

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg on November 15, 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 were two guests present.

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commission-The classroom in the Mecosta County Services Building is 90% finished. There is parking on the North and West side of the building.

Kenneth Vredenburg-Tom O'Neil has retired from the Fire Department. Austin Township would like to express their appreciation for his 50 years of service.

Lisa Lambert-The Election went smoothly. Everything balanced at the end of the night. Everyone was home by 11 p.m.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the Township, Election Commission, Public Accuracy Test, and Special Joint Township Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balanced at \$367,279.33. We received the \$1,006.35 reimbursement check from Presidential Primary Election. The Cemetery balanced at \$4, 225.91. The Property Tax Account has \$145.38 and the Petty Cash fund has \$150.23 in it. The Financial Report is accepted as presented subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to pay the Township check #'s 8876-8897 with the addition of check #'s 8898-8905 to the Election Inspectors, and Cemetery check #'s 1572-1574. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The next Fire Board Meeting is tomorrow night, Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall at 19095 – 8 Mile Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346. Mecosta Township did not act on the Special Meeting. They will act on it until their meeting next month. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Elizabeth G Carr that Austin Township adopt the proposed addendum and to include the paragraphs in the minutes and the revisions to the Mecosta Austin Fire Agreement that was developed by Austin Township and Mecosta Township at the Special Joint Township Meeting on October 27, 2016 as stated:
“Addendum: Austin and Mecosta Township Boards will have full control of all current and future purchases and sales of the assets of the Mecosta Austin Fire Department and Mecosta Austin First Responders whereby the sale of said assets will be divided per agreement proportionately to each Township as purchased.”
“Revision: Article 6 ‘The Fire Board shall have complete control and responsibility for the Fire Department *‘excluding the sale and purchase of Fire Department and First Responder capital assets which would be the responsibility of each Constituted Municipality,’* to the extent permitted by law, including all matters required by applicable federal or state law or regulation, insurance requirements and similar matters.”
“Article 2 Mecosta-Austin Medical First Responder Agreement: The consensus is that the new truck that was purchased is labeled a First Responder truck instead of a Fire Truck. Per our 65% Mecosta Township and 35% Austin Township allocation of First Responder expenses, Mecosta Township will reimburse Austin Township \$6,750.00 for the purchase of the truck.” Motion carried.

2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: Cemetery Board Meeting-We rehired the same mowing company, Tinker-Peete, at \$210.00/per mowing not to exceed \$350.00. One refund for a grave plot was approved. We will re-visit the discussion about the trees in the spring. Board of Review will be coming up next month.
3. Treasurer's Report: 2% of the taxpayers have paid 2% of the tax dollars. The MCTA Meeting was sparsely attended. CMET, Central Michigan Enforcement Team, gave a presentation on drug use and enforcement in our area. The three main drugs abused in the CMET area are meth, heroin, and prescription drugs. The next meeting will be January 30, 2017 at Millbrook Township, with the potluck to begin at 6 a.m.
4. Clerk's Report: We received a thank you letter and report from Morton Township Library. They received a total of \$1,930.59 in penal fines so far this year. And \$211.21 in State Aid. More QuickBooks checks will need to be ordered this month. The QuickBooks software renewal of \$565.00 plus tax will be renewed this month on November 28th. Casair sent out a form requesting registration if there was interest in a fiber optic line instead of a relayed signal. Being sworn in to your elected positions can happen any time after November 21st.
5. Website Development: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to contract with the Shumaker Group to redo our website at the \$899.00 2nd tier level, and to pay \$200.00 annually for the website hosting. Motion carried.
6. Canadian Lakes Lots: The lots that we have cannot be foreclosed on. We also cannot be charged CLPO amenity fees. One of the new parcels to be rejected this year has someone interested in it. They are willing to pay all the recording fees. Will discuss the situation more at next month's meeting.
7. Summer Tax Collection: Austin Township will sign the summer tax collection agreement with Chippewa Hills School District but not collect the summer taxes. This will create a more even situation since we are not collecting summer taxes for Morley Stanwood. If the loss in revenue seems to be an issue, we could consider collecting the 1% Administration Fee to make up the difference.

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk