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**AUSTIN  
TOWNSHIP**  
*Mecosta County*

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Township Hall Address  
14132 Pierce Road

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 226  
Stanwood, MI 49346-0226  
(231) 823-9704  
Fax: (231) 823-9603

**Kenn Vredenburg**  
Supervisor/Assessor

**Elizabeth G. Carr**  
Clerk

**Carolyn Towsley**  
Treasurer  
*Notary*

**John Brockway**  
Trustee

**Sandy Mayo**  
Trustee

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Monthly Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month

7:30 P.M.

Township Hall

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March 22, 2018

Mecosta Township Board

Dear Members,

At the Austin Township Special Board Meeting on March 22, 2018, Austin Township moved and seconded the following concerning our shared asset, Mecosta Austin Fire Department:

1. To continue the current agreement for a one year extension.
2. Austin Township would contribute \$35,000.00 for the year of the extension.
3. The Mecosta Austin Fire Board would continue with 50/50 representation from each Township Board.

The purpose of the extension would be to give both Townships time to consider their options to move forward for the betterment of our communities.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G Carr  
Austin Township Clerk  
[elizabethcarr.austin.twp.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethcarr.austin.twp.clerk@gmail.com)  
231-823-9704 Office  
231-287-4526 Cell  
231-823-9603 Fax

Spent 85,693.38 As of 3/27/18  
40% (35,000/85,694)

Timeline:

1/18/2018: Mecosta Twp. & Austin Twp. joint meeting.  
-Mecosta announced it does not want to renew the Fire Department agreement

1/25/2018: Mecosta Twp. orders appraisal on the Fire Hall and property.

2/08/2018: Austin Twp. has Special Board Meeting.  
-Try to resolve differences  
-If no agreement is reached Austin will pay half utility bills and wages.  
-Work on Fire Agreement with Morton Twp.

2/09/2019: Austin Twp. sent letter to Mecosta Twp. Board  
-Austin explained their view

3/13/2018: Austin Twp. sent letter to Mecosta Twp. Board  
-Each Twp. contribute 0.5 mill on Taxable Value  
-Austin \$59 million = \$29,500; Mecosta \$114 million = \$56,500  
-7-member board 3 Austin, 4 Mecosta

3/15/2018: Mecosta Twp. emailed both Twp. Boards Mecosta's proposal  
-Austin would have Fire coverage for 1 year \$30,000  
-Soul responsibilities would be Mecosta Twp.

3/16/2018: Mecosta emailed both Twp. Boards the Fire Hall appraisal

3/22/2018: Austin Twp. Special meeting  
-Austin Twp. offer \$35,000.00 50/50 representation on the Fire Board.  
-Each Township could take their individual assets.  
-Austin Twp. could buy Mecosta Twp. out.  
-Austin Twp. could have agreement with Morton Twp. for .633 mill= \$37,500.00.  
-Prepare an injunction against Mecosta Twp. to delay dissolution continue the current contract for one year.

3/28/2018: Mecosta Twp. Special meeting

If everyone agrees, the following will be sent to Austin Township Wednesday night.

The Mecosta Township Board adopted the following motion at our Meeting March 28, 2018. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Township Supervisor is authorized and directed to extend the term of the Mecosta-Austin Fire Department Agreement on the existing terms and conditions until not later than June 30, 2018, and in addition to request mediation with binding arbitration with respect to issues related to the expiration of the agreement. Roll Call

Mecosta Township is growing and is projected to continue to grow with commercial and residential development. Mecosta Township takes a proactive approach to this which began with our own Building and Zoning Department years ago.

Mecosta Township funds 65% of the First Responders and 60% of the Fire Department annual budget presently, yet only has a 50% say on how monies are spent with Fire Board decisions.

2017-2018 Fire Department Original Budget was \$82,660, spent \$85,693.38. There was a roll over from last year to make it possible to increase the budget \$5,234.

Fire Department runs in 2016 and 2017 are as follows:

	2016 runs	2017 runs
Mecosta Twp.	49 60.494%	41 56.944%
Austin Twp.	10 12.346%	15 20.833%
Other	22 27.16%	16 22.222%
Total	81	72

*Michael  
KID*

Over the last couple years there has been continued disagreement on the Fire Board going back to the respective Township Boards on the vision and goals for the Fire Department today and looking forward to the future. This has become a distraction affecting everyone including the Fire Chief, Assistants and Fireman. Despite numerous attempts to resolve these issues they continue. Mecosta Township does not want to lose any Firefighter or Supervision of the Department we are all so proud of.

The Mecosta Township Board feels we are capable of operating the Fire Department independently and plan for its future based on our anticipated growth of our Township today and in the long-term future.

Summary:

Mecosta Township wishes to continue the long-term relationship with Austin Township for Fire Services and will make every attempt to do so fairly and professionally. Since Mecosta Township pays a proportionally higher amount of the costs to operate the Fire Department we want complete control over its destiny.

1. Mecosta Township is growing and is projected to continue to grow with commercial and residential development. Mecosta Township takes a proactive approach to this which began with our own Building and Zoning Department years ago.
2. Mecosta Township funds 65% of the First Responders and 60% of the Fire Department annual budget presently. Yet only has a 50% say on how monies are spent with Fire Board decisions.
3. 88% of the Fire Department runs in 2017 were in Mecosta Township.
4. Over the last couple years there has been continued disagreement on the Fire Board going back to the respective Township Boards on the vision and goals for the Fire Department today and looking forward to the future. This has become a distraction affecting everyone including the Fire Chief, Assistants and Fireman. Despite numerous attempts to resolve these issues they continue. Mecosta Township does not want to lose any Firefighter or Supervision of the Department we are all so proud of.
5. The Mecosta Township Board feels we are capable of operating the Fire Department independently and plan for its future based on our anticipated growth of our Township today and in the long-term future.

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