

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 December 13, 2016 at 7:45 p.m.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. There were eight guests present.

Public Comment: County Commissioner Tom O'Neil-The Mecosta County Budget was set at 13 million. There were 43 autopsies at the Morgue. There were 13 autopsies for Mecosta County, 29 for Newaygo County, and 1 for Osceola County. Ben and Laura Timmer inquired if a specific foreclosed property, due to return to the State of Michigan, was available for them to purchase. Tim Nestle-County Road Commission-described the extra problems encountered on the 180th Road Project and inquired if Austin Township would consider approving any more funds toward the extra expense of the clay removal and drains.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to approve the minutes with corrections: Unfinished Business: "Fire Department and First Responders at". Also "Motion carried." moved to the end of paragraph three (Revision: Article 6), 2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: should read "We rehired the same mowing company, Tinker Peete, at \$210.00/mowing not to exceed \$3,500.00." Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balanced at \$387,270.97. We received the Revenue Sharing check from the State. We received the \$6,750.00 reimbursement check from Mecosta Township for our share in the First Responder Truck. We also received our next check from the Cable Franchise. No CD's will expire until March-April. The Cemetery balanced at \$3,986.30. There were no checks written from the Property Tax Account.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to pay the Township check #'s 8906-8924. Motion carried. Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Carolyn Towsley to pay the Cemetery check # 1575. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Department had \$6,388.20 in bills. The First Responder had \$4,249.88 in bills. There was \$1,014.42 spent in payroll. The total spent was \$12,485.41. The number of incidents are down. The Fire South tower did not solve the problem with the radios. The tower was place in a different location than the testing. They will not be writing the 800 MHz grant. Eventually there will be a program called 1st Net.gov that will patch all the cell phone numbers together for calls and incidents. Sweatshirts and polo shirts were purchased with the Fireman's Account Fund. The new Rescue Engine is in service. The old truck is in the Mecosta Township garage until it is sold. Three new radio batteries were purchased at \$100/pc, and two new hand lights. Training for the Dragon Trail will require specific rope training. An auditor will evaluate exactly what rope will be needed at the Fire Department so no money is wasted on insufficient of extra rope. Ice Mountain is expanding. This will require the moving of a fire hydrant. Tom O'Neil's retirement after over 50 years of service as a firefighter was effective 11-02-16. Hose testing is completer Pump and drive training on the new truck will be starting. The Department plans on using the new truck exclusively on the expressway if possible. There have been close calls because of passer-by's not recognizing an incident was in progress. A pressure relief valve rebuild kit for the 2003 GMC pumper. There were 31 MFR this last quarter. The County has decided to draw funds against the millage as allowed, but are not allocating any funds towards Rescue.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 14th at the Corner Café in Stanwood if Mecosta Township can move their meeting to Tuesday night instead of Wednesday night.

2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There was Board of Review today. Gloria Parker, Ron Jensen, and Jim Hoisington will be the BOR members, with Ben Covey as alternate. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to appoint Gloria Parker, Ron Jensen, and Jim Hoisington to the Board of Review for term of January 2017-December 2019.
Motion carried. Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to retain Lot 423 for purchase by Ben and Laura Timmer per payment of legal fees for said sale, and to return the other 23 lots to go back to the State of Michigan. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: For the Summer Taxes 84% of the taxpayers have paid 93% of the taxes. For the winter taxes 18% of the taxpayers have paid 7% of the tax bill.
4. Clerk's Report: New checks and W-2 forms have been ordered for the Township through QuickBooks. We received a refund check from MML of \$39.00. The recount was cancelled at the last minute. The Bureau of Elections has already begun to redo some of the forms and processes for the next election. Anyone without a picture ID will have to fill out a Provisional Ballot form. They will not be allowed to sign the affidavit on the back of the Application to Vote.
5. Summer Tax School Charge: It has been brought to our attention that we can bill the State of Michigan \$2.50/parcel for the Morley Stanwood summer tax billing. This will offset the cost of receiving the per parcel payment from the school.
6. Verizon Tower: They are hoping to have the Verizon Cell Tower active by February. They are not done with construction yet so that date may change.
7. Website: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Sandra Mayo to increase by \$400.00 the amount we are paying the Shumaker Group to create the Austin Township website. Motion carried. It should be about six weeks to launch the site.
8. 180th Road Project: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay \$15,000.00 of the Voucher and Materials costs incurred on the preparation of 180th Avenue to be paved. There were three "ayes" and two "nays". Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Swearing In: All Township Officers were sworn in to office.
2. Xerox: We will be looking at a new contract with Xerox in 2017.

Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk