

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
January 10, 2023/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:** James Cain, Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan, Michele Graham, Tyler Huntley – all present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion made to approve the agenda as presented by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made to accept the minutes from December 13,2022, adding an “e” to wine under New Business, A., by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report:** Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan reporting for the month of December 2022, fund balances are as follows: General fund checking \$561,405.27, First Responders: \$-914.34, Fire-Equipment/Building (mileage account) \$121,227.74, Fire Fund -Operations \$-31,529.16, Total funds \$650,189.51. Balances for Fire- Equipment/Building and Fire Operations will increase after Winter tax collection, adjustments to the budget will be made prior to the end of the fiscal year to balance the First Responders account. Supervisor Graham accepted the Treasurer’s report as presented and admitted it to the official record. Collected thus far from winter taxes \$2,110,996.00, for the Township it is \$52,827.00, Fire Operating (mileage) is

\$21,000.00, Equipment (mileage) is \$31,691.00. that will offset the fire operations that is in the negative currently.

7. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$52,880.30 by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Tyler Huntley – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

8. **Public Comment:** Mr. Mike Stegewans, Old State Rd. Stanwood, Mi. has concerns regarding verbiage used in meeting minutes from September, where an excerpt of meeting minutes from the Planning Commission from 2019 were read into record. Mr. Stegewans would like mention that he believes there was a misunderstanding as to not wanting commercial zoning “down” Old State Rd. He did not mean Old State Rd. in its entirety. And feels the minutes in question make it appear that was what he meant. His concern at that time (2019 Planning Commission meeting), laid with the area from Old State Rd -M-20 to Northland Dr. Mr. Stegewans was asking the board to make this correction as it contradicts a request, he recently filed to have a portion of his property rezoned as commercial on Old State Rd and feels this was used against him in the decision made by the Board and could be used against him for the rest of his life. Mr. Stegewans mentioned that he did not care his zoning request did not go through but would like consideration that the minutes reflect a retraction or correction. Mr. Stegewans was asked if he attended the following months Board Meeting or if he had read the minutes before they were approved. He indicated he had not.

9. **Reports:**

A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per County Commissioner Tom O’Neil- Mr. O’Neil, the new officers for the County Commissioners have been selected. Jerilyn Strong is President; meetings will still be held on the first and third Thursday of the month. The first meeting is 10:00am-12:00pm, the second meeting of the month is 3:00pm-5:00pm.

B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham – **Assessors Report:** Desperate need of Board of Review Members, we

currently have two members. If we do not have a 3rd and someone gets sick, we are in violation of the law. There is two 4-hour class scheduled for February 8 at Morley Stanwood High School and one at Chippewa High school that following Saturday. The class is a requirement. The class may also be attended online with the State of Michigan. Assessors' association meeting yesterday everything is all set for the Board of Review Classes. Personal property statements have gone out. Exemption is up to \$180,000.00 which pretty much eliminates everyone. We will only have about \$11,862.00 in income from personal property.

Supervisors Report: Mileage rate is now .65 per mile, tomorrow is a meeting with MCDC they are forming a Goshen task force to help handle some of the "hearsay" that is going around on the company. Supervisor Graham also has a zoom meeting scheduled with a PR firm that is handling the economic impact study for the dam. Thursday morning is a meeting scheduled with Consumers Energy regarding the Rogers Dam. Consumers alluded to perhaps asking the local municipalities, the county, visitors bureau to help with finances caring for the dam/operation. A committee in Lansing, that works with all the utilities, is saying they do not want to take the upkeep money and pass it to everyone in the state that purchases their power.

For Zoning, Supervisor Graham has finally figured out how to get the zoning maps done using her assessing and county equalization.

- C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan- Preparing for the end of the year process, will be preparing w-2's and 1099's this week and plans to have them sent out next week.

- D. **Cemetery:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham, Austin Township Supervisor Ken Vredenburg sent the balance sheet from the Stanwood Cemetery's account. The account balance is currently \$2,537.09 in the checking account. Supervisor Graham did elaborate that some work would need to be done on the well house as well as some tree maintenance at the cemetery this year.

E. Budget: everything looks as it should. All adjustments required will be made prior to the close of the fiscal year. Supervisor Graham would like to set the date for the March Budget Hearing at February's meeting.

F. Planning Commission: Per Trustee James Cain – working on future use maps and simplifying zoning. Also discussed was extending commercial zoning along Northland Dr. from 8 mile to 11 Mile Rd. The rezoning would not affect residential homes already existing there, it is strictly for future use.

G. Fire Department - Per Chief Anthony Peacock – Reporting for 12/13/2022 to 01/10/2023.

- 23 runs (16 medical, 7 Fire)
- 3 Structure Fires – automatic aid to Morley Fire, 2 in Mecosta Township
- Year end totals: 353 runs for 2022, an increase of 11% from 2021's 317 runs.
- The remaining 10 SCBA packs have been received via Morton Township through the AFG Grant. Trainings are being scheduled for the new packs.
- The Cadet Program has been implemented, with a couple of interested parties from the Career Center.
- Equipment repairs, 1 valve replaced on Tender 2, 1 bleeder valve replaced on Engine 2 and a bulb replaced on portable generator. All work preformed by Kuzin's Equipment.

Training Report:

- 1 meeting for December, the second was cancelled for the holidays.

Rescue Report:

- Rescue is running smoothly. Reports are being completed and reviewed timely. Bi-Monthly run totals have been submitted to the EMS Director for the months of November/December.
- January 11, 2023 is a fire meeting at which the Township Board members will be attending.

10. New Business:

- A. Poverty Application & Asset Test:** Motion in the form of Resolution 2023-001 to accept the 2023/2024 hardship, poverty guidelines/ application and asset test with an asset limit of \$10,500.00 made by James Cain, Tyler Huntey 2nd, Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Tyler Huntey – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Resolution passed.
- B. 2023/2024 Wages:** Supervisor Graham is preparing the 2023/2024 budget and presented the board with a proposed 5% increase to wages across the township. Cost of living increase is estimated to be somewhere around 8%. No decision was made, and the topic will be discussed further at next months meeting, prior to the budget hearing. Supervisor Graham will work the new budget using the 5% increase as the board leaned more that direction.
- C. Roads:** After several complaints from residents living in the Wedgewood Estates Community, Supervisor Graham did request a quote from the Mecosta County Road Commission. The quote presented was for the areas of Park/Tanglewood/Heights Circle and came in at \$174,277.00. The Township still has a \$62,500.00 credit from the County from last year. However, to receive the county’s credit the Township will have to spend at least \$125,000.00. Discussion from the board lead to investigating other possible roads

as well as resident count living on the proposed roads to be done. No decision was made, and the topic will continue next month.

11. Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was on the agenda.

12. Brief Public Comment: nothing heard.

13. Announcements/correspondence: nothing to report.

14. Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 6:42pm by Lois Brennan, James Cain 2nd. Supervisor Graham adjourned the meeting.

**Lois Brennan, Clerk
Mecosta Township**