

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 November 14, 2017 at 7:32 p.m.

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-Central Dispatch is working on the eight addresses at the north end of Timberlane to get them entered correctly into the 911 system.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandra Mayo to accept the minutes as corrected.  
3. Treasurer's Report should read: The Clerk and Treasurer will be changing their office hours to the first Tuesday of the month instead of the first Monday of the month starting in December.  
Motion accepted.

Financial Report: The Township balances at \$240,125.52 with interest of \$3.92. The Cemetery balances at \$4,733.24 with interest of \$0.56. The Property Tax Account has \$4,734.24

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Carolyn Towsley to pay the Township check #'s 9138-9156 and to add check #9157 Postmaster for \$49.00 and check #9158 State of Michigan for \$564.96. We will need to contact Doug Wohlberg on the correct way to write the State of Michigan correction check. And to pay Cemetery check #'s 1596-1597. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The next meeting is tomorrow night, November 15, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall. The well needed repairs. It is the opinion Austin Township that the repairs should be taken out of the budget at this time.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There was one junk complaint. We received a letter from our lawyer informing us that his base rates are \$200.00 per hour. The Road Commission would like a two-year project list. Our 2018 road project will be putting gravel on 7 Mile from 180-170<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Cemetery Board voted to keep Tinker Peete for next year and to increase the base rate to \$215.00 to be capped at \$3,200.00.
3. Treasurer's Report: There are no taxes to report. All regulations on signs must go through zoning. At the MCTA Meeting the Chairman, Jim Chapman, talked about the steps needed to replace a board member after a catastrophic event, i.e. death or accident. Of particular importance are passwords and good record keeping or sharing of current projects. MTA has a handout on Township on Board vacancies. There will be a huge turn around at the mid-term election next year. There are 38 seats in the Michigan Senate. 26 of those seats are term-limited. There are 160 seats in the Michigan House. 23 of those seats are term-limited. Austin Township will host the MCTA Meeting in April. Scott Schroeder advocated for off-site storage of back-up records. Shila Kiander said that the AMR audit results are not back in yet. When they are returned the Township Boards must formulate a plan to solve any needed improvements.
4. Clerk's Report: We received a refund of \$62.00 from the Michigan Municipal League. The QuickBooks renewal is \$610.00. A bill has been presented to the House of Representatives that would eliminate having both political parties on a primary ballot. Voters would choose in writing which political party ballot they would like to receive. This information would be available under the Freedom of Information Act. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to sign up to update addresses with the Census Bureau. There are new versions of the Federal Post Card Application for voting and to the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. A Bill has been

introduced that would require a veteran's military experience to relevant professional information if hired by township in salary deliberations.

5. Hall Maintenance: Wax floors before the April MCTA Meeting. We may need to look at replacing the chairs soon.
6. Board of Review: The Board of Review Meeting will be December 12, 2017 at 4 p.m.
7. Xerox: Xerox has offered an updated plan and copy machine. The cost would be a few dollars less. They are also offering wireless fax. It would be beneficial if we were able to use the Xerox instead of our personal printers. The personal printer ink costs are very expensive. There is not supposed to be a penalty for upgrading early.
8. Verizon: The Verizon bill comes in two parts now. Their updated plan does not include free phones.

Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.