

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 March 14, 2017 at 8:09 p.m.

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

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-the County Road Commission won't know what kind of funds they will be receiving until the middle of 2018. There is a lot of pressure for the Fire Departments to get all their equipment and training for the Dragon Trail now before construction on the trail has started. The only problem with this course of action is that the trail has not received final approval yet.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balanced at \$376,405.45. The County of Mecosta check was the PILT payment for the Swampland Tax. We also received a check for our half of the sale of the fire truck and two Charter checks. The Cemetery balanced at \$4,067.34. The Property Tax Account balanced at \$76,906.23, with all checks disbursed as of the first of the month to the appropriate parties. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay Township check #'s8965-8985 and Cemetery check #1578. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The next meeting will be March 29, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall on 8 Mile Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There is Board of Review tomorrow from 1-4 and from 6-9 p.m. The deed for the Timbers property is done and is ready to be signed. Costs will be their responsibility. The Historical Society is looking for volunteers. We will need to do some spring clean-up on the awning and swing set.
3. Treasurer's Report: The 2016 Tax collection is done. For the summer taxes 89% of the taxpayers paid 95% of the tax dollars. For the winter taxes 83% of the taxpayers paid 93% of the tax dollars. The investment proposal-the first CD expires on 3-28-17. I will ask the bank to hold the CD until 4-14-17 when the second CD expires. These will be added to the taxes and all put in a CD for 90 days at .55% interest. Delinquent taxes are \$4,446.00.
4. Clerk's Report: QuickBooks will need to be updated this year. The Walton Erickson Library is still looking for an Austin Township Representative. The new election machines are a lot smaller but have many parts to them. All of the extra keyboards and printers are included in the price. The tabulators will be very similar to what we have now, just updated. Marcee has a demonstration of the voting machines scheduled for the 23rd. John Hancock will be changing some of their investments. You have received a packet of information about that and who to contact if you want to make any individual changes.
5. Website: The website is up and running. There are a few minor glitches that will need to be tweaked and some updates that will need to be worked out.

New Business:

1. Ice Mountain: Carolyn attended the Economic Development Meeting. Ice Mountain gave a very nice presentation about the process they use to monitor their wells. This is their 15 year

- anniversary. Austin Township will host a community meeting here at the hall for Ice Mountain soon.
2. Year End Bills: Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Sandra Mayo to give the Clerk and Treasurer the authority to write the necessary checks that are approved in the budget, to close out the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.
 3. Roads and Brining: We will use the one free brining from the County Road Commission, but not pay for a second brining. 8 Mile Road will be evaluated to see if it needs more gravel applied to it. Future paving of any more roads are several years away. A possible consideration for future paving would be 175th Ave from the White Pine Trail to 12 Mile Road.
 4. White Pine Trail: A representative will be here next month at the regular township board meeting to discuss progress on paving the White Pine Trail.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk