

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 14, 2017 at 7:31 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 Commissioner-The Park Commission is going ahead with installing a larger septic system and sixty new, permanent lots at School Section Lake Park. Melissa, Mercantile Bank Representative presented Mercantile Bank's new and updated interest rates and programs.

Minutes: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Kenneth Vredenburg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Finance Report: The Township balanced at \$370,451.27. The Cemetery balanced at \$4,066.97. The Property Tax account balanced at \$90,000.00. The Summer Tax Reimbursement checks for the Township of \$4,851.00 was deposited. The Michigan State Revenue Sharing check of \$20,851.00 was received and deposited. The Distribution checks were issued. Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to accept the Finance Report subject to audit. Motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Check #8961 will be voided. The check was written out for the wrong amount. Check # 8964 is voided. The EFTPS 941 amount was accidentally printed on a check. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay the Township check #'s 8947-8965, with check # 8965 to be written out for the corrected amount of \$98.00 to the Postmaster, and to pay Cemetery check # 1577. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Department has \$7,847.97 in their bank account and the First Responders have \$6,687.13 in their bank account. Invoices and Payroll for the Fire Department came to \$29,563.53. Invoices for the First Responders came to \$3,889.67. The insurance will renew in March. Please contact the Lind licensed attorney, Heidi Hudson, with any questions particularly when you receive FOIA requests. There is no fee or penalty for contacting her. The Fire Department needs to purchase two sets of turn-out gear. The Dragon Trail is planning on having one event per month. The Fire and Rescue Community will need to have a presence at each event. The involved departments will be coming up with a billing policy and pricing. It will cost \$550.00/person for a total of \$6,600.00 for the special rescue training required. The specialized equipment will cost approximately \$12,282.22. There are three Firefighters in Company Officers training 1 & 2. There were no injuries. Hose advancement and pump training have been completed. They are working on road training with the two newest firefighters. Required maintenance on the DNR truck was completed. The truck is not supported by the DNR anymore. All repairs are now the department's cost and responsibility. We have put our name in the DNR pool to get a new truck. The old fire truck did sell for \$15,000.00. There were 34 Rescue runs since our last meeting in November.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: Board of Review is March 13th from 9am-12 and from 1-4 pm, and March 15th from 1-4 pm and 6-9 pm. We have received the deed on the lot that is spoken for.
3. Treasurer's Report: 86% of taxpayers have paid 95% of the summer taxes. 77% of the taxpayers have paid 91% of the winter taxes. I have received a new schedule of interest rates

- from Mercantile Bank and Isabella Bank. I will be comparing them and deciding the best way to reinvest our CD's for the best interest rates and to have the money available for the 180th Road project.
4. Clerk's Report: The Osceola County Clerk has arranged a demonstration of the new voting machines with their vendors on Tuesday, February 28th in Reed City. I have received another FOIA request from michigan@openthebooks.com for our payroll information. We received a letter from the Michigan Municipal League informing us that there will be a refund when we receive our renewal this summer. There has been a mix-up with the propane bill. We will be receiving a refund from them also. Carolyn has gone online and looked at our payment history with them and the checks we have written. We are waiting to hear back from them after they check out the discrepancy. The officers remained the same for the Mecosta Township Association. Please review the packet with all the items that will need to be approved at the Budget Meeting and make sure there are no mistakes in the dates and wording. A group of Mecosta County officials discussed the pros and cons of the opt in or out marijuana law as it affects the townships at the MCTA meeting in January.
 5. Budget: The \$115,000.00 in 575 State grants is on the wrong line and needs to be moved to 575-574 State shared revenue. A print out of 265-703 Building and Grounds Salaries will be provided at the budget meeting next month. Change Public Works 440-446 Highways, streets and bridges to \$190,000.00 for the 2017-2018 Budget year. A sample budget will be ready for approval at the budget meeting next month.
 6. Federal Poverty Guidelines: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to accept the Federal Poverty Guidelines as the Austin Township Poverty Guidelines. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk