

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 April 12, 2016 at 7:42 p.m.

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

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the March 15, 2016 Austin Township Board Meeting minutes and to accept the Austin Township Budget Meeting minutes with corrections. The Budget Meeting Minutes should say, "Township Investment and Depository Designation Resolution #2016-05 and Assessor's Resolution #2016-06." Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Final Settlement for the Township was \$418,486.23. We received the Revenue Sharing check of \$19,725.00. The amount is down from what we received last year, but it is in line with the average. Last year's check was about \$2,000.00 higher than usual. We received \$64,758.30 in Property Taxes. We received another \$1,715.16 in Interest and Penalties. The Property Tax Fund has \$202.56 in it to start the next tax season. The Final Settlement for the Cemetery was \$3,990.56. The Final for the Fire Department as of July 31, 2015 when we turned the books over to Mecosta Township was \$54,133.44. The Final for the First Responders as of July 31, 2015 when we turned the books over to Mecosta Township was \$17,353.64. Accepted as presented subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve for payment Township check #'s 8707-8738 with the line item on check #8734 changed to 101-747 and the line item on check #8735 changed to 101-959; and to approve for payment Cemetery check #'s 1551-1552. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Department spent a total of 97.91% of their budget for a total of \$1,481.75 left in their account for FY 2015-2015. The First Responders spent 51.31% of their budget for a total of \$17,406.58 left in their account for FY 2015-2016. The insurance remained the same, but next year we will need to reevaluate all of the trucks for depreciation. The Fire Chief, Ron Palmer, continues to get estimates to install a special washer and dryer for the Firemen's turn-out gear, which includes a natural gas generator. The Budget for the new fiscal year remains at \$60,000.00. The Fire Board approved \$600.00 for adjustments, lube, and maintenance of the garage doors by Holton Garage Doors. Russ Eckert can replace the front sidewalk for \$3,200.00. Several trainings were completed: Water Rescue Training, Grass Rig Pump Training, and six hours of training on a burn house with Big Prairie, Croton, and Big Rapids Townships. There continues to be a template problem with the new 800 MHz radios. The First Responder's did a total of 45+ runs for the year. Run reimbursement for this quarter was \$26.11/run. Kyle Vredenburg and Natacsha Warrington are completing their MFR training. Jack Benson has retired from the Fire Department. Retirement celebration plans will be announced later.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There were three for the Board of Review, two walk-ins and one write-in. The taxable value will remain the same for the Township. The taxable value for the County went up 2% because Ice Mountain had an abatement expire.
3. Treasurer's Report: The tax roll balances with the County. There was a correction in Interest and Penalties.
4. Clerk's Report: MTA is recommending that local jurisdictions begin to plan for \$1,000.00-\$2,000.00 in next year's budget process toward the purchase of new voting equipment. The Governor has set aside money in the budget toward the new voting machines and there are

Federal HAVA funds, but local municipalities will be required to contribute at this point. The Clerk will be attending the MTA Election Tips and Tricks Conference in Mt Pleasant. If the Deputy Clerk can get the day off work she will attend also.

5. Pension Plan: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Carolyn Towsley to resolve with Resolution 2016-07 to increase, from 10% to 75%, the voluntary contribution to the existing Pension Plan as of April 12, 2016.

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Carolyn Towsley-yes

John Brockway-yes

Sandra Mayo-yes

6. Rugs: No response yet. Will contact again.
7. Verizon: Need to find out if there is an upgrade on the office phone.
8. Website: Have made some inquiries, but the website is still down.

New Business:

1. County Commissioner: Tom O'Neil was appointed to take Art Adelman's seat on the County Commission.
2. Roads and Brining: The County offers one free brining. It is \$100.00/mile for any additional brining. The Township will only contract for the free brining. Kenn will negotiate with the County Road Commission to cap and grade the open part of 8 Mile west from 140th to the swampy area.
3. Libraries: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to contribute \$700.00 to Morton Township Library and \$1,300.00 to Walton Erickson Library. Motion carried.
4. Fire Board Member-at-Large: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to re-appoint Greg Babbitt as the member-at-large for Austin Township on the Fire Board. Motion carried.
5. Cemetery Member-at-Large: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Carolyn Towsley to appoint Sandra Mayo as the member-at-large of the Cemetery Board for Austin Township. Motion carried. Russel Hopkins has retired for health reasons. The Cemetery Board meets twice a year on the third Thursday of April and October at the Mecosta Austin Fire Hall. The Stanwood Cemetery clean-up day will be April 21st, with the make-up day on April 22nd.
6. Hall Tables: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to spend up to \$1,500.00 to purchase new eight foot tables for the Austin Township Hall. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk