that

were agreed upon with other municipalities throughout Mecosta County. The Board was also assured that this would not be a repeat request by the Lions Club in the years going forward.

9. Reports:

- A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per Mr. Tom O'Neil, absent from this month's meeting.
- B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** **Supervisor/Assessors Report:** Junk, junk, junk, Supervisor Graham is currently handling several complaints throughout the township, just plugging along. As soon as Treasurer Mary Quinlan rolls the tax rolls, Michele will prepare the warrant.
- C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan – Nothing significant at this time. There is not an election scheduled for this August. All is quiet and well.
- D. **Cemetery:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, nothing new to report.
- E. **Budget:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, everything looks good.
- F. **Planning Commission:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham & Trustee James Cain, supervisor Graham voiced her opinion regarding discussion in the office with Building and Zoning Administrator Amy Dalman on the camping ordinances for Mecosta Township. The ordinance needs to be rewritten as it does read contradictory of itself. Per Trustee James Cain, he will aid in discussion with the planning commission regarding the questions relating to the camping ordinance, the main focus of the Planning Commission at this time is the Master Plan for the Township.

10. Unfinished Business:

- A. **Fire Department:** Per Chief Ron Palmer – There were a total of 13 runs for the past month.
 - Mask rules have changed at the Station to be CDC compliant.
 - No injuries to report.
 - Assistant Chief Alan Brennan's retirement party went well.
 - The station was completely emptied and cleaned from top to bottom.

- Building was sprayed for insects.
- Chief Palmer sought permission to seek out quotes only to review for side by side and enclosed trailer for Tech Rescue Equipment. This is equipment that will be needed in the future for rope rescue teams on The Dragon Trail.
- Grass Rig 1 is officially in service and awaiting a couple of items still, a headache rack and a radio mount. Parts are on backorder. Several departments waiting on the same parts.
- Posting to fill the Assistant Chief position will be July 5, 2021. The firefighters will be filled in on requirements for the position at the last June fire meeting. Chief Palmer will report on the number of applicants at the next Township Board meeting in July.
- Training Report: pump operations and appliance training, Rope Rescue Team: Training on reports for everyone. Following the established format set by Assistant Chief Brennan.

**Congratulations to Assistant Chief Alan Brennan on your retirement, your dedication to our community is remarkable. We wish you all the happiness and relaxation you truly deserve and sincerely thank you for your 27 years of service to the residents of Mecosta Township. You will be greatly missed. ~
The Mecosta Township Board.

- **Wages:** correcting an error from the May 2021 meeting. Fire fighter wages had been increased to \$15.00 an hour as to the budget hearings and wage resolution 2021-002 in March of 2021. Motion to process and pay fire fighters/first responders the difference in pay as permitted in the wage resolution, back dated to the beginning of their pay periods. (January 1 for First Responders, December 1 for fire fighters) made by James Cain, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

- B. Property:** The owner that owns the lot behind township hall has an asking price of \$18,000.00 but will sell for \$15,000.00 and would like an easement right. The board agreed that was too high of a price and would not want an easement through the property. The agreed counteroffer is \$5,000.00 with no easement. Supervisor Graham is to pass along the counteroffer to the owner.
- C. Sidewalks:** still gathering pricing, only one company has extended a quote, the others have not returned calls.
- D. Constable:** With the absence of Mr. O'Neil, there was no discussion. To be continued at the next meeting.

11. New Business:

- A. Trees:** There are a few trees on the townships property that need to be trimmed. Supervisor Graham was given permission by the Board to seek out quotes.
- B. Contract for service Mecosta County Fireworks:** Discussion by the Board regarding entering into a contract with the Lions Club so they may assist in the fire works show for Mecosta County this year. As described above during Public Comment #1. All Board members agreed that many residents enjoy the display and would be willing to contract with the Lions so they can accomplish a show for residents of the county. Motion made to enter into contract with The Lions Club in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Mecosta County Fireworks display. Made by Mary Quinlan, John Johnson 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

12. Brief Public Comment: none heard.

13. Announcements/correspondence: none heard.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:51pm, made by James Cain, Lois Brennan 2nd. Supervisor Michele Graham adjourned the meeting.

**Lois Brennan, Clerk
Mecosta Township**