

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg on September 13, 2016 at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-There is no new Emergency Director yet. Kenneth Vredenburg-The Building/Zoning Department needs to provide better equality in the way they issue the agricultural/commercial permits.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balanced at \$383,962.91. Income this month were the Charter checks, interest, and a hall rental. The Cemetery balanced at \$6,175.40. The Property Tax Account has a balance of \$69.70. There is \$150.23 in the Petty Cash Account. The Financial Report is accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Carolyn Towsley to pay Township Check #'s 8829-8853 with the addition of check #8854 for \$2,400.00 to Doug Wohlberg for the Audit and check #8855 for \$200.00 to Morton Township for Recycling; and to pay Cemetery check #'s 1564-1566 with the addition of check # 1567 for \$600.00 to Doug Wohlberg for the Audit. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: Since attendance has been dwindling there will not be a Pancake Breakfast or Pig Roast this year. They are considering a Spaghetti Supper. The new Fire Truck was picked up last Friday. The next Fire Board Meeting will be September 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: We have received our L-4029. The mills collected will be 1.2453 minus the Headlee Rollback. Morton Township is dropping their Tulleymore Motel Appeal and going with the appraised tax dollar #'s of \$2,914,000.00 for 2015 and \$2,853,000.00. This will come out to \$624,000.00 tax \$'s in 2015 and \$611,000.00 in 2016. We will accept these numbers for our share of the taxes even though they are not what we wanted. It would be too costly to pursue suing them independently. We have been notified that the State of Michigan cannot foreclose on parcels owned by the Township. The State wants a copy of the CLPO Association By-Laws. Shila Kiander at Equalization will be sending the required information on and getting some research on the issue from a Title Company and the State as to what our options are. October 1, 2016 is Fire Safety Day at the Fairgrounds. October 8, 2016 is Hazardous Waste Day at the Senior Center in Mecosta.
3. Treasurer's Report: 66% of tax payers have paid 68% of the tax dollars so far. Last year 52% of tax payers had paid 68% of the tax dollars.
4. Clerk's Report: We received a letter from Tri-County Propane informing us that our capped amount for the 10/01/2016-04/30/2017 year is capped at \$1.199/gallon. We have received our Financial Statement and Independent Auditor's Report from Doug Wohlberg. A copy was provided for each of you along with an Auditor's Letter inside the front cover. There is a Rural Transportation Planning Meeting on September 26, 2016 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety. Reminder: the Morton Township Champagne & Chocolate Gala Fund Raiser is Friday, September 23, 2016 at 7: 00 p.m. at the Morton Township Library. Remember that the MTA on the Road conference is October 25th. We received a thank you note from the Wish-A-Mile organization for letting them use our

parking lot as a refreshment stop. Michigan's straight-party voting ban will not take effect by November. Straight-party voting will be allowed at the November General Election.

5. Audit: Doug Wohlberg reviewed the Audit Report with Carolyn Towsley, Treasurer on August 26th. After reviewing Carolyn's numbers Doug did adjust a few of the entries and removed his note about our two weaknesses. One of the main things he would like to see changed is that we could find an outside accountant to help us with day-to-day adjustments instead of contacting him since he is our auditor. Also he is removing the 14% (\$60,000.00) increase to the General Fund from 2015.
6. Fire Truck: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo, to move \$15,000.00 from Isabella Bank CD#5240 and to deposit it into the General Fund. Motion carried.
7. Budget Amendment: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to move \$10,000.00 from 440-446 Highways, Streets, and Bridges and deposit it in 900-336 Fire Department Capital Outlay. Motion carried. Check # 8856 will be written for \$20,000.00 to the Village of Howard City and check #8857 will be written to the Mecosta Austin Fire Department.
8. Dehumidifier: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to contract with Stratz to install a dehumidifier extension onto the furnace for a cost of \$450.00 and \$50.00 for a mechanical permit. Motion carried.
9. FYI: Kenn will talk dates with Mecosta Township to set up a Joint Meeting to discuss the sale of the old fire truck.
10. FYI: 180th Avenue was brined to help settle the road. There has been no gravel put on 9 Mile yet.
11. Trail Towns Meeting: Mecosta County has been divided into 4 sections. We are section #3. Section #3 consists of Mecosta, Austin, Morton, and Wheatland Townships. Some of the discussion centered around paving the sides of the road versus creating new trails to link to existing trails. Eventually there will be grant dollars available. Spur trails to businesses and other trails, signs, and maps are things that will be considered in future discussions.
12. Assessor Fees: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to pay \$250.00 toward the Assessor Certification Renewal fees beginning in 2017.
Carolyn Towsley-yes
John Brockway-yes
Kenneth Vredenburg-yes
Sandra Mayo-yes
Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk