

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 February 13, 2018 at 7:40 p.m.

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

Public Comment: Tom O'Neil, County Commissioner-Eight counties have joined the Morgue Authority. Possibly 1-2 more will later. A new drain field is being put in at Schoolsection Park.

Minutes: Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandy Mayo to accept the minutes for January 9, 2018, Special Meeting of February 6, 2018 and acknowledge receipt of the Joint Township Board Meeting minutes for January 18, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Township General Fund balances at \$257,886.77. We received the State of MI Revenue Sharing payment of \$22,152.00. The Cemetery balances at \$5,481.94. There is \$81,955.72 in the Property Tax account at time of report. Accepted subject to audit.

Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Sandy Mayo to pay the Township check #'s 9188-9202, and to pay the Cemetery check #'s 1601. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Assessor and Supervisor Report: March Board of Review will be March 12 and 14 for Austin Township. The State Tax Commission accepted our plan to correct our AMAR audit. They will review it after Board of Review. Smoke complaint – houses back to back and a short chimney is causing the complaint. There is no County, DEQ or Township authority to use to address the problem.
2. Treasurer's Report: For the Summer Taxes 87% of taxpayers have paid 97% of the summer taxes. For the Winter Taxes 71% of taxpayers have paid 86% of the winter taxes. We have signed the Chippewa Hills Agreement to collect their taxes on the summer tax bill for 2018. We will discuss the price per parcel to charge them at our Annual Meeting. It currently is \$3.00 per parcel and we will decide then if we will only collect \$2.50 per parcel. Carolyn Towsley mentioned that we are still getting good service from our web designer. New graphics needed to be added, they provided instructions on how to do this in the future and created the graphics for this time. She mentioned there were great topics that were going to be discussed at the upcoming MTA Annual Conference in April but doesn't feel it will be worth the cost when you can only attend one session per concurrent education sessions.
3. Clerk's Report: Reports, motions, resolutions that we normally approve at our Annual meeting were presented for board review before the upcoming meeting. Upcoming elections: May 8, 2018 renewal of Morley-Stanwood Community Schools operating millage proposal; August 8, 2018 mid-term primary; and November 6, 2018 mid-term general election. Upcoming QVF training on February 26, 2018 in Grand Rapids. Elizabeth Carr will be taking the QVF refresher class and Lisa Lambert, deputy, will be taking the Deputy version of the classes being presented. Beth's extras check issued to her also included the overage for the purchase of updated QuickBooks. She also had to get her Verizon phone replaced.

New Business

1. Hall. Moved by Kenneth Vredenburg, supported by Sandy Mayo to accept contract from Gary MacIntyer to redo floors. Motion carried. It was agreed to do this after snow season and before the upcoming Mecosta County Townships Association meeting in April.

2. Pension. Moved by Carolyn Towsley, supported by Sandy Mayo to adopt Resolution 2018-2 to raise pension contribution from 22% to 25% instead of salary increases for 2018. John Brockway – yes; Sandy Mayo – yes; Carolyn Towsley – yes; Kenneth Vredenburg – yes. Resolution approved.
3. Fire. Discussion about letter Austin Township that was submitted to Mecosta Township. We reviewed a proposed agreement form between Green Charter Township and Big Rapids City for fire protection. We will wait to see what decision comes back from Mecosta Township before we proceed.
4. Budget. Reviewed current year's budget against Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual to put together 2018 proposed budget.

Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Carolyn Towsley

Austin Township Treasurer