

Mecosta Austin Joint Township Board Meeting

January 19, 2017

The Joint Township Board Meeting was called to order at the Austin Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346 by Austin Township Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg on January 19, 2017 at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Austin Township-Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Megan Guliani (DT), John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. Carolyn Towsley was absent.

Mecosta Township-Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, Mary Quinlan, John Johnson, and James Cain.

Minutes: Moved by James Cain, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the Joint Minutes and the Special Minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Finance Report:
 - A. The Fire Department has \$7,847.97 left in their account.
 - B. The First Responders have \$6,687.13 left in their account.
2. Washer/Dryer/Generator: The Fire Department won't be replacing the generator because it's a three-phase generator. The price of a washer is \$6,897.00. The Fire Department is recommending the Cyclone Turnout Gear Drying System w/Arm Extension. We can get two for \$1,799.90. This will allow them to wash and dry the same amount of Turn-Out Gear at the same time. The dryers are stand alone and portable and can be rolled out of the way if necessary. We should figure on another \$1,500.00-2,000.00 for shipping and installation.
3. SCBA's: The tanks will expire in 2021. We need to plan to replace them out of the 2020 Budget. Currently replacement costs are \$1,050/unit. See insert for a list of tanks and serial numbers.
4. Sale of Fire Truck: We have had a few calls. None that seemed seriously interested yet. The truck will be relisted in the Fire Trader magazine for a \$50.00 subscription renewal fee.
5. Miscellaneous: See insert for a list of Fire Trucks with mileage, year, make, and model enclosed with pictures of each vehicle. An application has been sent the DNR to put the Mecosta Austin Fire Department in the pool for another truck. The DNR truck we have now is no longer supported by them for general maintenance. The Boards discussed the possibility of having some studded tires available for the grass rig in case of an ice emergency when the snow tires wouldn't work on the larger vehicles. The studded tires would need to be on their own rims for easy installation and removal.

6. Runs Report. There was a total of 80 runs for the Fire Department. The First Responders had a total of 215 runs. There were 154 runs in Mecosta Township, 35 runs in Austin Township, 15 runs on the expressway, and 11 runs in other townships. The amount of runs in the County for the First Responders has steadily gone up in the last few years even though the funding has stayed the same. This results in lower per run money per department.
7. Physicals: Physicals are \$150.00/person. We have four firefighters set up to have their physicals next month. There are 17 active Firefighters and 11 active Rescue workers.
8. Bill Approval: All bills other than utilities need to be pre-approved at the Fire Board Meeting or by the approved Board Members or Fire Officers.
9. Budget:
 - A. Moved by John Brockway, supported by James Cain to spend up to \$14,000.00 to purchase the Turn-out Gear washer and two stand-alone dryers installed, with a 50/50 split between the Mecosta and Austin Townships, with the washer and dryers to be ordered for arrival and invoicing after April 1, 2017 in the new budget year. Motion carried.
 - B. Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Sandra Mayo to roll the Savings Account into the General Account for the Fire Department for this budget year. This will close this account. In the future, any remaining funds at the end of the budget year will be rolled over into the General Account for the next budget year. The amount in the Savings Account will help cover the cost for Turn-out Gear that needs to be ordered this fiscal year. Motion carried.
 - C. Finance Report: Mecosta Township will use the GL Activity Report and the Invoice Register Report along with the Budget Report to communicate with Austin Township about the financial status and invoices for the Mecosta Austin Fire Department and First Responders. The invoice to Baird Cotter & Bishop was to correct a withholding discrepancy. The T's and Hoodies invoice was to clear out the Fireman's Fund Account. The Account is now closed.

New Business:

1. Fire Department/First Responders:
 - A. Ice Mountain will not be putting in a new hydrant. The cost is too expensive at this stage of their expansion. They will be reworking the entrance and exit at Ice Mountain because of the expansion. The exit will be near the Fire Hall. They will provide the Fire Department a key pad entry to get to the fire hydrant. Eventually Ice Mountain will drill a new well so that it won't be necessary for the Fire Department to go on their property to reach a hydrant. The Fire Department will be doing some training at Ice Mountain.
 - B. Radios: The 800 MHz are working great. The VHF radios do not work on the river. We have six of the 800's, one for the boat, one for the truck, and each of the officers. We will need the 800's for the Dragon Trail also. The pagers work everywhere. There are still some places where there is no cell coverage. Active

911 works if the cell phones work. It tells where everyone is and if they are responding to the call.

- C. Dragon Trail: Along with Fire Departments in Newaygo County there will be three Fire Departments in Mecosta County that will respond to and be responsible for rescues on the Dragon Trail: Morley, Big Prairie, and Mecosta Austin. All the bridges on the trail will have one end gated. All departments will have a key to access them. The Mountain Biking Association is planning on one event per month. One of the departments are required to have a presence at each event. Our policy allows for billing. There will be a uniform billing by each department of \$750.00. The Fire Department will be writing a grant to cover at least part of the special equipment needed for rescue operations on the trail.
 - D. The Fire Department is hoping to write a grant for next year to cover the purchase and installation of an exhaust system in the Fire Station.
2. Budget
- 1. The current budgets for the Fire Department, First Responders, and Cemetery will stay at the same figure as last year. Tinker Peete was rehired to do the mowing at the Stanwood Cemetery.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Mecosta Austin Fire Board Secretary