

## **Mecosta Township**

### **Regular meeting**

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

May 9, 2023/ un-approved minutes

Prepared by: Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

- 1. Supervisor Michele Graham, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call:** – Mary Quinlan, Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, James Cain – present, Tyler Huntey- absent.
- 4. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with crossing off 11. Unfinished business, B & C made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve regular minutes from April 11, 2023, and Special Meeting April 19, 2023, by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- 6. Treasurers Report:** Per Treasurer Mary Quinlan- reporting for the month of April, fund balances are as follows: General fund checking \$604,660.45, Isabella Bank CD \$125,794.83, First Responders: \$1,732.35, Fire-Equipment/Building (mileage account) \$154,078.35, Fire Fund-Operations \$7,582.17, Total funds \$893,848.15. AARPA fund reporting contract via email working with auditor, Treasurer Quinlan is confident the payment will come. Treasurer Quinlan expressed a need voiced by several residents to allow payment of taxes via online. Treasurer Quinlan did research this option and there is an available program through our accounting software BS&A that would allow processing through our website and at a smaller fee than currently paid.

Resolution 2023-003 was passed allowing taxpayers to process payment through electronic means through our website, motion made by James Cain, Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Resolution 2023-03 Passed.

- 7. Approval to Pay Bills & Payroll:** Report provided by Clerk Lois Brennan, motion to pay the bills and payroll in the amount of \$28,823.58 made by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.
  
- 8. Brief Public Comment:** Mr. Ken Draves, addressed the Board with concerns over an agenda topic, regarding that Supervisor Michele Graham be named Mecosta Townships Zoning Administrator, this would have Supervisor Graham holding 3 positions with the township amongst her other duties. His concerns are noted of concern of what happens when Supervisor Graham does decide to retire, we would have 3 positions to fill at one time.
  
- 9. Reports –**
  - A. County Commissioner Report:** Per Commissioner Tom O’Neil- Mr. O’Neil was absent from the meeting.
  
  - B. Assessors/Supervisors Report:** Per Supervisor/Assessor Michele Graham- Going out to do field work for Agg. the County assists Michele with this. Residential will begin in June.
  
  - C. Clerk:** Per Clerk Lois Brennan- an August 8<sup>th</sup> election is scheduled; this will be for mileage questions from M.O.T.A. and Morley Stanwood Schools.
  
  - D. Cemetery:** Kenn Vredenburg did fund balances for the Stanwood Cemetery, nothing is out of the ordinary.
  
  - E. Budget:** We are freshly into the new budget. Nothing to discuss. All looks as it should.

**F. Planning Commission:** work continues for the Master Plan; discussed were some zoning issues, agree to send some changes to the Township Board. The Planning Commission may need some assistance. Zoning Map was discussed, extending commercial zoning Northland Dr. to the Village of Stanwood.

**G. Fire Department:** Per Anthony Peacock- 26 total runs in the past month between fire and rescue. Investigating new reporting software due to the fact as of Jan 1, 2024, ESO current software company will no longer be NFIRS compliant. Crystal Flash has topped off the fuel tanks at the fire department. Two traffic cones at the fire department were donated by Ice Mountain. Lt. Luce has secured quotes for embroidered polo shirts for all members. A pair of structure fire boots were damaged and need to be replaced.

- **Training Report:** a controlled burn was conducted, flushing of dry hydrants was performed, practice pump operations and hose appliance use. Fire Fighter Cody Bullock received initial driver training on the 6X6, John Hodson received his EMT-B license. Asst. Chief Vredenburg spent 2 weeks in Grand Rapids with the Michigan State Police, learning fire investigation. Asst Chief Vredenburg can now investigate fires and their causes. Request to send another member to the Fire Investigation course scheduled for October.
- **Rescue:** running smoothly. The mask mandate through the state of Michigan has been lifted. There are still a few calls that require the use of masks. A copy of the new protocol is posted at the station and all members have been educated.

\_Motion made to approve purchase of new structural fire boots in the amount up to \$600.00, Polo shirts and ¾ Zip shirts up to \$1,625.00, and up to \$2,500.00 for fire investigation class. Total amount up to \$5,000.00 made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

Chief Peacock provided proof of attending class for emergency vehicle operations. Motion to lift Chief Peacock's driving restrictions made by James Cain, Lois Brenna 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion with the fire officers and firefighters in attendance regarding personnel issues with the chain of command. Discussed was the departments' ability to voice their opinions on whom officers should be, S.O.G.'s need review and much of it needs to be re-written. It was decided that the department needs to discuss these matters amongst themselves at their meeting scheduled on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**10. New Business –**

- A. Zoning Changes:** Motion to send zoning changes to the Township Attorney Mr. Scales exception of "tiny houses", which will be discussed at a community meeting for the master plan, made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- B. Zoning Administrator:** after lengthy discussion and recognizing concerns from resident from public comment, this topic will be brought back.
- C. Zoning Planner:** discussion as to hire outside help for the planning commission, cost could be \$15,000. The Board decided to pause on this topic and speak with the planning commission.
- D. Roads: - Filmore:** after several emails with the County Road Commission and hearing several complaints from residents that live on the road. The cost of patching or replacing the road would be in the thousands of dollars. Motion to allow Mecosta County Road Commission to take the road back to gravel at the Mecosta County Road Commission's expense, made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. All aye, motion carried.
- E. Fairview Cemetery:** A letter from Joyce Armstrong, President of Fairview Cemetery Association was received requesting annual

financial support, for the year of 2023 from Mecosta Township in the amount of \$700.00. Motion to approve the annual request in the amount of \$700.00 made by Mary Quinlan, James Cain 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Mary Quinlan – yes, James Cain – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**11.Unfinished Business –**

**A. Ulrich Park:** a second quote for the parking lot and driveway at Ulrich Park was provided by Twisted Trees Landscaping. A quote had already been given by Lawrence Morningstar Enterprises, Inc. Motion to approve and accept the quote from Twisted Trees Landscaping in the amount of \$5, 575.00 made by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

**12. Brief Public Comment** – no one heard.

**13. Announcements/Correspondences** – the annual Eagles golf outing is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>. This outing is in support of the little league and boy scouts. James Cain asked board members if they would personally sponsor a hole in the amount of \$100. In the past John Johnson had made this request and board members donated \$20.00 each to sponsor a hole.

**14. Work Session:**

**15.Adjournment** – Motion by James Cain to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm Lois Brennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Lois Brennan  
Clerk