

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
September 14, 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:** Lois Brennan, Michele Graham, John Johnson, James Cain—present. Mary Quinlan – absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda after removing B. Constable and D. Township Policy under Unfinished Business, made by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept the August 10 meeting minutes made by James Cain, John Johnson 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report: Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan (read into record by Supervisor Michele Graham),** reporting for the month of August 2021, Balance General Fund checking \$462,369.06, First Responders \$6,837.06, Fire-Equipment/Building \$98,017.39, Fire Fund – Operations \$-15,260.71, Total account balance \$551,962.80. 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 \$37,206.75 made by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
8. **Brief Public Comment:** none heard.
9. **Reports:**

- A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per Mr. Tom O'Neil, Mr. O'Neil had been contacted by the Newaygo Boat Club regarding buoys, Supervisor Graham has already addressed this issue.
- B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** **Supervisor/Assessors Report:** Per Supervisor, Michele Graham: currently working on land tables. Michele is working with good sales of which we had 196 within the township.
- C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan – nothing new to report at this time.
- D. **Cemetery:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham: Nothing new to report. We are still not receiving reports monthly from Austin Township.
- E. **Budget:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, all looks good.
- F. **Planning Commission:** Per Trustee James Cain: There was a special meeting for approval of a Butcher Shop within the township. The Butcher Shop was approved with conditions. The conditions are related to the Health Department Approval.
- G. **Building/Zoning:** Per Zoning Administrator Amy Dalman: Zoning Admin. Amy Dalman presented information on the building department, there have been 151 permits pulled thus far this year, which is down from years past. Our current Building Inspector is leaving Dec. 1. A suggestion from Amy was to contact Cory from Morton Township to see if he would have interest.

10.Unfinished Business:

- A. **Fire Department:** Per Chief Ron Palmer – There were a total of 22 runs for the past month.

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

There are no injuries to report.

New Hire Blake Gulick will start the new 2021-2022 fire academy pending background screening.

Nothing new to report regarding the applied for AFG grant, there has been no denial to date so assumption is we are still in the running for it.

New tires for Rescue 1 have been ordered, they have not arrived as yet.

Training continues at Brower Park; Rope Rescue Training is monthly.

Small Equipment Operation, change in how equipment is stored on trucks and in the department.

DAJ Electric came in to repair one light in the department.

Everything is running smoothly in Rescue, now retired Assistant Chief Alan Brennan still assists with training on paperwork and will continue until December 1.

- **Birch Park Hydrant** – Supervisor Graham a permit will need to be pulled; Chief Palmer is to obtain divers to dive the location to help map out the best location to reinstall the hydrant to where it would be out of the way of persons using the launch.
- **Fuel Tank** – no formal motion was made; however, the Board does agree this would be the best route to take for fuel needs for the fire department. More information is needed. Clerk Brennan will gather information for next months meeting.
- **Equipment** – Dual Role Wildland/Extrication Gear is \$810.00 each suit. There is a total of 20 suits needed. Suits include pants, coats, helmets. Motion made to purchase 10 of the needed suits in the amount up to \$8,200.00 to include shipping, by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

B. Boat Ramp: The expense of repairs may outweigh the actual use of the ramp. More information will be gathered.

11. New Business:

- A. Sugar Creek Tavern License:** Owner Michael Care is asking permission of the Township Board to apply for a Tavern License to be able to offer patrons a selection of beer and/or wine while dining. Motion in the form of Resolution 2021-007 to allow the license request made by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried. Resolution passed.
- B. Generator Control Board:** The control panel is bad on the Townships generator; this is drastically impeding the use of the generator when it is needed during power outages. Motion made to replace the control board up to \$2,500.00 and have it installed by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call John Johnson – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- C. Maintenance of Vault Toilet:** There are no companies in our area that clean Vault Toilets anymore. The toilet at Ulrich Park is able to be pumped out however Gary Helmus the townships maintenance man has cleaned it. This toilet is actually used often and was in a very bad state. Human feces were smeared throughout the toilet, walls, floors. Supervisor Michele Graham is requesting that Gary be compensated for the extra job of cleaning this toilet as it is quiet disgusting and not part of his current job duties. Motion made to pay Gary Helmus an extra \$100.00 to clean the vault toilet at Ulrich Park, by James Cain, Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
- D. EMC Insurance:** Clerk Brennan provided a copy of the renewal of the Township/Fire Department/ First Responders Insurance. Renewal is due October 2021.

12. Brief Public Comment: none heard.

13. Announcements/correspondence: Per Supervisor Michele Graham: As mentioned above Dave Wright is leaving the Township, Michele has made contact with Cory from Morton Township. More information to follow.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:02pm, made by John Johnson, James Cain 2nd. Supervisor Michele Graham adjourned the meeting.

Lois Brennan, Clerk
Mecosta Township