

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346 on February 9, 2016 at 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. There was one guest, Megan Giuliani-DT.

Public Comment: Art Adelman is retiring as Commissioner. The deadline to apply to be appointed for his position in February 22, 2016. He will be officially retired on March 1, 2016. The position comes with per diems and benefits.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to accept with the minutes with a correction to Resolution 2016-4. The Resolution should read, "Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Elizabeth G Carr." Motion carried.

Financial Report: We received the Swampland Tax payment of \$2,900.00 and the Revenue Sharing payment of \$20,830.00. There were three deposits made into the tax account. Disbursement will be done on February 16, 2016. The Treasurer's office will be open that day for taxes.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Carolyn Towsley to move \$300.00 from 955 Miscellaneous to 920 Utilities. Motion carried. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve for payment Township check #'s 8659-8678, and Cemetery check # 1549. Motion carried.

#### Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Board approved the application for a separate FEIN number for the First Responders. The Fire Department presented their long term goals: a specialized washer and dryer for turn-out gear. The cost would be around \$12,00.00 and would require converting the utility room to accommodate the washer and dryer. Another project is replacing the sidewalk in front of the building to break up. The replacement cost would be around \$30,000.00. The SCBA tanks will need to be replaced by 2021. Replacement of a pumper/tender was discussed also. There were 18 incidents. The County is going to test a booster pole for their VHF frequency here and at Morley Fire Station and will pick the best site based on their test. If the pole is installed at MAFD, the County will carry all the costs of installation. The Fire Department will be responsible for supplying the electric. The Fire Department has a new hire, Natacscha Warrington. She comes as an already trained fire-fighter and will be taking MFR training with Kyle Vredenburg. The Fire Board approved to buy four sets of turn-out gear at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00. The CPR training is done and the certification is good for three years. The battery in the portable pump on the grass rig was replaced. The First Responders received an extra \$750.00 in their run reimbursement from a tax overage reimbursement from the County. They had a total of 185 runs for 2015.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: March 8, 2016 will be the Board of Review organizational meeting. March 14 & 16 will be Board of Review days. Russ Hopkins is resigning from the BOR and Benjamin Covey will take his place temporarily. Austin Township will be looking for someone to fill this position starting in January of 2017.
3. Treasurer's Report: 88% of the taxpayers have paid by 98% of the tax dollars. 66% of the taxpayers have paid 79% of the tax dollars. I have resigned my position as Chair of the Mecosta County Township Association. Bob Baldwin in the new Chair. Lind Randal resigned

as the Secretary/Treasurer. Elizabeth G Carr is the new Secretary/Treasurer. The next meeting is on April 25, 2016 at Hinton Township at 7 p.m.

4. Clerk's Report: We will have five ballot styles for the Presidential Primary. The Legislature allowed local municipalities to put bond issues on the primary ballot. Chippewa Hills has a bond issue on this ballot. At the Presidential Primary you must declare a party to receive a ballot. I hope to swear in a new deputy at the start of the new fiscal year. A judge has placed a stop on the gag legislation that was passed by the legislature that prevented municipalities and schools from talking about ballot issues for 60 days before an election. The legislature has been asked to clarify the specific language of the bill.
5. Web Design: Kenn checked on a couple of designs. The going price seems to be about \$15.00/month. 123eHost, our current provider, has a program where they will merge our current design with an updated design for \$300.00. We can maintain it ourselves, but that would include the security updates as they came out, or 123eHost will maintain and do the security updates for us for \$120.00/year. Moved by Sandra, supported by Carolyn Towsley to allow Kenn up to \$500.00 to update and get the website set up with annual updates by 123eHost. Motion carried.
6. Joint Township Meeting: A short term goal for the Fire Department is replacing the cement sidewalk in front of the Fire Hall. It was determined that they could pay for that out of their current budget. Long term goals included a specialized washer and dryer for their turn-out gear at about \$12,000.00 and part of the Fire Hall would have to be remodeled. Replacing the Pumper/Tender, repaving the parking lot, and replacing the SCBA tanks by 2021 are the other long term goals. No revisions or changes were made to the Fire Department, First Responder, or Cemetery budgets or joint township agreements. Austin Township will be paving 180<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Johnson Road to 11 Mile Road. Mecosta Township will be paving 8 Mile Road from Northland Drive to 185<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### New Business:

1. Census: There will be a Census of government entities next year.
2. Precinct Filing: I have received the Precinct and Township Candidate filing forms. Please see me for your form.
3. Budget: The Budget Meeting will be March 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The 2016-2017 Budget will be approved at this meeting.
4. Roads: The bid from the County Road Commission came in using 330lb weight paving. We will ask for the price difference to go down to 220lb weight.
5. Reimbursement Scale: The Reimbursement Scale has been updated and revised. A copy will be available at the Budget Meeting or in my office.
6. Hall: We will consider replacing the tables next year. There are several ceiling tiles that need to be replaced and the rugs need to be replaced.
7. FYI: We will be discussing with our Verizon agent how to activate the hotspot on our phones so we have accessibility to the internet when we are away from the office or wifi.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk

