

The Austin Township Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kenneth Vredenburg at the Township Hall at 14132 Pierce Road, Stanwood, Michigan, 49336 on December 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Kenneth Vredenburg, Elizabeth G Carr, Carolyn Towsley, and John Brockway. Sandra Mayo

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-There is \$13.7 million in the County Budget and \$9 million in the County Fund Balance. There are 3-4 other counties interested in signing a contract with the Mecosta County Morgue as soon as their current contracts expire.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to accept the minutes with a correction to the name and position of the Clerk on the November 14, 2017 minutes. The signature line and position were not included in the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township balances at \$257,032.86. We received the State of MI Revenue Sharing payment of \$22,950.00, and two checks from Charter of \$1,116.01 and \$111.04. The correction check to the State of MI of \$609.59 was sent. The Cemetery balances at \$5,602.67. There was one lot sale. There is \$4,735.27 in the Property Tax account. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Carolyn Towsley to pay the Township check #'s 9158-9171, and to pay the Cemetery check #'s 1598-1599. The two Verizon bills were combined into one check. We will combine the Homeworks bills into one check next month. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fire Department and First Responder Report: The Fire Department has \$54,871.88 in their account and the First Responders have \$11,458.25 in their account for a total of \$66,330.13. A new hiring process has been implemented. New hires will be given a packet of information and forms to review. After review, if they are still interested, they are to return the packet at the next meeting. At that time, they will fill out the paperwork to apply to join the Department. By the third meeting, if their background check comes out alright, and all the paperwork is completed they will join the Department and begin their training. The Fire Department is now using direct deposit for their paychecks. The pitless adapter was leaking on the well and needed a new pressure gauge. Bouman's Well Service bill for time and parts is \$530.00. There will be an additional \$1,100.00 for the replacement and installation of an air tank. The turn-out gear that was ordered will be shipped on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fit Tests are completed except for Goodfellow. Half of the air bottles have been hydro tested. The results of the other half are due any day. The test cost was \$26.00/bottle. Three new Firefighters are signed up for FF 1 & 2: Jeff Cole, Tim Brennan, Smith Cook. Hose testing is complete on the 1.5", 1.75", 2.5", and 3" hoses. Pump training, Extrication tool training, and High Angle rescue training have been completed. Pump testing is completed on Engine 1 & 2. The oil has been changed in the pumps in both Engines 1 & 2. Grass Rig 1 was converted to 12 volts per MDNR. The number of MFR runs has slowed down. There were 27 runs since September. There is one person in MFR class. They will be finished soon. The next Fire Board Meeting will be January 17, 2018. The Joint Meeting will be January 18, 2017.
2. Assessor and Supervisor Report: There were nine petitions submitted to the Board of Review. Moved by John Brockway, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to hereby reject any/all properties from the State of Michigan or from Title Check LLC which were not sold at public auction. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report: For the Summer Taxes 84% of taxpayers have paid 93% of the summer taxes. For the Winter Taxes 19% of taxpayers have paid 10% of the winter taxes. This year past due notices on summer taxes were sent out when the County sent out the winter tax bills. 80+ notices were sent. So far 14 taxpayers have paid their past due taxes. I attended that Economic Development Meeting. They want to focus on education and manufacturing for the 2018 forecast. Michigan is one of the top eight in agriculture in the United States. Finance and Tax Reform were talked about at the meeting. They would also like to see a committee set up to research on how to set up more daycares. The Career Center is reaching out to Local Industries, especially those working with the Career Center, to facilitate training to keep local youth here when they graduate.
4. Clerk's Report: The old voting machines were picked up for disposal. I kept the bottom of the tabulator because I think I can use it as storage container for the new ADA machine.
5. Xerox: the new machine will be able to do wireless fax and there will be no penalty to upgrade early. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by John Brockway to upgrade our Xerox contract early, and to authorize Carolyn Towsley to negotiate the contract with Xerox. Motion carried.
6. Road Commission: Austin Township will spend \$10,000-\$20,000 for gravel in 2018 to improve the base on the side roads.
7. AMAR: We have received the results of the AMAR audit. An appropriate plan will be implemented that fits our deficiencies.
8. Marijuana Legislation: The original policy still stands. You do not have to draft and pass policy if you want to opt out, only if you want to opt in.
9. Verizon Hot Spot: Moved by Elizabeth G Carr, supported by John Brockway to approve to turn on the Verizon Hot Spot on Carolyn Towsley's cell phone for two weeks while she is in Florida to facilitate the ability to still communicate with tax payers. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Austin Township Clerk