

## Austin Township Board Meeting

Tuesday June, 9th 2020

The Austin Township board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Rd, Stanwood, MI 49346 and virtually, using ZOOM.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Billie Jean Barnes, Carolyn Towsley(Virtually), John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. Five Guests present: Tom O'neil, Deputy Jared Christensen, Detective Brian Miller, Undersheriff James Taylor and Bill Larsen

I. 7:30 p.m. Call to order - Pledge of allegiance

II. Public Comment

- Tom O'neil told us that all regular Mecosta County Board of Commissioner meetings are scheduled at the Service Building in the Conference Room and that the county budget has not been discussed yet.
- James Taylor came to our meeting to update us on the things he has done over the last month. There were protests being planned in Big Rapids and he worked with other BRPD and FSU Police to help put a plan in place to keep the community and protestors safe. James said he just likes to get the job done.
- Brian Miller grew up in Jackson but Big Rapids became his home and he is proud to raise his family and be living here. Brian has been in Law Enforcement for 25 years, including road patrol, school liaison, member of the Central Michigan Enforcement Team and now detective. Brian has coached sports in Big Rapids, and he's the secretary for the Big Rapids Board of Education. Brian has an open line of communication with other officers including the Sheriff's department, the State Police, the FSU police, and even federal officers. Because of the good communication Brian has earned the respect of the other officers. Brian says he will work hard to make the county proud of the sheriff's department.
- Kenn asked Brian why he would leave the city and go to the County? Brian said he's deputized and the county has always been a second home to him. He also said he has a good relationship with the county and hopes to change the culture for the better.
- Kenn asked Brian if he had looked at the budget and how many county deputies there were? Brian said he has looked at it, and will learn it better. He currently follows the budget for Barryton. Brian also said there were 15 or 16 deputies.
- John asked Brian how the agencies worked together? Brian said local agencies work well together. Communication and Teamwork are key.
- Kenn asked Brian how long he would plan on staying if he was elected as sheriff? Brian said until someone ran against him and won.
- Jared Christens said he grew up on a farm. At the sheriff's department he is a night guy. While Jared has many goals if elected there are a few that are at the top of the list, Including: community relationships, adding more school liaisons, implementing a drug program in schools, fighting the drug epidemic, and scams.

- Bill Larsen is Running for the Road Commission. He is retired and has the time to do the job.
- Kenn asked Bill what he wants to change if elected? Bill said he would change the fleet, replace or fix the old trucks.
- Bill is up for a challenge.

### III. Approval of minutes

- Carolyn Towsley moved to approve the May 13th board meeting minutes as presented, Supported by Sandra Mayo. Motion carried.

### IV. Approval of Treasurer's Township and Cemetery Reports

- Clerk and Treasurer's Township report match. We will talk to Doug to figure out how to get Billie's old accounts receivable off the report.
- The activity for the month is Mecosta County sent us our money for Delinquent Taxes, \$308 for PRE's that were approved. State Of Michigan Revenue Sharing received for \$22,539.00. The Mercantile deposit was the interest on the CD we let roll over. The Local Community Stabilization Act ( METRO ACT) deposit their annual money into the savings account. Carolyn will reverse that into the General account. No interest was reported on CDARS this month.
- Clerk and Treasurer Cemetery reports match. Lot Sales Turned in. Austin Township paid their share toward the cemetery fund. Is Mecosta Township going to do that? Kenn said we need to invoice them.
- The Hall account has \$250.17.
- The Property Tax account earned four cents of interest.
- Sandra Mayo moved to accept the reports as amended, Supported by John Brockway.
- Reports accepted subject to audit.

### V. Payment of Township and Cemetery Bills

- Township Checks #9817 through # 9835 and the payment to Deputy Treasurer Amber Schneider for three hours of work, and Cemetery Check # 1658
- John Brockway moved to approve Township and Cemetery payments, Supported by Sandra Mayo. Motion carried.

### VI. Unfinished Business

#### A. Assessor's and Supervisors Report

- People can come to the Board of Review in July to appeal their assessment.

#### B. Treasurer's Report

- There are two Bills in the House Committee allowing people who show us hardship to defer their interest.

#### C. Clerks Report

- Our Audit information is uploaded for Doug. I am waiting to hear what the stipulations are for getting a second tabulator. Previously we would need to have an AVCB to be eligible but the Bureau of Elections sent out a newsletter stating that stipulation might change to allow more precincts

access to a second tabulator. I received mail from Town Web Design asking if they can update our website. Should I look into that? No they are not a Michigan Based business. Spectrum is adding multiple channels and the sports pack will be discontinued. I ordered the new absentee ballot envelopes, I only ordered what the state will pay for and will send what I currently have to be printed to comply with the current changes after our August election.

#### D. Road Commission

- Reviewed and Signed contract for 140th Ave and 7 Mile Gravel.
- Kenneth Vredenburg moved to approve the contract with the Mecosta County Road Commission for the Gravel Project. Supported by Sandra Mayo. Motion Carried.

#### E. Fire Reimbursement

- Reviewed Ordinance #2020-01 to bill and recover charges for illegal burns.
- Kenneth Vredenburg moved to adopt ordinance #2020-01 for reimbursement for illegal burn protection services. Supported by Sandra Mayo.

Roll Call to adopt Ordinance #2020-01

SM - Yes      BB - Yes  
JB - Yes      KV - Yes  
CT- Yes

Motion Passed.

#### F. Taxpayer Express Pay

- Talked with the companies that are the payment providers.
- Point and Pay will charge us \$500.00 Set up fee and \$50.00 monthly maintenance fee. Credit Card fee would be 3%
- Invoice Cloud - \$50.00/month. Convenience fee and access fee depends on multiple factors.
- BS&A would be no charge to the tax payer, if anyone else were to look it would be \$2.00 per look. Updates to the system would occur at midnight at no extra fees because it's included in our contract.
- The board decided to table Taxpayer express until after summer or until we have a better plan.

#### G. F - 65

- Just a reminder about the Audit.

#### I. Ford Drain

- Went over the Notice of Letting sent by The Mecosta County Drain Commissioner. Any Questions see Karla Miller.

### VII. New Business

#### A. Election Changes and PPE

1. Letter opener and Paper Folder
  - Reviewed the package and the price. Went over the benefits of getting the two machines.
2. AV Envelopes and Address Stamp
  - Ordered New AV envelopes to comply, and will also purchase an address stamp to use my previous envelopes.
3. Protection Barriers and Masks
  - Call the Bureau of Elections and was not given a clear answer What the requirements will be.
  - Reviewed the information for the PPE. We decided to get election workers masks.
4. Retractable Belt Barriers and voting booths.
  - After reviewing the price we decided to pursue other options.

Kenneth Vredenburg moves to purchase Letter Folder and Envelope Opener.  
Supported by Carolyn Towsley. Motion Carried

Roll Call For The Letter Folder and Envelope Opener:

CT: Yes	SM:Yes
JB: Yes	BB: Yes
KV: Yes	

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Billie Jean Barnes