

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
19729 11 MILE RD. BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
November 9, 2022/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 – all present.

4. **Fire Department:** Supervisor Graham began the reporting as the fire department was getting their photos taken prior to their meeting. There were 21 runs, 14 Medical, 7 Fire, 1 significant incident with a 24' U-Haul went into the Muskegon River. Multiple departments responded. The Fire Department SCBA Grant was discussed, there is money available from the Grant that would allow for other purchases from the departments.

A Cadet program is being developed by the Department. Clerk Brennan has investigated the insurance aspects of such a program and there would be no further expense for the Department or the Township liability policy.

Training continues as normal, report writing and communication/radio. Rope rescue training continues.

Rescue: 2 Fire Personnel enrolled in the EMT academy at Meceola Tech on their own. All is running smoothly.

Equipment Request: There is a request from the department for the purchase of two cameras for fire/rescue scenes. The cameras would be

beneficial for documentation of events at the scene and would eliminate the use of personal cell phones being used. Supervisor Graham brought quotes for a camera comparable to the one Building/Zoning uses. Motion made to purchase two cameras for the Fire & Rescue Department in the amount of up to \$450.00 by James Cain, Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan -yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

At this time Chief Anthony Peacock, Assistant Chief Kyle Vredenburg, Captain Steve Cook, Lieutenants Samantha Luce & Charlie Walch, did come into the meeting. The board took time to ask a few questions to get more details on the report that had been provided, all questions were answered by the team. The team then left to attend their regularly schedule Fire meeting at the station. Discussion as to the S. O. G's and updating them.

5. **MCDC Contract:** The Board was given an in-depth presentation from MCDC Executive Director Kelly Wawczyk. The presentation outlined the function of contract agreement between MCDC and local townships for development of their communities. Questions and answers did follow with more in-depth information. The presentation lasted just over 45 minutes with several questions and answers pertaining to the battery plant that is looking at our region for development of their new plant.
6. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion made to approve the agenda as presented by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
7. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made to accept the minutes from October 11th as well as Special Meeting October 24th as presented, by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. All aye, motion carried.
8. **Treasurers Report:** Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan reporting for the month of October 2022, fund balances are as follows: General fund checking \$535,946.49, First Responders: \$-1,899.95, Fire-Equipment/Building

(mileage account) \$134,734.68, Fire Fund -Operations \$-77.93, Total funds \$668,703.29. The two accounts that came into the negative will need to be remedied by the end of the fiscal year. The negatives balances were primarily due to insurance renewals. Supervisor Graham accepted the Treasurer's report as presented and admitted it to the official record.

9. **Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Motion to pay bills and payroll in the amount of \$31,747.41 by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2nd. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

10. **Public Comment:** None heard.

11. **Reports:**

- A. **County Commissioner Report:** Per County Commissioner Tom O'Neil- Mr. O'Neil was not in attendance. No report was provided.
- B. **Assessor/Supervisor Report:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham – **Assessors Report:** the expected CPI is at 1.05 which will lead to the State raising property taxes a full 5% which is allowed by law. Value Ratios have come back, the requirement for our township is to be 49-50%, industrial is at 45.95%, agg is at 44.25%, commercial is at 47.04 % and residential is at 44.57%. across the board needs to be raised by 5 points. **Supervisors Report:** Michele attended the township association meeting this past month, she also attended the Northland Corridor meeting 2 weeks ago, Michele is trying to have something done at the Northland Dr./8 Mile exchange, she was informed that MDOT is scheduled out to 2029 with projects. Also discussed was 11 Mile/Northland Dr. with passing on the right. Possibly proposals would include turn lanes.

A report was provided to the Board by Code Enforcement Officer John Fribley, there are two open complaints that are being worked with, and seven closed cases. There are also seven properties that are in

progress and that are working with Mr. Fribley to come into compliance.

- C. **Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan- A brief overview of the election was given. Just under half of the registered voters in Mecosta Township voted. Election day went very smoothly. In attendance of the Poles were two “Challengers”, however no challenges were made. There is a need for election inspectors for upcoming elections.
- D. **Cemetery:** Per Supervisor Michele Graham – Graham received a text from Supervisor Ken Vredenburg/Austin Township containing a copy of the budget.
- E. **Budget:** everything looks as it should. Nothing to report. Normal adjustments will be made before the end of the fiscal year.
- F. **Planning Commission:** Per Trustee James Cain – Continued work on the Master Plan, working on several ordinances and land uses, sizing of different zones. Also, working on removing some instances of Special Use hearing. The Planning Commission is making a list of several items to bring to the Board of Trustees all at once to conserve money with the use of the attorney.

12. New Business:

- A. **MCDC Contract:** Motion made to approve the renewal of contract with MCDC in the amount of \$1.00 per resident rounded to an even amount for a total amount of \$2,700.00 made by Mary Quinlan, Lois Brennan 2nd. Roll call: Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, James Cain – yes, Michele Graham – abstained. Motion carried.
- B. **Round Table Discussion:** new agenda item, non-formal discussion on topics related to the agenda or any other topics that board members felt needed to be brought up or discussed. Topics discussed further

were the fire department and the fact they were given a survey to get an evaluation of the department workings through their view. Another topic brought up for later discussion was the fact that Wheatland Township had a marijuana question on their ballot, is that something that perhaps we should consider and let the people decide for themselves whether to allow sales within the township. As well as developing some long-term short-term goals for the township and tying it into the fire department as well. Bringing back community events.

The Christmas party for the firefighters was also discussed and outlined for Board Members. Santa is coming for the firefighters' kids, it is a potluck dinner, a DJ is donating his services for the evening. The party is scheduled for December 14th at the Township Hall.

Topic introduced of letting the boy scouts come to do some service work with the township.

13. Unfinished Business: nothing currently.

14. Brief Public Comment: nothing heard.

15. Announcements/correspondence: nothing to report.

16. Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn at 7:32pm by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned by Supervisor Graham.

**Lois Brennan, Clerk
Mecosta Township**