

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
August 10, 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, John Johnson – present. James Cain – absent.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes made by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- 6. Treasurers Report: Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan,** reporting for the month of July 2021, Balance General Fund checking \$481,344.23, First Responders \$2,658.47, Fire-Equipment/Building \$98,017.39, Fire Fund – Operations \$-13,411.28, Total account balance \$568,608.81. 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/common fund for all accounts. Taxes are collected December 1. The Treasurer’s report was accepted and entered into official record by Supervisor Michele Graham.
- 7. Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion to approve bills & payroll in the amount of \$32,610.30 made by Mary Quinlan, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- 8. Brief Public Comment:** Mr. John Cargil, inquired of the Marijuana topic from last months meeting, he and two others had attended to speak regarding the topic. It was explained to Mr. Cargil that the discussion that took place last month (July) was just the board re evaluating the topic as it had promised to do after the legalization of recreational marijuana that there are no plans at this time to move forward with any recreational facilities in our township at this time.

**9. Reports:**

- A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per Mr. Tom O'Neil, Mr. O'Neil was absent from the August meeting.
- B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** **Supervisor/Assessors Report:** Per **Supervisor, Michele Graham:** The junk and zoning complaints on 11 Mile Rd. were successfully handled and the property in question is in the process of the clean-up.

There is a Consumers Energy hosted event for the Dragon Trail, Friday from 1-6 at Brower Park.

85% of the new website has been completed, everyone should have received an email with how it is going to look.

No word from Mr. Leschuck on the property the township agreed to purchase from him located behind the township hall. Michele will reach out to him with a phone call.

Johnson Rd. is on the schedule with the Mecosta County Road Commission.

- C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan – the office is very quiet and just routine work is being performed. Our audit paperwork was given to each board member, the yearly audit went very well. Clerk Brennan did suggest that a time clock be put into place for Township employees. This would aid in payroll efficiency. Discussion by the board lead to Clerk Brennan being able to research costs of a time clock.
- D. **Cemetery:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham: nothing new to report. The marquee sign that is there is becoming very hard to read through, it is foggy. Supervisor Graham is to find prices and bring back next month.

- E. **Budget: Per Supervisor Michele Graham**, everything looks good. There is just on small entry error that has already been given to Clerk Brennan to correct.
- F. **Planning Commission: Per Supervisor Michele Graham**, there was not a quorum so the meeting could not be held.

**10.Unfinished Business:**

- A. **Fire Department: Per Chief Ron Palmer** – There were 18 calls in the past month.

Mask mandates have changed, masks are now required once again while operating apparatus as well as while in the station.

There are no injuries to report.

Officers meeting was held on 7/14, the department will continue as it is with Captain Steve Cook acting as the Assistant Chief until the new MIOSHA rules part 74 is revised. The revision should be out within the next 60 days. There are several applicants for the Assistant Chief's position that was left vacant by now retired Assistant Chief Alan Brennan on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Chief Palmer would like the Board to research a permanent gas tank at the station, it is getting harder to refuel the trucks after a run with more and more stations being closed earlier at night due to Covid19 and shortages of workers. The fire department can only fuel up at certain stations due to the current program they are on with their fuel card. Clerk Brennan is to contact Crystal Flash to inquire about a tank for R90 fuel for the fire department. As the fleet ages going to more gas vehicles would be better as the newer diesel vehicles are not good to idle for long periods of time.

Firefighter Samantha Spring has returned to the Mecosta Township fire department, Samantha has purchased a home in our Township. She had left and was with the City of Big Rapids for a short time. Welcome back Samantha! We are happy to have you home.

No new news on the AFG grant that had been applied for. Chief Palmer will keep us apprised if anything changes.

New Tires on Rescue 1. Chief Palmer provided a quote from DP Tire for new tires. MIOSHA says 10 years for tires without defects. The tires were last replaced in 2011. Motion made to purchase the tires from DP Tire in the amount of \$1079.54 less the sales tax by Lois Brennan, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Chief Palmer gave an overview on dual role wildland/extrication gear. The gear is \$810.00 per suit. Chief Palmer will bring by a suit for the board to see. In the discussion Chief Palmer pointed out several pros to the suit to the Board, such as reducing damage to other pricier gear the firefighters have, regulates body temp., can be used for multiple purposes, cannot be used in a fire (turn out gear must be used) and it is light weight.

Training continues as always, water relay pumping/advanced pumping training took place at the Dam, it was 3.25 hours in the water, 1 hour in the classroom.

Rapid deployment training for rope rescue. Training with Musar is scheduled again in October.

- **Birch Park Hydrant** – Supervisor Graham contacted EGLE regarding the hydrant. A permit may be required. We will have to gather bids.
- **Fuel Tank** - gather costs, bring back next month. Call Crystal Flash.

**B. Constable:** Clerk Brennan provided the board with several pieces of information regarding a Constable, the information was gathered from MTA, Michigan Legislature website, as well as reaching out to the Townships insurance company for guidance. Clerk Brennan would like to also contact a few communities that do employ a Constable for

information from them. Clerk Brennan also gave a brief overview of the history Mecosta Township has with having a Constable employed for 38 years and at one time having 2 Constables. She also provided a copy of a resolution from the Mecosta Township Board from years past. Supervisor Graham provided some information on an Enforcement Officer that she gathered from MTA. (MTA stands for Michigan Townships Association)

- C. **Township Policy:** The group has not yet been able to meet.
- D. **Recreation Equipment:** With the COVID grant monies that are coming in we can purchase recreation equipment with it. Some manufacturers pre covid would have matching grants. The official list has not been released just yet. Our auditor is suggesting that we do not spend any of the money until the official list is released from the Federal Government.

#### **11. New Business:**

- A. **Boat Launch:** Supervisor Michele Graham did hear back from EGLE and engineered drawings are needed as well as permits to repair the boat launch. Supervisor Graham will call around to get estimated costs for engineered drawings.
- B. **Village Road:** President of the Village of Stanwood Aaron Pieri had contacted Supervisor Michele Graham regarding Pierce Rd west. Together Village President Pieri, Supervisor Graham and Tim Nestle from the Mecosta County Road Commission, discussed what is needed to be done with the road and bridge. The Village of Stanwood is responsible for 90% of the road while the Township of Mecosta is only responsible for 10%. The Village of Stanwood receives money from MDOT, which the Township does not get. The estimated cost would be \$35,000. To \$40,000. To repair. Currently the County Road Commission does not use the road because of the bridge and road issues and neither does the Mecosta Township Fire Department. Mecosta Township is willing to repair the 10 % they are responsible for but will not enter into agreement with the Village of Stanwood for the other 90% portion.

#### **12. Brief Public Comment:** none heard.

**13. Announcements/correspondence:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, Brook McTagget sent a letter on behalf of Consumers Energy, she inspected Ulrich Park and said everything looks great.

**14. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:48pm, made by Lois Brennan, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Supervisor Michele Graham adjourned the meeting.

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**Lois Brennan, Clerk  
Mecosta Township**