

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, Michigan, 49346 on October 13, 2015 at 7:34 p.m.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Sandra Mayo, Megan Giuliani-DT, and John Brockway. Carolyn Towsley was absent. There was one guest present.

Public Comment: Gloria Parker-Volunteer at Animal Rescue Coalition: The amount of dogs at the shelter fluctuates, but if the shelter drops below the max level there is always a waiting list of people waiting to surrender their dogs. These are evaluated to see if they are candidates for adoption. If they pass the evaluation they are accepted into the shelter and put in the adoption program. Although the main focus of the shelter are dogs there are a few cats accepted into the program. November 10, 2015 is Match Day. ARC would appreciate any donations.

Minutes: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the minutes with corrections: Unfinished Business: #5 should read “We will work with whatever settlement Morton Township makes with them.” and #6 should read “There may be turkey barns going in on 180th Ave.” Motion carried.

Financial Report: We received \$20.00 from two land divisions. We received the next State of Michigan Revenue Sharing check of 19,650.00. The taxes are down \$328.00 from this time last year. The \$25.00 returned check fee was reimbursed to us. Mecosta County Redevelopment Corporation Meeting: Paul Griffen talked about the skilled trades. There are twelve new teachers at the Career Center. The millage vote would provide 1.5 million to Special Ed. The Hanchett site is being marketed for apartments or a strip mall. The bridge should be open by July 2016. The Hardy Dam Recreational Trail is planned to be open by 2017.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to approve for payment Township check #'s 8577—8597 with the addition of check #8598 for \$10.12 for Laurie Brockway and check #8599 for \$174.68 for the Clerk’s lodging and gas at the Clerk’s Conference, and for Cemetery Check #'s 1543-1544. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: Four of the new radios are in. There is one more radio ordered that is not here yet. Each department has an individual template that has to be installed into the radios. The Rescue Truck will now be carrying Narcan. It is a medicine that will counter the effects of a drug overdose. The Narcan must be secured at all times in a climate controlled environment. The box will be bolted inside the Rescue vehicle. The dry hydrant on 11 Mile appears to have a crack in the pipe. The crack is being investigated to determine if the problem needs to be fixed now or next spring. A new siren controller was purchased for Tender #2. The modulator was replaced on the Grass Rig. Engine #2 had a headlight and 3 batteries replaced. Run reimbursement for the First Responders will be \$885.42 this quarter. There was a total of 36 runs. The Ice Mountain emergency response plan is finished. The pancake breakfast was a little slow this year. The Mecosta Fire and Rescue have been invited to participate in Fire Week with the Morley Fire Department at the Morley Stanwood School district. The Fire Department would like for Bio Care to come and do the physicals for the department next year. The cost would be \$3,000.00-\$5,000.00. Steve is in the planning stages of developing a program to work with high school students. It would be along the lines of a distracted driving seminar. He has approached several different agencies in the county and all of them are interested in participating.

2. Assessor's and Supervisor's Report: Trans Canada had a small leak between here and Reed City. There has been a pump made available for use to the Fire Department. It requires special fittings to be able to be used by the Fire Department. The cost would be \$700.00-\$1,400.00. Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to pay up to \$2,000.00 to be taken out of Capital Outlay for the correct fixtures to convert the well on Buchanan Road to use by the Fire Department. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: Recycling update from Dick Wheeler: Recycle cannot accept food containers or medical waste, i.e. needles, etc. All items must be brought in clear plastic bags. Black bags will not be accepted. The MCTA meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grant Township Hall. The tax letters will be printed at The Copy Center at Ferris for \$90.00.
4. Clerk's Report: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to accept Doug Wohlberg's proposal for Audits for 2016-2019. The Public Accuracy Test will be Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 11:00 am at the Austin Township Hall. The cost of publication was \$25.80. The Festival of Trees will be November 1, 2015 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Chemical Bank in Big Rapids to benefit the Spectrum Health Foundation. The cost of tickets are \$25.00. MTA is reviewing the responsibilities and duties of Township Board members and may publish updated guidelines.

New Business:

1. FYI: Mecosta County will be renewing and updating their Master Plan again. The Cemetery Board Meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2015.
2. Cemetery Mowing: Lewis Fountain would like to be considered for the Cemetery mowing again for next year. Kenn will present his request to the Cemetery Board.
3. Consumers Energy: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve Ordinance 15-03 with Consumers Energy for the renewing of our Metro Act right-of-way agreement with them.

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes
John Brockway-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes
Sandra Mayo-yes

Adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk