

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 May 9, 2017 at 7:34 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 Road Commission is going to use Reith Riley to finish the road projects left over from last year.

Minutes: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by John Brockway to accept the minutes with corrections. #1 Fire Department should read-"three sets of turn out gear." #2 White Pine Trail should read: "I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made", and "Elizabeth G Carr-absent." Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Treasurer and Clerk balanced at \$410,845.45 for the General Fund including Taxes Receivable of \$4,446.11. The Taxes Receivables are not deposited yet until we contact the auditor about how to make adjustments of \$171.00 from the County Clerk's office. The Property Tax account has \$158.16. Petty cash has \$150.33. The Cemetery balanced at \$8,323.15. We received a Revenue Sharing check on May 1<sup>st</sup> of \$21,691.00.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to pay Township check #'s 9023-9044 and Cemetery check #'s 1582-1583. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The next meeting will be May 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall at 19095 – 8 Mile Road, Stanwood, MI, 49346. The new washer has arrived, but we haven't received our invoice yet.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: The Stanwood Cemetery was cleaned on schedule by the Senior Class. Lois Brennan, the clerk from Mecosta Township, came and helped. There will be a meeting with Casair, Inc to settle out of Tax Tribunal. They reported \$297,000.00 but they are claiming \$179,000.00. The new Verizon tower is up and running. The 4-H helped put new wood chips down under the swing set and under the side awning.
3. Treasurer's Report: I am working on the newsletter to go out with the tax statements. Please review the rough draft copy I gave you and see if there's anything that needs to be added or deleted.
4. Clerk's Report: The next MCTA Meeting will be hosted by Sheridan Township on July 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be a potluck at 6 p.m. Please bring your own table service. Sheridan Township will be providing the hot dogs and all the fixings as well as the beverages. The location will be at 4986 – 12 Mile Road. There will be markers directing the way. The Michigan Public Service Commission has provided a link for video/cable television complaints: <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-49641---,00.html>. The Mecosta County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee will hold a public open house at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2017 in the Mecosta County Services Building Conference Room at 14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, Michigan. The Mecosta Board of Trustees approved the 2017 Millage Rates for the General Fund Budget. The new voting machines will be covered by a state grant. We will be notified when the grant papers are ready to be filled out. The QVF is having a makeover. The new version will be the same for everyone and more of an app based application. The Red Cross is providing free smoke alarms installations and inspections. The link to request a smoke alarm or inspection is: <http://www.redcross.org/local/michigan/request-a-smoke-alarm> . MTA is watching

a couple of House Bills HB4431 and HB4432. These bills deal with the limit of the subpoena power of the legislative committees and whether they would be expanded to include townships.

5. Olin Cemetery: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to allow up to \$200.00 for Olin Cemetery improvements. The Cemetery needs a new gate, some t-posts, the pathway cleared, and some brush cleared. Motion carried. We will check with the 4-H to see if they need any community service hours.

New Business:

1. Roads: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to accept the Road Commission bid of \$185,000.00 for the 180<sup>th</sup> Road paving project. We are still looking to spend up to \$5,000.00 to put more gravel on 8 Mile Road.
2. Facebook: Moved by Sandra Mayo, supported by Carolyn Towsley to allow Elizabeth G Carr to set up an Austin Township Facebook page with comments disabled. Messenger will still be available for citizens to communicate with the township. Motion carried
3. Credit card: Moved by Elizabeth G Carr, supported by Carolyn Towsley, to purchase the Elavon Company device for \$399.00 to enable the Treasurer's office to be able to process credit and debit payments. This will be a two-step process. The first transaction will be the amount of the tax bill. The second transaction will be a service fee of 3% of the total bill that the taxpayer will pay. There were four ayes, and one nay, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk