

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 August 8, 2017 at 7:32 p.m.

Present were: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, John Brockway, and Sandra Mayo. There were four guests present.

Public Comment: Mark Kappler - Tri-County Electric Cooperative Representative. We are a not-for-profit corporation formed in 1937 by farmers to bring electric to rural areas. Since 1999 we have provided internet service to rural areas. Tri-County is regulated by the Public Service Commission. We are asking to renew our 30-year Electric Service Franchise Resolution.

Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to adopt the Electricity Service Franchise Resolution 2017-04.

Carolyn Towsley-yes

Sandra Mayo-yes

John Brockway-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Kenneth Vredenburg-yes

Public Comment: Don Hamilton-Canadian Lakes Bike Trail. Our organization is proposing several different routes to connect the Village of Mecosta and the Canadian Lakes area to the White Pine Bike Trail. We are visiting the affected Townships to get your opinion on our proposed routes. At this time, we are proposing Buchanan Road or Pierce Road as the route to connect Mecosta with the White Pine Trail. The unofficial opinion was that Buchanan Road would be the safer road for bicycles to travel on.

Gloria Parker commented on the nice paving job that was done on 180<sup>th</sup> Road.

Tom O'Neil- City Commissioner. Montcalm County has signed a service agreement with the Mecosta County Morgue. We anticipate further agreements with other surrounding counties when their current contracts expire. Tom O'Neil was asked why the County doesn't email their minutes and agendas to the townships as there would be a significant savings if they adopted that procedure.

Carolyn Towsley-Austin Township Treasurer. The Planning Commission did not approve the Winery/Bistro. They did approve the Amish Sawmill.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the minutes with corrections: Unfinished Business: #2 should read: July 18<sup>th</sup> instead of July 20<sup>th</sup>, and New Business #4 should read: Kenneth Vredenburg-absent. Motion carried.

Financial Report: We have received our next State of Michigan Revenue sharing check. This is the second one. We have received the Metro Act check. It has been transferred to the General Account. One CD was closed at Mercantile Bank and a new CD was opened. This CD has a very good interest rate of 1.28%. The Township accounts match at \$428,125.32. There is a difference of \$170.37 in tax adjustments on the Balance Sheet that the auditor will have to adjust. The Cemetery accounts match at \$6,551.88. The Tax account money was in and out with disbursement checks. One credit card transaction went through successfully. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandra Mayo to approve for payment Township check #'s 9083-9099 and Cemetery check #'s 1589-1590, to use \$10,000.00 of 440-447 Metro Act for the 180<sup>th</sup> Road Paving Project, and Property in the Large was added to the Township and Cemetery insurance policy. Motion carried.

## Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Department spent \$3,676.70 in bills and have \$63,985.63 in their account. The First Responders spent \$363.03 in bills and have \$12,115.53 in their account. There were 14 incidents for the Fire Department since the last meeting. The washers have been programmed and the dryers installed. The Fire Department wishes to express their appreciation to D & J Electric for assembling and installing the dryers free of charge. High Angle Rescue Training was completed July 15-22<sup>nd</sup>. Rescue will need to be paid for their training time. They are receiving a \$5,000.00 grant from Trans Canada. 90% of the new rescue equipment has been received. Every 3 years they will need to complete 8 hours of recertification. There will be 1 full day of continuing education every year to keep their certification current. The State of Michigan is also adding 18 hours of training every year for Fire Departments and First Responders. Pump Operations, Equipment Operations, and Extrication Tools training have been completed. The transmission from the DNR for Grass Rig 2 has not been received yet. There were 27 runs for Rescue since our last meeting. We should receive our second disbursement of the bi-annual disbursement soon. Jeff Cole is attending EMT Basic Class. When he completes his training, he will be First Responder certified and we will need to pay him \$400.00 for his class time. The audit was completed in June. The auditor has requested that all monies be directed through the Fire Department. 2018 will be our 20-year re-assessment.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: We received the consent judgment value on Casair. There were 9 issues to be resolved at the July Board of Review. There is one veteran exemption at large.
3. Treasurer's Report: 29% of taxpayers have paid 29% of the tax dollars. We received a letter from Isabella Bank stating that there would begin to be a \$3 charge for paper bank statements per month and \$5 for check images. A representative from Isabella Bank visited Carolyn Towsley in her office and could arrange that all the bank accounts would be linked under the checking account. There will not be a charge for a paper statement of the checking account. All the account statements will arrive in one envelope under with the checking account statement.
4. Clerk's Report: Lisa Lambert and I will attend training on the new voting machines tomorrow. There will need to be someone from the Austin Township here to sign for the voting machines when they bring them. At this time, we do not have an estimated time of arrival yet. The tabulator will come with a case, but the ADA device does not. The cases they have been suggesting range from \$350.00-\$485.00. Given the fact that all the school elections are conducted at the townships now, and there is no reason to transport the device anywhere, I do not feel that we need to buy one of these expensive cases. The device can be kept locked up securely out of danger. I will need to buy some new voting supplies now with updated instructions on them. The money for the case can be spent the new supplies.
5. Verizon: The Clerk will be emailing them to learn the details of the installation of the new office phone system. They are still signing leases in the area to put up more towers.
6. Olin Cemetery: No work has begun on the cemetery clean-up project yet. The equipment that we are going to use needed repairs.
7. School Tax Charge: The State pays \$2.50 reimbursement per parcel. Austin Township needs to decide if we should continue to charge the \$3.00 per parcel to the CH school district or the \$2.50 that we are reimbursed from the state. The Treasurer has already written the disbursement check. We will revisit the topic in January.

Adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk