

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
July 13, 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 – all present.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of F. Website under Unfinished Business, made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept the June 8 regular meeting & June 18 special meeting, 2021 minutes, with corrections made by James Cain, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- 6. Treasurers Report: Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan,** reporting for the month of June 2021, Balance General Fund checking \$479,786.60, First Responders \$5,847.10, Fire-Equipment/Building \$98,017.39, Fire Fund – Operations \$-7,091.77, Total account balance \$576,559.32. 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.
- 7. Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion to approve bills & payroll in the amount of \$273,180.41 made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- 8. Brief Public Comment:** Mr. Michael Fish, Birch Park Dr. came to the Board with concerns over the boat launch located at the end of 11 Mile Rd. on Birch Park Dr. the fire departments hydrant was damaged when the launch was utilized a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Fish explained that the Township has never put any money into the launch for care and maintenance. Mr. Fish was thanked for coming and informed that this was an agenda item.

## 9. Reports:

A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per Mr. Tom O’Neil, Mr. O’Neil has been receiving phone calls regarding Otonagon Dr. on the East side of the river about huge pot holes in the road.

With having a conversation with the Sheriff regarding dog control, the sheriff reiterated that he had spoken with Clerk Brennan regarding this topic, however the Boards concerns are regarding several instances withing the township, not just one instance. Mr. O’Neil did let the sheriff know he should also speak with Mary Quinlan (Treasurer) as she as information/knowledge about issues as well.

B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** **Supervisor/Assessors Report:** Per **Supervisor, Michele Graham:** Still working on junk complaints, Michele has completed all commercial appraisals and agricultural appraisals, some agricultural are being turned back to residential, this does not effect zoning it is strictly for tax purposes, some agricultural are not maintaining their property as farm land.

C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan – email issues have been fixed through payroll, so all employees should be receiving their pay stubs via email again. No elections are scheduled this year. All is quiet and smooth.

D. **Cemetery:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan: Mr. Westover a Mecosta Township resident graciously created larger and more user friendly “maps” of the Ladner Cemetery. He has also offered to help with updating as plots are sold. **Supervisor Michele Graham,** Stanwood Cemetery is looking very nice. Nothing new in the way of maintenance or sales for either cemetery.

E. **Budget:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, everything looks good.

F. **Planning Commission:** Per Supervisor Trustee James Cain, the Planning Commission did not meet in July because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, they have a meeting scheduled for August. Unless there are any special hearings scheduled. The Planning Commission continues to work on the Master Plan.

**ZBA Meeting:** Per Mary Quinlan ZBA member, A special use permit was granted under the ADA guidelines. The petitioner was seeking a mother-in-law suite to be located on their property.

**10.Unfinished Business:**

- A. Fire Department: Per Chief Ron Palmer** – Chief Palmer was on a call and unable to attend the meeting.
- **Birch Park Hydrant** – Per Michele Graham after a discussion with Chief Ron Palmer. Chief Palmer is investigating how to accomplish repair/replacement of the hydrant. Supervisor Graham has emailed EGLE asking information on what permits if any are needed, Supervisor Graham believes that the fire department would be exempt from having to pull permits.
- B. Property:** Mr. Leschuck, attended the meeting to address the Board regarding his piece of property located directly behind the Township building and the ball field. Mr. Leschuck explained that he did sell his other parcel and is still interested in selling the parcel in question to the Township. Mr. Leschuck explained that the property isn't useful to anyone else as it is unbuildable due to the gas line that runs through it and its size. Some discussion with the board brought agreeance that it would square up the property and could be useful to the ball field and the disc golf course going forward with future plans of developing a park at the Township Hall. Mr. Leschuck had been asking \$15,000. For the parcel and the Township Board had Countered with \$5,000. During previous meeting and discussion. Mr. Leschuck offered the board to meet in the middle and he would sell for \$7,500.00. Motion made to purchase the parcel of property from Mr. Leschuck in the amount of \$7,500.00, by John Johnson, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan -yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- C. Constable:** Discussion as to whether this is something that the township wants to continue to pursue. Through discussion this position would be an “enforcement officer” for all township ordinances. Supervisor Graham and Clerk Brennan are to do some research on the position and bring to the next Board Meeting.

- D. **Township Policy:** Discussion related to the committee formed in 2019 to begin rewriting or updating the current policies for Township officials and employees. Through discussion it was decided that some policies do indeed need updating. The afore formed committee comprised of Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan and John Johnson, will schedule meeting times in the future.
- E. **Asset Test – Poverty Exemption Update:** The state tax commission is requiring a fillable form that they have provided to be used. Motion in the form of Resolution 2021-007 to update the asset test for poverty exemptions as presented with the new state tax commission form number 57.37 adopted 1-21 made by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Resolution passed; motion carried.
- F. **Website:** discussion as to the new design of the website, clerk Brennan will take photos from throughout the township to scroll across the website.

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

- A. **Recreation Equipment:** with wanting to repair the cement pad at the back door of the township hall, it was discussed that perhaps it would be a good idea to include a pad for picnic tables. We do have grant money that has not been used in the amount of \$2,000.00 so new picnic tables could be purchased as well. This would be beneficial when applying for future grants to develop the park/play area the Township would like to develop. ADA guidelines are also requiring a sidewalk be installed to the picnic tables/park area.
- B. **Boat Launch:** Supervisor Graham has not received a response from EGLE as yet, but is concerned we may have to have engineered drawings to repair. Supervisor Graham will continue to follow up and investigate what requirements need to be filled in order to get the launch repaired.
- C. **Marijuana:** Discussion amongst the Board Members revisiting Marijuana sales/grow facilities within the township. When the board originally opted out, we had agreed that the topic would be revisited once we observed other areas that opted into allowing sales and growth. It was agreed that a lot of research still needs to be done,

and that speaking with property owners of the township. It was discussed that there are many pros as well as cons with this type of business. Trustee Cain agreed to bring the topic back up to the Planning Commission. All Board Members agree that the best interest of the Township is priority. More information is needed.

- D. Credit Card Limits:** with the price of things increasing, we are running into an issue with ordering approved items with the credit card. The current limit is \$5,000.00. Motion made to increase credit card limits for both of the Township credit cards (Fire Dept/Township) from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 each by James Cain, John Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, John Johnson – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- E. Mecosta County Historical Museum:** The Mecosta County Historical Society sent their yearly letter for renewal of membership. Last year Mecosta Township renewed their membership with a \$250.00 due. Motion made to renew membership with \$250.00 dues by John Johnson, Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

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

**13. Announcements/correspondence:** Treasurer Mary Quinlan offered a correction to her newsletter; **Hazardous Waste disposal is October 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Mecosta County Fair Grounds opposed to the printed October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**14. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:51pm, made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Supervisor Michele Graham adjourned the meeting.

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**Lois Brennan, Clerk  
Mecosta Township**